

GLENDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

September 17, 2013

DISCUSSION REPORT NO. 1

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Richard M. Sheehan, Superintendent

SUBMITTED BY: Dr. Kelly King, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

SUBJECT: **Dual Immersion Program Update**

District staff members have been examining the capacity of Monte Vista Elementary School and Verdugo Woodlands Elementary School in regards to the schools capacities to house the Korean and Japanese Dual Immersion Programs.

Monte Vista Elementary School – Korean FLAG Program

Monte Vista has a large school campus of 7.09 acres and currently houses approximately 660 students, K-6. The Korean FLAG program would need 12 classrooms for the K-6 program:

Kdgn	Gr. 1	Gr. 2	Gr. 3	Gr. 4	Gr. 5	Gr. 6
2	2	2	2	4		

Currently, the program is housed in 7 rooms, necessitating an additional 5 rooms should the program continue to be housed at Monte Vista Elementary. Three rooms have been identified for future FLAG use. Two of these rooms are currently being used for art and storage. There is an additional room that is a double room, but only contains only one classroom. With the use of these three classrooms, only two bungalows would need to be added to the school. Two possible locations for these bungalows, next to the existing classrooms, have been identified.

Monte Vista previously housed over 800 students throughout the 1990s. This number decreased with the opening of Valley View Elementary School in 1998. If the program stays at Monte Vista, K-6, there would be approximately 825 students.

Monte Vista currently runs one recess period for all students, Gr. 1-6, and two lunch periods. Should the program continue at Monte Vista, K-6, the addition of the additional students may necessitate additional recess and lunch sessions to more efficiently use the cafeteria and playground space.

The additional students would impact the traffic at the school during drop off and pick up. It is suggested that the school, if this option is chosen, increase the use of the “walking school bus” from Two Strike Park to decrease the number of cars driving through “Monty Lane.”

District staff attended a PTA meeting at Monte Vista on September 12, 2013 to get input from the Monte Vista families.

Verdugo Woodlands Elementary School – Japanese FLAG Program

Verdugo Woodlands has a much smaller school campus of 5.6 acres, some of which includes the wash that divides the playground from the classroom facilities. The school currently houses 812 students and all but one classroom is currently being used for K-6 instruction. The remaining room is used for EEELP child care, which will be moved within the next month to the new bungalows being placed on the playground close to the Dad’s Club gate.

The Japanese FLAG program would need 12 classrooms if it stayed at the same size with 2 kindergarten classes matriculating into the program each year.

Kdgn	Gr. 1	Gr. 2	Gr. 3	Gr. 4	Gr. 5	Gr. 6
2	2	2	2	4		

Should the program be downsized to only one kindergarten classroom, only six classrooms would ultimately be needed.

Kdgn	Gr. 1	Gr. 2	Gr. 3	Gr. 4	Gr. 5	Gr. 6
1	1	1	1	2		

Currently, the Japanese FLAG program is housed in 8 classrooms, necessitating an additional 4 rooms if the program continues at the same size. Assuming the last available classroom is used, this would need an addition of 3 more bungalows onto the Verdugo Woodlands campus. This could be decreased to 2 bungalows depending on the feasibility of blending the library and computer lab into a shared instructional space in a larger classroom. The school size would exceed 900 students with the current size of the program.

If the program was downsized to one kindergarten classroom, the current number of classrooms would house the program and the school would eventually decrease to approximately 770 students.

A parent meeting was held on September 5, 2013, to get input from the Verdugo Woodlands families. A parent survey was then sent out to all Verdugo Woodlands parents on Monday, September 9, 2013. Parents of Japanese FLAG students and parents of non-FLAG students were asked four questions regarding three different options:

1. Keep the Japanese Dual Immersion Program at Verdugo Woodlands but downsize the program to one kindergarten classroom.
2. Move the program in its entirety to an elementary school in La Crescenta.
3. Transition the program beginning in 2014-2015 to another elementary school in La Crescenta.
4. Which option was their preference.

Eighty-seven percent of parents with children in the Japanese FLAG program expressed that they would stay with the program if it were to remain at Verdugo Woodlands and be downsized to one kindergarten classroom. Should the decision be made to move the program, 79.4% said they would stay with the program if it was moved in its entirety in 2014-2015 and 74.0% said they would stay if it was transitioned to another elementary school. There was not a clear majority preference for any of the three options, but 47.1% preferred moving the program in its entirety to a La Crescenta elementary school, 33.7% want to stay at Verdugo Woodlands with the smaller program, and 19.2% want to transition to a new school.

One reason for the results could be uncertainty if the program is downsized at Verdugo Woodlands and the District's commitment to opening a new Japanese Dual Immersion program to expand the program in La Crescenta.

Of the parents of students who are not enrolled in the Japanese FLAG program, 59.6% expressed an interest in moving the program in its entirety in 2014-2015, 24.0% wanted to keep the program but downsize it to one kindergarten class, and 16.4% would like to transition the program to a La Crescenta school. Overcrowding at Verdugo Woodlands was frequently cited as the reason in the comments.

TO SUPPORT 2013-14 BOARD PRIORITY No. 1: "Ensure learning environments that are safe and support student success through high quality, research based instructional practices, consistent with models of effective teaching, California teaching standards and the Common Core State Standards."