



Beverly Hills
Unified School District

Future Focused School Community Forum Survey Results

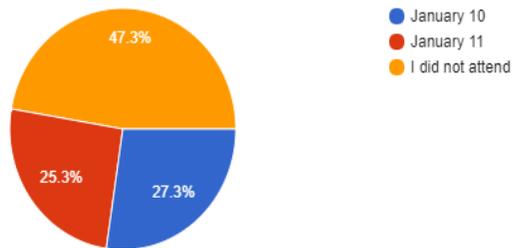
January 2018

FFST: Community Forums Summary Report

Total Number of Respondents=150

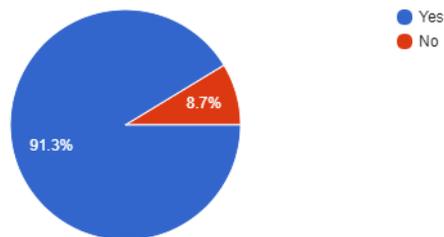
Which Future Focused Schools Community Forum did you attend?

150 responses



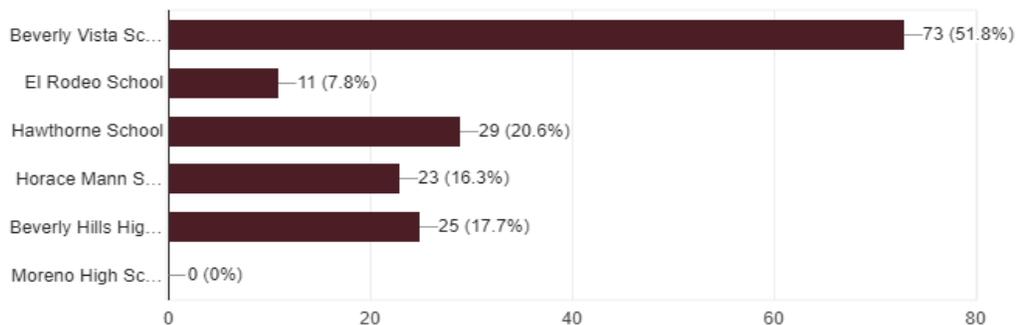
Do you have a student(s) enrolled in the Beverly Hills Unified School District?

150 responses



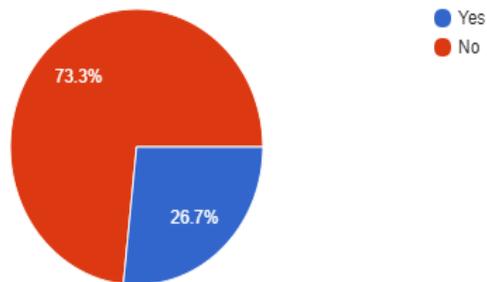
Which of the following schools does your student(s) attend?

141 responses



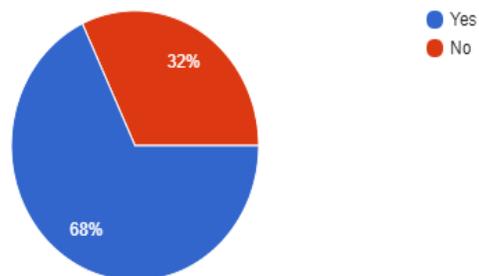
Are you a graduate of Beverly Hills Unified School District?

150 responses



Do you feel that your student's needs are currently being met?

150 responses



If you answered no to the previous question, please elaborate:

- i don't have kids attending, yet - oldest daughter will enter HM in the Fall. (2)
- Limited extra-curricular opportunities, need more robust GATE and after-school options (2)
- Yard needs better trained supervision, not more just more effective (2)
- Need more academic programmms
- Not enough electives to choose from. Emotional needs are being met thanks to the alertness of 6th grade social studies teacher. Having a middle school transition program would have helped my child with the emotional aspects of transitioning.
- The inequities between the campuses don't potentially allow my student the same opportunities of students from other campuses. This then puts my child at a disadvantage in high school, and additionally disadvantages the high school amongst other high schools. This in addition to the skeleton of a middle school that my student will have to attend if things are kept the same, will simply not provide the entire middle school experience, with the inevitable budget cuts that will be associated with the current model staying the same, further reducing the quality as well as the experience.

- My child is a struggling student in 5th grade. I am frightened about going to middle school because of the lack of options for students like her. Because our middle school is so small, there is little opportunity for differentiated classes and teachers have little time to specifically differentiate for individual students. I believe a dedicated middle school would be able to provide more intervention programs for struggling students like her
- While doing well academically, he should be doing even better and be challenged so that school is more enjoyable (he is GATE). He is not excited to go to school.
- My student's current background and experience did not leave him properly prepared for High School. While he is making improvements there are a number of areas that will take some time to get to an appropriate level including English writing skills and general study skills and organization. A more personalized education and supplemental material online would probably be a great benefit for student such as my son. The lack of sports teams at Beverly Vista also left him unsuited to enter High School sports, although he did manage to get onto the swim team for Water Polo.
- I believe the transition to high school would be much easier if there was a dedicated middle school. More electives and programs could be offered as well.
- I don't believe the teachers nor the staff are monitoring the failing students. the teachers seem to have no connection with the students nor the parents. "It does take a village to raised a child". It is our responsibility as a community to educate every .one more thing we don't have enough black or Hispanic student body, i feel as black parent i don't have a voice at this school.
- I do see an issue where in some classes there are only 7 students in a class, although the ratio is great, its not feasible
- yes but he is only in 2nd grade. also there are some problems with mean students/bullying so i'd like more support in how to handle.
- Class size is imbalanced, with some classes enormous and creating environments that are more impersonal and prone to behavioral issues.
- I feel there is a lack of flexibility in the schedule and as a result students do not have a diverse elective program.
- Horace Mann is too limited with electives which is quite unfair. It's also lacking athletics and honors programs.
- I do not think there are enough athletics and electives being offered
- More electives and more teachers lower class sizes
- * need more opportunities for my students (and own children) as they move through our school district (i.e. band/orchestra at the elementary levels, language at the elementary levels, sport teams, etc.)
- * grade level meetings are very difficult with four school sites
- * ability to provide a more rigorous program with 2 or 3 K-5s and one 6-8 school
- My child is in 5th grade at Horace Mann and feel that he is very much underserved. He's an advanced student that has NO access to high quality STEM programs nor creative enrichment

programs. There are no pathways that satisfy or stimulate his interest in Math & Science. There are no athletic programs. He has been with the same kids since Kindergarten and has not thrived socially. He needs more opportunities and change.

- My student is at the high school, where they have a wonderful program for all students
- My child has already demonstrated levels of reading beyond that of grade level expectations. However, the work she brings home or describes does not reflect that she receives instruction that is different than her peers.
- Answered no for my 5th grader. And "no" is not a definitive answer, but feel that he could benefit from extra learning opportunities, like more focus grammar and writing skills. I see those skills in him lacking. A writing intervention class could help him and I don't believe we have that at BV. He did attend a math intervention class in third grade and did well with that.
- My two kids have limited access to after school activities and enrichment programs. We resent the fact there's no foreign language courses being offered.
- we need to offer equitable programs across school sites. why don't we have robotics @ Hawthorne?
- Needs more GATE programs and enrichment
- This is from an academic standpoint. TK-3 is strong but there is a sharp decline in curriculum and teaching in 4th grade with teachers being allowed to reduce their teaching responsibility by "specializing" in only one subject (math, reading or writing) and teaching only one subject to the entire 4th grade instead of all three to their own class. 4th graders were adversely affected by this teacher imposed and self-selected teaching method as evidenced by state testing scores. Now these 5th graders are being further penalized and being subjected to a similar but even more experimental "rotation" that has again adversely affected their learning experience including by a 5th grade teacher who admittedly doesn't understand 5th grade math. The 5th graders spend a substantial amount of time just to switch classes and are constantly being rotated to different math teachers (as often as every 2 weeks). It is not only disruptive but leads to anxiety and self-consciousness as to whether these students are in the "smart" or "dumb" math class. Science is similarly being rotated but by class, to limit each teachers' responsibility regarding science topics that each needs to cover throughout the year. There are no text books and due to inadequate teaching, the students are resorting to the dictionary to assist with "science" homework. As a result of the foregoing, the Hawthorne 5th graders' learning experience is likely inferior to those that of the other k-8s and if there is a reconfiguration, these incoming middle schoolers will be at a disadvantage compared to their BHUSD peers. Unfortunately, it's not just about the electives or middle school. The problems are seeping into 4th and 5th grade, at least at Hawthorne.
- I do not have a student in BHUSD.
- Not sure. I think some programs like second language and learning to play an instrument could be introduced in earlier grades.
- I can speak only from k to 2nd grade till now and I think the kids could be introduced to a second language and instrument in earlier grades.

- Limited programs for younger kids. No second language program until very very late.
- There has been constant change in leadership roles (new principals, assistant principals, teachers) within our school, too many changes with construction at our site. The students are not given attention during lunch break, after school or recess. There has been more cases of bullying in our school across all grade levels. While having all of these issues exist across the board, why can't we focus of addressing these issues as oppose to now go into a reactionary mode and make changes that we don't know if it would logistically, socially , and emotionally benefits our kids. When asked at our discussion tonight if there was a plan to help transition our kids into this new middle school model and the answer was " that will be phase 2...we don't know." It is difficult for someone who has invested in being in this district for the Kto8 model and school system to now have to question and have so many unknown factors. All and all things are not perfect and frankly this configuration will increase our numbers of more people leaving the district. It breaks my heart as someone who has gone through this system to see our system changing not for the better. We are a community and we need consistency with our leadership team and teachers and yard aids that care to help support and educate our kids in a safe and friendly environment.
- Students can't always choose the elective of their choice.
- There should be more opportunities for students to aspire to academic excellence, above other consideration such as athletics or arts. Schools offer no interaction with excellent local academic resources such as UCLA. College preparation should not just be left till high school.
- not enough AP class offer, not enouh science, art, music and computer program across the board, science olympiad is not enough.
- I would need more information to answer whether or not I would be in favor of a school closure.
- No foreign languages are currently offered at Elementary level.
- My kids have always been bored in school. Especially my younger one as there was more differentiated learning in elementary school for my older child. Additionally, because the additional programming has been provided by parents, some of the opportunities that were available to my older child are no longer available for my younger child because the school does not take responsibility. For my older child at the HS, the programs that are sponsored by a teacher are disorganized and the sport my child tried had a very unmotivating coach so we now pay for sports outside the school. They just closed my son's school to parents and have told the children they are not allowed to play after school with their friends so the kids literally say they feel like they are in jail. Additionally teachers are leaving mid year so there is a lack of stability and consistency. These are just a few ways my kids needs have not been met.
- KEEP IT HOW IT IS, IT IS WORKING
- Need more athletic and academic programs
- Our kids are in a perfect environment both socially and academically and there's no reason why we would want anything to change before they go to high school. Keep our schools as they are!
- I think the school system is working perfectly right now and my family and I love everything about and don't want it to change under any circumstances.

- Social skills
- Kids who are advanced in academics prior to 4th grade are not indulged in the classrooms and their are no special programs for them to be a part of while in the same class. It's a shame as their talent is not advanced at an early age and it's being wasted. Therefore our test scores are so low later on.
- To say you have to close a school to provide students a more robust program is absurd. Perhaps you should have spent less money fighting the subway to provide our students a more robust academic experience.
- -start French or Spanish in 6th grade
-Have the possibility of learning 2 foreign languages in middle school
-Improve the athletic/teams
- More Foreign languages!
It would be fantastic to be able to start learning two foreign languages in middle school.
French and Spanish should start in 6th grade.
More robotic!
- There's not enough emphasize on foreign languages. In Europe and in most private schools they start one foreign language in 6th grade and a second one in 8th grade. BHUSD should do the same and offer French or Spanish as soon as 6th grade with the possibility to add the other one in 8th grade.
- We should offer more competitive academic programs to our middle school students and more flexibility in choosing the program that they want to be.

Is there anything that you would like the Future Focused Schools Team to consider when presenting configuration options to the Board of Education?

- It appears the community forum was intended to persuade attendees that the best idea is to create a separate middle school facility. Creating a separate middle school facility would constitute a "project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). Before deciding whether to create a middle school facility as part of reconfiguration, the School Board has a statutory duty to make a threshold determination of whether the CEQA EIR process applies. In making this threshold determination, the School Board must be mindful that creating a middle school facility would present extraordinarily unusual circumstances for Beverly Hills, and in the context of school closures or grade reassignments generally. This would be no mere school closure and/or grade reassignment, but rather would radically alter a century-old approach to education. Moreover, it would have environmental impacts such as altering traffic patterns, forcing parents with children in both K-5 and 6-8 to double their travel time, etc. It also would have environmental impacts in terms of the psychological and sociological changes this would effect in the community, and the related changed in uses of social services more broadly. The Future Focused Schools Team must urge the School Board to engage in the CEQA-mandated EIR process if reconfiguration includes creation of a separate, stand-alone Middle School facility. (2)
- As a Horace Mann and BHUSD graduate myself, I do not want nostalgia for the way things were and have been to cloud what is best for our students. I have two kids that will enter HM in the next few years. (2)
- Continue to look outside the box for additional funding revenues and collaborations with universities, non-profits, even corporations; The decision should not have financial concerns the primary motivator; improving our children's education and extra-curricular opportunities should be the primary consideration.
(2)
- I like the TK-8 configuration as it is. I think that by creating a middle school it would greatly increase bullying. (2)
- BV should be the middle school if BHUSD is to specify a middle school as it is most centrally located. I've heard of the possibility of El Rodeo becoming a middle school for its proximity to the HS. I disagree with any students walking across busy streets to get from ER to the HS (to mentor or for advanced programs...). Wilshire/Santa Monica is a major thoroughfare, it is too dangerous.
(2)
- not sure yet
- We are unable to choose a PTA slate for next year due to not knowing what our configuration will be. Our board is a mix of elementary and middle school parents and significant holes will be in any slate we choose. We must present our slate at our February meeting and vote at our March

meeting.

If we go to a middle school configuration, we need a gradual transition. One that is properly prepared. We do not want our students just plunked down in bungalows with no academic prep or expansion of options. Emotionally, the students will need support to adjust to a new building, more students, more choices and a more rigorous academic program.

There is talk that Lisa Korbato is looking to close Hawthorne. The community is very concerned that a board member would target a school like that. Doing this would destroy the district. Especially when you consider that this is Beverly Hills' first school. That would be a big mistake.

The presentation by FFST was fantastic! Any reservations I had were eased by the knowledge and caring of each and every member. Well done!

- I want to thank the FFST for all the time and passion that they have put in this process. I believe in you. My fear is that after all the presentations and hard work from this team, the Board of Education would fail us and close one of the schools down completely and establish 3 K-8 model schools. That would be the worse decision in my opinion. I understand that the current model is unsustainable and I am open to change but closing one of the sites would not be an option. I can support a dedicated Middle School option if we show that it is a viable option.
Also, I want to mention the fact that according to the PTA bylaws, we are supposed to come up with a Nominating Committee in the next few weeks and the job of that committee would be to come up with a Slate for our Executive Board. We will not be able to follow our bylaws because of the question of reconfiguration. If in fact we will be going to a K-8 Model, a big number of our parent volunteers will be leaving their current school.
There are a lot of rumors. There are rumors to close down Hawthorne, or BV. A lot of parents will be very upset if their school is closed down completely.
- The emotional attachments to the "traditional K-8 model, (even if studies showing some advantages) should be the lowest priority consideration in evaluating what should be "how to reconfigure" vs. whether or not to re-configure. Any advantages to the K-8 model do not demonstrate enough of an advantage to justify the resulting financial and structural issues that will remain, and only contribute to further demise of the district. We cannot become determined toward one specific attribute within a complex, but finite group of options. We shouldn't let our desire for perfection becoming the enemy of good.
- I think the FFST has done a terrific job and I 100% support a dedicated middle school.
- Thank you for all the hard work and effort that is going into this process.
- I would like to see very specific numbers for the 6-8 master schedule. The current plans call for between 46 and 67 FTE reductions, but also promise to expand elective programs. Exactly how will this be done?
- Electives in Mandarin, Computer programming, art and performance. After school athletics and clubs with faculty advisors...

- Evaluate both the research and the reliability of the sources you consult
- There are quite a few suggestions I have for the team to consider. Better use of online services, particularly if any large online service companies such as Amazon or Google are interested in establishing a partnership with a prestigious school district, would be highly recommended. Support for struggling students and finding a way to assess student learning patterns individually would also be a great benefit in my opinion. Learning programs could be more tailored to the individual needs of students if schools can determine how a student best learns, e.g. does the student learn faster and retain information better when presented visual data or text or audio and does the student learn better when getting hands on experience perhaps through 3D models or interactive programs before or after lectures.
- I believe that whatever they recommend, they need to keep the community as informed as possible. They also need to keep in mind that the community feels that they have trusted and believed in the board and administrators and been let down in the past especially in view of all of the on-going construction in several of the sites. Please make sure to keep this in mind and make sure not to repeat this cycle all over again because you will surely lose the trust of the community for good.
- i would like to get the district to allow the teachers to give back the test to the students. I know that San Marino school district does not something as stupid as that, we are here to service the teacher not lazy teacher that do not want to do new test every year.
- One thing I just thought of, if the middle school is Horace Mann or El Rodeo, traffic congestion would be a nightmare, both school are at the corners of the city.
- yes to make our middle school as competitive as possible and to add funding for counselors as this modern society is very complex to navigate for our youth and I feel we need more support in this year. rather than one dedicated counselor per school that may come with the reconfig, I'd like to see 2.
- You are missing a question. You need to poll the community on whether or not they are in favor of a middle school. I am only in favor of closing a school if the remaining three remain as K-8s
- At this time, the FFST seems completely bought into 3 K-5s and a 6-8 school. After speaking to several members they have said that finances don't matter and that even if we had the money they would still go this route. Considering this goes against community and parent opinion who overwhelmingly want to keep 4 K-8 schools, I think it is only fair that more options be considered on how we might raise the money to keep our schools in their current configuration (i.e. Bring back permits, research more grant options, ask for community donations specifically for this, etc).
- At least from the perspective of a BHHS high school Employee, the master schedule seems to be constructed more by budgetary concerns vs the students' educational program or fostering a sense of community. This is especially apparent during second semester when students have schedule changes that cannot be accommodate or that exceed class size because of the districts desire to keep the budget tight.

- I feel very strongly about keeping students together from TK-8th grade- It would be an extraordinary impact on so many families with small children.
- I am in favor of a designated middle school but I am very worried about the class sizes ballooning to 150. Correcting essays for 100 students looks a lot different than correcting essays for 90-100 students. With larger classes it will also be very difficult to have the students complete many of the assignments I currently give, because it will not be possible for me to grade such a large volume of assignments all at once.
- We moved where we did specifically so my child could walk to school bc I am disabled and cannot drive him. If next year he had to get to a different location I would have no way to get him to school. It would devastate our lives
- I think that in light of the delays with construction at El Rodeo, everyone is worried about the district rushing into a quick solution, without having considered how the various transitions and conditions (i.e. opening a middle school with no ability to offer athletics bc of construction and having kids in bungalows) will affect the student body. Also, considering the huge impact that the finances have on academics, programming and developing, I would strongly encourage more transparency from the board in terms of full disclosure of current financial situation, as well as detailed plans and quotes regarding any future changes.
- Please look at the research IN SUPPORT of the K-8 system. I do not feel our district takes advantage of what this system could look like and provide for our students in terms of mentoring, community and a supportive environment. When these qualities are present, you have students who are less stressed, have a more confident sense of self, and are therefore able to perform at a higher level.
- The format of the FFST meetings did not allow for enough input from parents and teachers at the schools. 1. There is plenty of research showing the social and emotional benefits of the K-8 model over a dedicated middle school, but at a meeting that I attended, an FFST member disagreed with this conclusion, yet contradictory research is not referenced on the FFST website. 2. In regards to financial considerations, the FFST meeting minutes quote budget projections that show that keeping 3 K-8 schools provides the same or greater cost savings as switching to a dedicated middle school (and 2 or 3 K-5 schools). 3. The City provides plenty of opportunities for sports with AYSO, BHLL and BH basketball, as well as swim team at the high school and Tennis at La Cienega. My mediocre kids are able to participate in all of these, while competitive school based teams will only benefit the best athletes. 4. If low enrollment is causing all of this concern, do you not see that the K-8 model is a DRAW that differentiates our district from Santa Monica, Culver City and LAUSD? We are not competing with private schools, we are competing with other highly ranked public schools in the area. People actively chose BHUSD for the K-8 model. Many of the most successful charter schools in LAUSD are K-8 schools.

I am a pediatrician in BH for 18 years, I see kids from a wide range of the local schools, public and private and would like to share my opinions with the FFST team, but there was little opportunity at the meeting at my school or at the FFST forum last night. Kimberly Klausner

DRK@Roxburypediatrics.com

- I moved to the bh for Horace Mann elementary bc it is k to 8 th grade I would be devastated if this was no longer an option
- Would it be possible to run two schools on one school site? For example K-5 Haw and 6-8 ER on one school campus and K-5 Mann and 6-8 BV on one school campus. The benefit of increasing numbers at every school but still have a K-8 feel since two schools share one campus.
- While there is always more that can be done, I absolutely do not support making any rush decisions or moving children to an unfinished school site. If the board does decide to make changes, parents should have ample time to move their children to other schools if they do not like the direction the board is going. Private school application deadlines for the next academic year have passed and it is unfair to foist unwelcome changes on families that no longer have an option to switch schools.
- Clearly the FFST is not at all transparent. From this session and one at BV on Tues 9 Jan for the PTA (due to other issues too), the FFST has already come to a conclusion that BHUSD needs a Middle School --- sooner than later. Both conclusions are NOT good. And as the Mrg for the School Bond Facilities put it on Wed 10 Jan, the DSA now is delayed with the current bldg plans until 2019. Then it will take 4-5 years for the \$134 million to be used for El Rodeo and BHHS to be completed. If the FFST was transparent then they would know that the changes NOW being proposed (middle school) will change all of this. And clearly take more time and money for "planning" as happened in the past over the Measure E Funds. Secondly to declare the BHUSD needs funds for staff and admin to teach our children again with false transparency as there is NOT a budget deficit (only short every year and this year it is \$800,000 NOT \$5million as is noted in many "non-transparent" emails floating around the BHUSD. The correct number of \$800, 000 are from the BHUSD Finance Staff. Finally what BHUSD needs to do is develop a comprehensive plan !!! NOT a patch work idea, but more that is comprehensive, both for staff and buildings but CLEALY needed to get a focus on the education of ALL students going to BHUSD. Case in point, turn BHUSD from a K-12 system into a K-14 system where there is more bond funds for facilities !!!!! There is more but this is enough for now !!!!! Stay tuned for more soon !!!!!
- To EQUALLY present two or more options with the same enthusiasm that only one option was presented last night. Tons of people walked away and felt that it was a brainwashed approach that only showed ONE option for the middle school and we've been told and promised all along that a few or at least two options would be presented and that was NOT the case at all! The hard work by all is obvious and it was such a disappointment to see this. This must change or others will need to present their ideas to the Board and are prepared to do so anyway if their ideas aren't properly represented. The k-8 model needs to be represented just as passionately as the middle school as they're all options to better the kids. Thanks.
- I was just wondering when this would take place...over the course of a few years or in the Fall? Which school site would you be recommending? I'm hoping it would be ER since it is under construction and could be made into everything a brand new middle school should be!

- I URGE the Board to implement a stand alone Middle School IMMEDIATELY!!!! Please do not wait. We can not wait or waste another year with below average education. Please activate NOW and give our children the education they deserve, not an antiquated, watered down, under funded K-8 system. Thank you!
- The highest priority is great programming for our students and the ability for teachers to be able to collaborate.
- A lot of parents will leave the district if a single middle school is created. This process has been too rushed and considered by many including myself as illegitimate. We have not had open forum sessions that offered for any meaningful dialogue. In addition, there is a lot of research that points to k-8 model being more beneficial for emotional well being of students. My child's emotional well being is much more important than whether he will be able to take ceramics or robotics as electives. There have been no significant efforts to improve our middle schools with the current structure. Let's focus on that.
- I very much liked the TK-8 model for our family. But now we have a high schooler and a son entering middle school next year. I would like to see BV as my son's middle school, but that all is up for consideration. I know the community in general likes the TK-8 model, it's very homey and cozy. But I think there are needs for middle school kids that could be addressed further. My big concern is what the heck is going on with the High School construction. Perhaps a reconfiguration of our current district would force attention on the building/construction needs of the High School, which I feel is a disgrace on the community. It's being ignored. And hopefully that will be addressed after budget and reconfiguration concerns are met and decisions are made. Thank you.
- Tonight's presentation was very one sided. I found it to be almost like a commercial selling a theoretical product. The presentation lacked research and data to support the spoken or implied claims of what a middle school can do. I will continue to be an active parent in this community and support and champion all of our schools. But tonight did not serve as a true open forum. I wish that it had.
- You should emphasize that the benefits of the single middle school system go beyond the Middle School itself. Having three K-5 schools would allow the district to have a more even roster of programs / classes across all of them. Also, you should give the parents the email addresses and phone numbers of the members of the Board and encourage them to call each member to pressure them to make the best choice for the district.
- K-8 is best for students all around and this is a known fact among education experts.

The increasing population in Beverly Hills makes the existing k-8 model even more necessary. The teacher-student ratio needs to revert to the 18-22 maximum number.

I can also speak from experience having attended both!!!

Please do not destroy our k-8- as there are many ways to achieve better quality academics.

- The BHUSD is and has always been stellar. Why 'fix' what isn't broken?
- Before proposing an option, the team needs to think through the budget, timing and execution plan. How can something as monumental and life changing for 4,000 kids be proposed and not have an execution plan to go with it?
- Stability is one of the most important things in children's lives. The current school model is just fine and is part of tradition and history of the city of Beverly Hills. This school system that has historically worked and saw many successful graduates should be preserved,. To see your child go from kindergarten to 8th grade in one school would not only be beneficial for students because it's streamlined but would be an amazing experience in terms of growth and school spirit. Stability, historical preservation, streamlined schools and school spirit. These are the reasons to keep and maintain the current school system. Students are currently receiving an excellent education.
- Don't go to a middle school. I am a graduate of the school district and believe this is very short sighted. There are bigger issues that need to be addressed which most importantly is recognizing the education quality has declined which is why attendance is down 20%. I think you should look at the graduation rates and those attending top tier universities. Why has that declined?

Going to a middle school will create a host of new issues the district will need to deal with while only continuing the decline in attendance.

- Applauds for thriving for excellence.

My wish is 100% and all of my friends is to KEEP K-8.

I would close 1 school, consolidate all students in to 3 schools. Monetize the facility closed. And absolutely 100% keep K-8. We all moved here for K-8.

We all stay here for K-8.

I just purchased a house 2 months ago on Camden drive with my life's work, to be in the K-8 system. It's a shitty house for Millions of \$. Only for the K-8 system.

Had I known there was a chance to break this system, I wouldn't have purchased the house and would seriously consider moving to a more affordable area and enroll in private schools.

Via consolidation we can achieve a lot.

Please research and investigate heavily in how do we keep our K-8 system and better it. You should do that with all seriousness just as you research breaking down the system.

I will take consistency for my kids, which enables emotional strength over a couple more electives Any Day.

You are seeing the wave of resistance from the parents, please listen to us. This is Our district and our kids. We want to keep the K-8 system.

- All sides- last night was very one sided. Just one quick note about closing a school. Can't you open your eyes and see that the community is opposed to a middle school. Close one school and calibrate the other 3. Here's an idea. Why not close El rodeo. The parents are tired of the

construction there as you heard at the end of the night in the one comment that was allowed. By the way these forums are very one sided. How about fix our schools first or how about finish construction first- that's an idea. All I know is the people on this Committee are not presenting all options in a fair way. Pros for K-8: school choice(one middle school is not going to give us any choice). What if there is a situation of a bully? One middle school would not allow for a child to go to another school. Also, these teacher teams mean larger class size- that is not good. Why aren't you presenting the other side??????

- Keep Hawthorne this is a historical place for our community and our kids should stay together at Hawthorne from k to 8! Please don't steel the money from our kids and saying we don't have budget to keep Hawthorne
- How will this reconfiguration address chronic & longstanding problems with poor but tenured middle school teachers that are also contributing to our district's less than stellar academic performance? Even if we have more electives & better scheduling, it doesn't address the problem all 4 k-8 schools have had with mediocre (or worse) middle school teachers. Most of these teachers will be retained due to tenure but will now be tasked with teaching more of our middle school students but at a subpar level. In the case of math, some of these middle school teachers including honors math teachers are being paid \$100 PER HOUR to tutor students after school and have developed their own for-profit summer math programs. This is not only unethical but shocks the conscience especially if the reconfiguration will allow these teachers access to a greater pool of students, not to provide an enhanced academic experience but for these tenured teachers to personally profit even more outside of school hours. The foregoing will not contribute to our students' academic and emotional/social experience. I understand FFST is not being tasked with or has the ability to get involved with "personnel matters" but this is a relevant piece to the larger problems our district is facing that needs to be taken into consideration and addressed by the Board/District when deciding on the reconfiguration as all of the options will inevitably result in a reduction in staff. Unfortunately, reductions in staff are not based on performance so even if we have more honors classes, more electives and/or more classes in general, it's still a disservice to our district and students if those classes are being taught by apathetic or incompetent tenured teachers.
- Take your time and make sure everything is prepared before taking the next step. As said in the presentation only one aspect of this has been focused on. Time (Aug 2019 not Aug 2018) will allow both the facility and staff to be successful if the district were to adapt a new configuration.
- There are good teachers at school and it will be nice if we can raise all teacher to the same standard. I know some are better than others and it's not consistent across different classrooms in the same grade. Creating a middle doesn't solve this issue, we need to focus on the quality of the staff.
- I was frustrated by vague answers to my specific questions, and this was the case over both nights. Are you planning to reduce 46.5 to 67 FTE's or not? If not, where are the savings coming from? If so, specifically, how are you going to be able to staff the middle school programs you are describing? I ran the numbers based on the enrollment figures from the FFS website and I came

up with, at most, about 20 FTE's you could reduce with a single middle school. With our current enrollment, you will need 2.2 FTE's per core subject per grade level. That means 6.6 FTE's for each core subject all together. We currently have 8.0 FTE's per subject. In PE, with their 45:1 ratio, you could cut an additional 2.8 FTE's.

That means all the rest of the reductions need to come from electives. But remember, when you consolidate an elective like Art, you still will need Art teachers for the elementary schools. Specifically, what are the FTE's the district will cut in order to reduce the costs by \$5 million, and once you do that, what sort of elective program can you really offer? Without knowing that, how can you make promises about program? I suppose the biggest savings comes from closing a campus. That way you could reduce non-classroom personnel like custodians, groundskeepers, cafeteria staff, office staff, etc. Your figures add 15-20 FTE's when a campus is closed, so that's probably where those numbers come from.

Numbers change from speaker to speaker. I have heard for the past year that we are up against a \$5 million deficit spending figure in the near future and that is what is driving this discussion. Tonight I heard that that number is not real anymore. So, what is the number? How much is the district trying to save?

The 150 cohort plan. First of all, the contract limits the district from assigning more than 145 students per teacher, so 150 won't work. In addition, each of the middle school grades have over 300 students, so what happens to "excess" kids? Do you pin each grade at 300 (really 290) and turn away everyone else? This plan also features teachers with a common planning period. What will the kids be doing when all of their teachers are meeting? Are you going to require the teachers to meet each day?

The bottom line is that there are far too many details left undefined for the public for me to be comfortable with the plan of consolidating the middle school. Much more time is needed to reveal those specifics before adopting any new plan. Rushing this through by the end of this month seems like folly.

- Closing any of the schools would be a huge mistake, sends the wrong message to city residents (i.e. "BHUSD is in decline"), and damages both the legacy and the reputation of BHUSD.

Since some type of a change seems to be required, I'm mostly in favor of the consolidated middle school proposal. This feels like a better solution, addressing both the short term budget concerns while offering some very clear teaching and learning benefits.

- Turn the 20% freed up existing space into revenue streams by opening nursery schools. This proximity of students to infants and toddlers can also open up all kinds of positive learning avenues for our students...!!!

Thanks...!!!

- Kids learn language better at younger age. We need second language program for young kids!!!

- Consider keeping K-8 system while improving it
- Tell the Board to give you more time—5 months is not enough to make a thoroughly considered recommendation.
- There has been constant change in leadership roles (new principals, assistant principals, teachers) within our school, too many changes with construction at our site. The students are not given attention during lunch break, after school or recess. There has been more cases of bullying in our school across all grade levels. While having all of these issues exist across the board, why can't we focus of addressing these issues as oppose to now go into a reactionary mode and make changes that we don't know if it would logistically, socially , and emotionally benefits our kids. When asked at our discussion tonight if there was a plan to help transition our kids into this new middle school model and the answer was “ that will be phase 2...we don't know.” It is difficult for someone who has invested in being in this district for the Kto8 model and school system to now have to question and have so many unknown factors. All and all things are not perfect and frankly this configuration will increase our numbers of more people leaving the district. It breaks my heart as someone who has gone through this system to see our system changing not for the better. We are a community and we need consistency with our leadership team and teachers and yard aids that care to help support and educate our kids in a safe and friendly environment. Everyday there seems to be a new person, a new process, a new procedure and all of these things negatively impact our kids. We need a clear set plan as the community members. We need time for any and all drastic changes to ensure they were well planned and thought out. This simply can not happen August 2018 since as stated “we don't know what phase 2 looks like.” Please let's focus on making our school system a better place to be. This amazing community deserves that.
- Choice is the number one priority to me regarding BH schools. If not four, please consider maintaining at least two middle school options. Maybe two K-5s and two K-8s? This would maintain some level of choice, keep all four schools, keep the K-8 model, boost middle school class sizes, and cut costs by getting rid of two middle schools.

In any case, however, please take more time to THOROUGHLY explore ALL options in much greater detail, in partnership with the community, before jumping to a decision. This is a radical change—DON'T RUSH. The research has not been exhaustive yet by far. No doubt the district has financial challenges, but the exact figures, and "direness" of the situation, are DEFINITELY unclear at best. Making a rash move will only result in more mess and frustration on everyone's part, and sacrifice the kids. The district already has so much mess.

If one middle school ends up being the case, PLEASE DON'T do it for this coming August. Simply gathering all the middle school aged kids in the district and just depositing them into an elementary school together is a terrible idea. If it turns out that one middle school is going to be done, do it right. Research, design, build, staff, and put all programs firmly in place before consolidating the kids. It will be enough stress to change everyone's location and bring everyone of that age together—there should not be construction or limited programming at startup on top of

that. HAVE the state of the art science labs built, the equipment for professional music and theater already in place, sports options organized, etc. Importantly, also make the physical recess space infinitely more vast than the couple of basketball hoops and a little bit of soccer turf that now exists in the elementary schools--most aggression would occur during the times when students are outside and not being guided--there should be enough space and variety for everyone to find something fun, without folks who don't want to be together getting in each other getting in each other's way.

Someone proposed a smart way of executing a possible consolidation--whichever location would become the middle school, re-distribute just their middle schoolers amongst the other three K-8s temporarily, while construction occurs over one to two years. Then when the facility is ready, bring all middle schoolers together. That particular location's K-5 kids can stay there in portables during the process.

Thank you for all your hard work.

- This is rushed and set up to fail. Families are choosing private. Do this the right way and plan properly for the massive change for 2019. The current proposals for an August 2018 launch is clearly not for the benefit of our children.
- Almost all of the schools problems could be addressed by having 3 K-8 schools: more programming and classes, while maintaining the most healthy psychological environment for our kids. Since we have to close one school anyway, it seems like we should try this model and see if it meets our needs
- Not to rush creating a middle school just to cut costs. I am open and in support of creating a middle school but want to make sure the education, environment, campus, staff, and all other needs are carefully thought out before pushing for an august 2018 school year.
- We cannot make rush decisions that can be traumatic for ours kids ... Any future changes should be really well planned ... in the next years ...
- Foreign language programs should start in 6th grade/Musical theater should be offered for all (not only at 2 sites)/clubs& activities should be offered at lunch (Art club/chess club...)
- Be more open about past mismanagement (teacher contract, construction, litigation etc). Be much more focused on improving college matriculation of high school (and what needs to happen at K8 to bring this improvement). Do not measure BHUSD achievements with local/state schools since students will be competing with those nationwide for college acceptance. Benchmark goals to top public schools districts nationwide.
- please help el rodeo and hawthorn students to get thru the construction time. no parents would like to send their children to school with dust and noise all day long. parents in BV and HM would love to stay within their community as we are familiar with each other. No reason to change BV

and HM to any middle school as these two schools are newly remodel to fit K-8 students already. please spend money in the right place. thank you.

- 1. At the Community Forum our school District was compared to other better performing districts that could be considered 'analogs' or a close match to our District, and an observation was made that the difference between BHUSD configuration and these other district configurations lied in the fact that we have 4 middle schools and they have 1, implying that having a middle school is a key reason for their better performance. While there may be a correlation between these two variables (that is when you have one, the other one is present too), there is no evidence that there is a cause and effect between the two (that having a middle school causes the district to perform better). Please do not confuse correlation with cause and effect.

2. There are many research studies on the topic of school grade-spans, but if I could bring your attention to just one, it would be a research study whose author has conducted and reviewed research on school configurations for the past 15 years. His conclusion is that the answer to best results lies in the implementation: a best practice middle school program can succeed in a k-8 model if it is well implemented, and it may fail in a dedicated middle school if it is poorly implemented (access to the full article here: <http://www.aasa.org/SchoolAdministratorArticle.aspx?id=8710>).

I believe a best practice middle school program can be implemented both within the k-8 structure as well as with a dedicated middle school (and my understanding is that the FFST is developing financially viable options for both), but for it to be successful careful consideration needs to be given to:

- The timeline in which changes are implemented so that best results can be achieved (a phased approach as opposed to one-step approach).
- The importance of bringing in a best practice middle school program into the District, and again, taking the time necessarily to implement it well.
- The need to make this change financially viable in the long term.

3. One of the FFST members explained at the Community Forum that he thought his kids would be more prepped to transition to High School if they have a transition to a middle school before. I would encourage the Team to read the scientific evidence pointing to the opposite: Article "Do Top Dogs Rule in Middle School? Evidence on Bullying, Safety, and Belonging" published in the American Educational Research Journal in October 2016 (<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.3102/0002831216657177>).

I appreciate your work and dedication and would like to thank you for taking my input into consideration.

- Please do not dismantle Beverly Vista School your school with the highest enrollment, the strongest community and the highest performance to accommodate your misspent budget! Moral of our youngest most impressionable and vulnerable students will drop tremendously affecting their education at its most formative time. Instead focus on improving the current k-8 by injecting into the middle school as it stands and building up. Not taking it down and starting from scratch at the expense of OUR children and THEIR education. Go cut costs from elsewhere. Leave our school alone!
- Should a K-8 model be adjusted how would the schools be re-aligned - has the fiscal impact of this change - the actual cost to implement bene looked at? And why the rush to get this in place when there are so many unknown costs and impacts? What will happens to the neighborhoods if they change to an alternate model, how will an empty school effect a neighborhood? Would the costs involved to implement the change outweigh the benefit - what is the benefit for the lower grades if any?
- To be able to learn other foreign languages, at least Spanish and French.
- I think closing the TK - 5th grade levels in Beverly Vista would be a GIANT mistake. BV has long been a rock of education for a large and successful student body encompassing TK - 8 and it has worked with great success. Changing things around, and potentially so last minute, would only hurt the synergy and rhythm of what is currently a great school system that we support with our volunteer hours every year as well as our money. And I can say as renters who face rent increase every year money is tight. Don't do a 'en masse' migration, no one wins here.
- I like strong academic and no reconfiguration.
- I would like for them to look at the research regarding the benefits of the K-8 academically and emotionally for children. I would like them to consider that the BH small community feel is based largely on the current configuration and it is what makes this district special and distinct. I attended the FFST meetings and read the notes and I have seen and heard only OPINIONS. NO RESEARCH. I would like the FFST to consider that if this is being driven by the current financial situation, then this serves as a bandaid, but if we do not address WHY enrollment is down and where the money is going, we will still be in this situation in the future. We cannot keep closing schools and reconfiguring. This is not a long term solution, especially taking the gamble that many families will leave and others will not bother starting. Many families have looked the other way despite frustrations with the current system because they believe so much in this K-8 system. In addition, when everyone finds out that one of the wealthiest cities in the world had to make a rash and bandaid decision because they were out of money, and when people see that our buildings are under construction and we have a revolving door of staff and increased class and grade sizes, we have a disappointing GATE program, and kids are not even allowed to PLAY on their own playground after school, BH will no longer be as desirable. People will not sacrifice to keep their kids here. I know I won't. I am not concerned about extra programming when my child

is 11, 12 or 13. I want my kids to feel challenged and excited about school even before then, which they don't. It is also not my priority for my kids to have a dozen choices at that age when realistically there is only so much time in a given school day. We have many opportunities to have our children in sports and the arts through the city. My older child has opted out of many of the extra programming at the HS because it has been disappointing and disorganized. I care more that they feel supported and not overwhelmed or burned out. When given the proper foundation, kids will thrive. This is my priority. This is what the K-8 research shows. Our BHHS campus is huge. You will need a campus that same size to accommodate an entire MS with all the necessary and promised programming. You will need a full counseling staff. You will need a larger administration like the HS has. That is a lot of \$ for higher salary positions and restructuring of buildings when we cannot even keep consistent administrators and fix the buildings we have. All of the time and energy and resources that we are putting to reconfiguration could be put into making what we have, at EVERY grade level better. This reconfiguration will not only sacrifice the MS students but the younger children as well, as their grades and class sizes will grow. These small class sizes and small community feel are what make people desire the BHUSD. This will change with reconfiguration. I want the FFST to understand that although it may sound like it will be amazing, the grass is not greener. Solving some problems will bring about other problems. You are just trading the known for the unknown. As someone who has worked in school districts and with middle school children, I promise from my professional perspective it is better to have our current problems. Thank you for taking my words into consideration and for all the time and energy you have devoted. I think we are an amazing, caring, resourceful, and talented community and that if we come together we could bring great things to this district while preserving what makes it unique and special. Thank you!!

- KEEP BEVERLY VISTA, AS IS, IT'S WORKING!! PLEASE
- The K-8 model is working and my middle schooler is thriving and happy at Beverly Vista. I strongly believe that the structure should not be changed. I would rather see budget cuts in the number of included school electives than a drastic change in the current campus configuration. Perhaps middle school electives and athletics programs could be shifted to before school and/or after school programs, consolidated to occur at only one of the K-8 campuses, at a reasonable additional cost to parents, so that the cost of staffing these activities and classes are not carried by the district. There doesn't appear to currently be much offered along these lines, and I know that our family would welcome such a program and would be willing to pay extra to have our child participate. Thank you to the committee for your many volunteer hours spent on this. It is much appreciated.
- Beverly hills has the money. I would like to know where the money is going.
- Study's show that kids especially girls need to stay with the same girls until 8th grade. To change at 6th they have social and sexual issues and rape.
- Do NOT close Beverly Vista. Keep Beverly Vista K-8
- Keep Beverly Vista K-8!

- Yes I love our school by and I really don't want to move
- Please KEEP El Rodeo an elementary school K through 8th grade. Thank you very much
- emotional stability of delicate 11/12,13 year olds who don't need one more change when their bodies and worlds are changing so drastically and quickly. at my middle school so many kids committed/attempted suicide because they were not prepared for these changes at this age. is the school board prepared to take on this responsibility?
- Neighborhood schools are important. Even though Beverly Hills is a small city, attending a school that you can walk to and find school friends at your neighborhood park is important. We were bumped to Hawthorne for TK and the drive was tricky and my kids never saw school friends at the park. Now that we're at Beverly Vista we frequently walk to school and see friends all the time. Giving up the neighborhood feel to our school would be devastating for the Community.
- It is of utmost importance for our school to give a sense of community and belonging to our kids. We have moved here to Beverly Hills so our kids stay in the same school from tk to 8th grade. This is the reason why we chose this community and have made so many sacrifices to make this possible for our children. Transitioning our kids from elementary school to middle school while in the same physical space is a much smoother change and allows them to feel more confident and sure of their surroundings.
- I would not like for Beverly Vista to become the middle school. Seems like El Rodeo would be the obvious choice
- 3 K-8
1 6-8
- -start French or Spanish in 6th grade
-Have the possibility of learning 2 foreign languages in middle school
-Improve the athletic/teams
- Keep the students in their present neighborhood schools.
- I rather have all 4 schools rather than one middle school.
- We could offer Foreign languages in 6th grade. In some school, they do an exploratory foreign language program (1 semester of French and one semester in Spanish or vice versa). They are exposed to different languages and they can see what they want to study.
We could offer French at more than one period and not as a combo class-French 1&2- but as one level period (right now, it is offered in one period only at each school, so there is no flexibility and also, French 1 and 2 are combined together) . We could also some clubs during lunch.
- Keeping the kids in one school from k-8 gives them a consistency and social confidence that will be hurt if the school is separated. We moved to this area specifically from a district that had k-6 & middle school separated . My sons are much happier and the kids are much more socially developed appropriate to their age than the district that had separate schools. It would be a disservice to downgrade the amazing school system in place currently in the BHUSD to the mediocre school model of the LAUSD. please don't change the school model.

- Although I want no change at all, the only acceptable option is close El Rodeo and maintain 3 K8s
- Focus on the essence of the education rather than to make beautiful building or opening a new school. we have construction everywhere in the district schools and pouring money in the wrong avenue. we moved to the district specifically for K-8 Model.