

Summary of McKinley Elementary Potential Closure Hearings

Two hearings were held on May 5, 2011 at McKinley Elementary School. At the first hearing, scheduled for 4 P.M., 17 people spoke. At the second hearing, scheduled for 6:30 P.M., 19 people spoke. All speakers opposed the closure of the school.

Below is a summary of the issues raised in the comments:

The financial conditionals are not as dire as the district is saying. Other funding sources were available and untapped. Some of the legislative proposals, such as funding based on average daily attendance, have not come to pass. The closure would not net enough money to warrant the action.

There is concern for the impact on the community if the school is closed. It has a long history in the community. Gault and Rogers are both closed. They are not being used now and could have been used to generate revenue for the district. Learning is being part of a community and closure should be a last resort.

This is a good school, with good staff and administration and support staff. They push students to achieve. Students are enrolled in advanced classes. Smaller class sizes help students. Parents have seen growth in their children's learning and current and former students credit the school for their learning and growth. It is a good school for all races. The school has good discipline.

Children are our future and closing their school does them a disservice. Students should not have to transfer to another school and start again.

This is a better school physically than Mary Lyon. There is concern that the students and parents will not have the support that they currently have at Mary Lyon or Blix or that they will encounter problems in other schools. Bussing the students to other schools is not a good choice and seems like it would result in a loss of money. Change boundaries to have Mary Lyon and Blix students attend at McKinley.

The closure appears to be based on institutional racism or because of the high percentage of Latinos at the school or because they don't speak English. More than 38% of the students at the school speak Spanish. The plan to close the school is because this is a poor community.