

Dear Parents,

Washington County School District and the Board of Education are considering a proposal to combine Dixie Sun Elementary and Coral Cliffs Elementary. We recognize that this would have a significant impact on the children and families attending both of these schools, as well as the neighboring schools.

It should be noted that the Board of Education is not taking this decision lightly. At the time these two schools were built, more than 25 years ago, the geographical area they serve was growing significantly. Recent enrollment data shows that student populations at these two schools has been declining and/or has remained low for several years. As cities grow and evolve, it is not uncommon to address school boundaries as families with young students move and relocate.

The surrounding elementary schools have also seen a decline in enrollment. Red Mountain, Santa Clara, Sunset, Diamond Valley and Coral Cliffs Elementary now have room to absorb additional students without burdening the educational environment at those buildings. Realigning school boundaries in an effort to balance school populations at surrounding schools is a financially sound decision for taxpayers, and provides expanded learning opportunities for children.

The Board of Education is committed to the Spanish Immersion Language Program currently being taught at Dixie Sun. This program would be moved in its entirety to Coral Cliffs Elementary and all students would remain enrolled in the program.

As part of this proposal, either Coral Cliffs or Dixie Sun Elementary would be repurposed to house several school district programs including a professional development center. This process would efficiently utilize a building, the District already owns, and save taxpayers more than \$500,000 annually in operating costs. It would also give the District the ability to reutilize the facility as a school in the future, if the student populations should ever change.

This proposal comes after considerable study and debate into how the District can most efficiently educate its students. It also provides the school district with the opportunity to respond to voter feedback and deliver a significant cost savings to county taxpayers.

The District will be holding parent meetings on Thursday, Dec. 6. at both Coral Cliffs Elementary, 6 p.m., and Dixie Sun Elementary, 7 p.m. Parents are also invited to review some frequently asked questions at www.washk12.org/dixiesun-faq.

Washington County School District