



COMMUNICATIONS

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February 12, 2014

Dear Glenview Community,

As many of you know, Glenview Elementary has been identified as the site of a major reconstruction project. Glenview is one of many OUSD schools scheduled for safety-related, functional, and aesthetic improvements as part of the Measure J Bond Oakland voters approved in November 2012. In what many considered a triumph for Oakland students, 85 percent of the electorate supported this measure to "Improve the Quality of Oakland Schools and School Facilities". We're grateful for this generosity and determined to use Measure J funds in a way that not only modernizes, but also improves environments for students and staff.

While Oakland resoundingly voiced its support for this concept, practical implementation of the ideals contained in Measure J is more complicated. Different parties have differing visions of how we can respect the history of Oakland schools while creating campuses that enhance safety and increase enrichment. This is certainly the case at Glenview, where anxiety and uncertainty surrounds the reconstruction project.

Much of the confusion stems from insufficient engagement of the Glenview community in the preliminary planning process, particularly neighbors who live in homes surrounding the site, but may lack a current or formal connection to the school. This has fostered misunderstanding and anger, and we apologize for the lack of outreach to this point. It's a mistake we are committed to correcting and we hope to begin that process with the first in a series of larger community meetings to be held at Glenview Elementary at 5:30pm on Wednesday, February 19.

At the same time, we have been working closely with representatives of Glenview Elementary for a year now. OUSD and its construction and architectural firms (HKIT and SGI) began meeting with parents, teachers, and staff from Glenview Elementary in the spring of 2013. Various engagements of different sorts have continued since that time. Yet, although we met with certain leaders in the Glenview school community, outreach was not significantly broad, and did not embrace the surrounding neighborhood. We are committed to remedying this problem.

In addition to these meetings, we also retained an independent assessor to determine the relative costs of renovating the existing site and replacing it. The information gathered from these sessions was used to develop a series of options, each with distinct advantages and drawbacks. Specifically:

- A renovation of the existing structure that allows students to remain on-site. This approach requires phasing, takes substantially more time and expense than the other options and does not address other shortcomings like lack of classroom space.
- An off-site renovation or replacement where the students are moved to an unoccupied campus, such as the vacated Santa Fe Elementary. This option expedites completion of the project, but requires bussing of students to another neighborhood.
- An off-site renovation or replacement where the students are housed in portables on another campus currently in use. This option keeps the students in the neighborhood, but offers the disadvantage of portables and a shared campus.



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- A piecemeal project where certain grades are housed off-site while other grades remain on campus. This prolongs the project, creates added expense, and splits the school.

Now that we've developed a series of options to consider with regard to the Glenview renovation, we are launching a communications campaign to present these options to public, solicit input on the ideas, and evaluate the response from the community. Information exchange will occur online (through the website and social media), through the distribution and discussion of printed materials, and in a series of public meetings. The engagement timeline will be presented at the meeting on Wednesday, February 19. To track the latest developments on this issue, please visit: [www.ousd.k12.ca.us/glenviewreconstruction](http://www.ousd.k12.ca.us/glenviewreconstruction).

To be clear, staff strongly believes that replacement, rather than renovation of the existing facility, is the better option and will be advocating for this course of action. Work of this magnitude is not something we take lightly and the Glenview Renovation is not purely an elective project. This prioritization of this project is linked to an assessment of the building's seismic condition by the State of California. California's Department of General Services, Division of the State Architect, includes Glenview on AB300, a list of buildings that do not meet current seismic safety standards for schools. More information about AB300 and its classifications can be found here: <http://www.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/aboutus/ab300.aspx>.

Similarly, replacement of the current Glenview building is being considered as an alternative to renovation because of guidance from the state. Structural analysis and cost estimates have determined that a renovation of Glenview would cost 2/3 as much as a new building, would take longer than constructing a new building, and would not address undersized classrooms or other deficiencies in the existing structure. State guidelines call for replacement under these circumstances.

Contrary to some reports, a final decision on exactly how to proceed with the Glenview renovation has not been made. In January of 2014, the Oakland Board of Education approved a resolution authorizing new construction at Glenview. New construction is not synonymous with 100 percent replacement of the current building, although that may be the ultimate decision. Regardless of how we proceed, work on the project would not begin until June 2016. There is no perfect solution and some disruption is inevitable for a project of this magnitude. We pledge to weigh all the options, both those developed internally, and those which arise from the public discussion to come. Through it all, we will prioritize safety, use of space to enhance the learning environment and maximize student experience over the long-term (next 50 years), compliance with government regulations, and responsible resource allocation that delivers on the promise made to Oakland voters when you adopted Measure J.

Should you have further questions about this project or other matters related to Measure J, please do not hesitate to ask Glenview Principal Chelsea Toller or contact me at [troy.flint@ousd.k12.ca.us](mailto:troy.flint@ousd.k12.ca.us) / 510.473.8352.

Sincerely,

Troy Flint  
Director of Communications  
Oakland Unified School District (OUSD)