

Hypothetical Scenario

Put Your Principles to Practice

FNECC June 8th Table Work

Purpose

Allow FNECC members to:

- actively apply their principles to a hypothetical decision-making process;
- identify outstanding gaps within their principles and/or identify principles that don't assist with decision-making; and,
- begin to think analytically about the types of recommendations (development of pros and cons) they will be working with during the fall series of meetings.

Outcome

FNECC members will be able to:

- understand the district's decision-making process;
- begin to think about their neighborhood schools from a regional perspective; and,
- make real connections between the 6 Charge areas and their principles.

Points of Reference to Complete Table Work

- Understanding of 6 Charge Areas
- List of condensed/finalized principles – *This list serves as your “guide” to decision-making.*
- Familiarity with Turnaround strategies

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SCENARIO

HUNTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Hunter Elementary has been a neighborhood school serving families in Rancho Grove, CA for many years. The school, which once yielded high test scores, active parent engagement and 90% retention of its teachers, has been facing a downward trend in academic performance over the last 7 years. Hunter Elementary has had its current principal for 2 years. Principal Crawford is well-respected by the teachers, parents and broader community.

Hunter Elementary has a 92% Free and Reduced Lunch student population (FRL). 45% of its students are Hispanic (30% of these students are English Language Learners). 22% are African-American; 17% are Caucasian; 9% are Asian; and, 7% are classified as “Other”. Twelve percent of Hunter’s students require Special Education services and/or Special Education accommodations. The school has a healthy school culture and has decent parent involvement.

Hunter Elementary’s PTA and local school community have expressed interest in implementing a new academic program, but are undecided on what type of academic program could replace the school’s current program-- which places a strong emphasis on literacy. However, 55% of Hunter Elementary students are below proficiency on state standardized tests in reading.

Hunter Elementary’s current school facility is just under capacity, at 91%. Under Hunter’s current facility design and layout, there are no additional classrooms available; however, the building has underutilized “space” (1 teacher’s lounge, 2 after school program classrooms, 3 large storage rooms, and a small library) that could be retrofitted to become additional classroom space should there be a need. In addition to underutilized internal space, the school sits on a large parcel of land in which modulars could potentially be added to allow for even more capacity.

Hunter Elementary's feeder schools:

- **Washington Middle School** (6-8) has maintained high academic performance and has been noted as one of the city's premier middle schools for its Visual and Performing Arts program. Because of its reputation, Washington Middle Schools is currently operating at 125% capacity (*The school has 25% more students that the building should accommodate*).
- **Lexington Comprehensive High School** (9-12) is scoring "average" in academic achievement, graduating 68% of its seniors, but is severely overcrowded due to a population growth spurt that occurred in 2003. The school building was built to serve 900 students, currently there are 1300+ students in the building on a daily basis.

New School Pipeline:

- **Rancho Grove Charter High School** has been previously approved to open in the neighborhood. It would serve grades 9-12 and offer an early college program (*A program in which 11th and 12th graders would be "dual enrolled" in both high school and college classes.*) The charter high school would open serving 9th grade only, with plans to add a 9th grade class each year until it reaches full capacity, 440 students.
- **Graceland Montessori** has applied for a charter to operate a K-8 school in the Rancho Grove community. If approved, the school would open serving grades K-2 and 6. This Montessori program would feature multi-age and ability grouping classrooms with a focus on literacy, history and culture, and character development. Graceland Montessori would serve 450 students as a full K-8 program.
- **Kingston Learning Academy** has also applied for a charter in the Rancho Grove community. This school is proposing a K-5, Core Knowledge program. This Core Knowledge program would promote a sequential learning experience that places emphasis on reading comprehension, critical thinking and problem solving. While the school is not proposing "specials" during the regular school day, the school would offer structured after school programs in which art and music would be available to students. This school has proposed opening as a K-2, adding an additional grade each year until full capacity is met. Total students served would be 660 students.