

HERMOSA BEACH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Patricia Escalante
District Superintendent

DATE: June 12, 2013

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION/ACTION ON NORTH SCHOOL FACILITIES PROJECT TO
MODERNIZE OR REBUILD

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Education discuss and take action on determining whether to modernize or rebuild the North School site.

BACKGROUND

Based upon the Joint Meeting with the Hermosa Beach City Council on May 29, 2013 and the information on school facilities that Board member, Jack Burns presented at that meeting, staff needs direction on moving forward and next steps on the North School site.

Since 1990, the Hermosa Beach City School District has experienced a continued growth in student enrollment. The need to increase the number of classrooms to accommodate this growth has impacted the use of current district facilities. During the 2012-13 school year, the multipurpose rooms at both View and Valley Schools have been re-purposed into a total of 4 additional classrooms.

In January, 2013, the board of trustees created a Facilities Planning Advisory Committee, made up of community members and district employees, to examine and analyze three possible options regarding the re-opening of the North School facilities. The options for committee's consideration were #1 Modernize, #2 New Construction, #3 Swap the property for another appropriate property in the city. The committee met on 4 separate occasions.

In April, a report was prepared by the Facilities Planning Advisory Committee and presented to the board. Using a criteria based analysis of each option, the option #2 (New Construction) met each of the criteria (capacity, location, flexibility, regulatory issues, community impact).

In January and in May, joint meetings were held with the City Council/School Board. At the January meeting, Board Member Burns, spoke about the need for the district to be proactive to address impact of increased enrollment on existing facilities and personnel and the need for the district to explore the use of the North School site to expand classroom and open space. In May, Board Member Burns, addressed the option to swap land or purchase property as not being a viable option. North School is the district's last asset.

It is recommended that the board provide direction to staff on moving forward with the North School project and an investment in rebuilding or modernizing the facilities to expand classroom and open space.