

OCUSD #220
BOARD MINUTES
February 22, 2022

Public Hearing (3 of 3) on the Closure of DLR and information on the 22-23 Jr/Sr High School Plan

1. Public Hearing called to order by Wills at 6:30 p.m.
2. Roll call. Present were Wills, Griffin, Baker, Buck, Nesemeier, Duke, and Guzman.
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Motion by Baker, second by Nesemeier to open Public Hearing on the closure of DLR and information on the 22-23 Jr/Sr High School Plan. Voice vote. 6-0. Motion carried.
5. Presentation by Dr. Mahoney to explain the rationale for DLR Closure and the Jr/Sr High School plan details.
 - a. Dr. Mahoney recaps the annual deficits, costs of building repairs, and current enrollment versus utilization of the building.
 - b. Dr. Mahoney presented the maximum building student enrollment capacity information from the District's Architect.
 - c. Dr. Mahoney explains that the transportation department has been creating routes that will allow for similar route times, with some being even shorter than they currently are.
 - d. Mr. Lawton outlines the plan for use of athletic venues for all sporting events, including clarifying the use of locker rooms for Jr High students separate from Sr High students.
6. Public Comment:
 - a. Karen Urish expressed her concerns regarding the Board considering the closure of DLR.
 - b. Bob Hansen shared information regarding a new law and encouraged the board members to remember that part of their oath as elected officials is to consider and uphold the law.
 - c. Bruce Obendorf shared his perspective of the events that have led to the recommendation of the closure and shared data gathered by the Mt. Morris Citizen Advisory Committee.
 - d. Jeff Bold shared information about the Citizen's Advisory Committee and the people serving on it. He expressed his frustration regarding the process the Board has followed.
 - e. Phil Labash read a "Letter to the Editor" that he submitted summarizing the closure recommendation timeline of events.
 - f. Justin Stewart, parent of a current 6th grader, shared his concerns with his 6th grade going from elementary school to high school and not receiving the opportunity to learn in an environment specifically for 7th and 8th graders.
 - g. Mary Jane Warkins asked the board members if anyone had any conversations with the current Jr High teachers.
 - h. Andy Martin addressed concerns that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the closure recommendation and that the board listening to the public comment was not a discussion.
 - i. Sally Wessels shared thoughts about the ages of the buildings, students being housed in a building older than DLR, and the growing trend of people not wanting to be responsible.
7. Motion by Buck, second by Griffin to close the public hearing on the closure of DLR and information on the 22-23 Jr/Sr High School Plan. Voice vote. 6-0. Motion carried.
8. Other Matters before the Board: None.
9. Public Hearing Adjourned at 7:51.

Board President – OCUSD #220

Board Secretary – OCUSD #220