

JEFFERSON SCHOOL SITE COMMITTEE REPORT

School size: 350-450 students
Number of classrooms: 3 per grade level.

Grade configuration: Jefferson does not have consensus.

1. Staff favor retaining K-3 configuration unless more space is made available to provide 3 classes per grade level.
2. Families responding to Jefferson's December questionnaire favor K-4, 5 or 6 (63 responses, 80% for K-5 or 6), over K-3 (14 responses).
3. In January the Site Committee met at Malcolm X to discuss configuration; those unable to attend sent written responses. Results of that discussion and survey were split: 22 for K-3 (21 attending, 1 written), 23 for K-5 or 6 (9 attending, 14 written). Others: K-4 and K-8, 1 response each.

Integration methodology:

Our committee has not yet reached consensus on this issue. We strongly support desegregation, but parents at Jefferson also want neighborhood/proximity consideration.

Special features:

Jefferson's Chinese Bi-Cultural program is unique and closely identified with the school. We wish to keep this special program if possible. However, Jefferson would need more classrooms if it were to become a K-5, in order to provide more than 1 other class option for those not in the bi-cultural program. Alternatives for increasing space include: construction of new classrooms; split or ungraded classes; lease or buy back the old Jefferson property sold by the district to a private day care center.

Site Committee meetings, surveys:

Jefferson held 9 site committee meetings, plus 8 other meetings of committee chairs and subcommittee members. Attached are the questionnaire distributed to all Jefferson families, and a summary of the results. Also attached are the results of a special door-to-door survey of our South Berkeley families from Jefferson's paired neighborhood.

Other concerns expressed at Jefferson:

- keeping our teachers and staff, who work harmoniously and are the backbone of our school.
- keeping our families. Whatever changes are made by the district, families need to be 'grandfathered' in, allowing continued attendance at Jefferson for their children. Jefferson's strength is in its community support and involvement.
- having on-site child-care and strong after-school programs at all sites.
- money for programs must accompany configuration and other changes.

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JEFFERSON'S MEASURE 'A' SITE COMMITTEE - Questionnaire Summary

In December the Site Committee distributed a survey to all Jefferson families. Of the approximately 350 sent out over 80 were returned. Below are the results.

Plan A: Remain K-3

1st choice of 14 families 3d choice of 15 families
2d choice of 16 families 4th choice of 16 families
 Feed into Malcolm X - choice of 9
 Feed into Franklin or smaller Gr. 4-6 school - choice
 of 25 families

Plan B: Magnet School, K-4, K-5, or K-6

1st choice of 12 families 3d choice of 13 families
2d choice of 13 families 4th choice of 16 families
 Transportation by parents - choice of 16
 Transportation by school bus - choice of 16

Plan C: Neighborhood School, K-4, K-5, or K-6

1st choice of 48 families 3d choice of 9 families
2d choice of 15 families 4th choice of 4 families
 Move boundaries south of Univ. Ave. - choice of 6
 Move boundaries west of San Pablo - choice of 22

Plan D: K-4, K-5, or K-6, busing South Berk. students for all these years.

1st choice of 3 families 3d choice of 12 families
2d choice of 17 families 4th choice of 16 families

Other suggestions included:

Neighborhood schools with choice
No busing
Make Franklin K-6 or Junior High
Buy back the Richards property

General questions:

1. Configuration preference
 K-4 - preferred by 11
 K-5 - preferred by 18 K-5 or 6 - preferred by 6
 K-6 - preferred by 45
2. Increase classroom space for additional grades (make school larger)
 yes - 35 no - 31
3. Increase "flex" space for computer lab, arts, etc.
 yes - 64 no - 7
4. If Jefferson cannot get more space, do you still want K-4, 5, or 6 with less than 3 classes per grade level?
 yes - 54 no - 17

(continued)

The second page of the questionnaire noted that programmatic changes will be considered next. Suggestions (with frequency noted in parentheses) included:

- team teaching (5)
- multicultural education (4)
- early academic intervention (4)
- reduce class size (7)
- yearround school (2)
- extend school day (2)
- after school enrichment programs (2)
- rich and varied after school program
- more community centered
- early childhood education
- art program
- music program
- sports program
- sign language classes
- Spanish language classes
- conflict resolution classes
- GATE program
- daycare on site
- sick child care
- school nurse/health program
- use volunteers
- use community resources
- intense cooperation with U.C. Berkeley (student teachers, tutors, etc.)
- teacher evaluation
- school performance measures
- increased administrative autonomy with governance committee of parents/faculty/principal
- lunch break needs to be at least 30 minutes!

The Committee thanks all families who took the time to respond to the survey. Your input into this process is greatly appreciated!