



# The Alpine High School Citizens Committee

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February 23, 2009

Mr. Robert Collins, Superintendent  
Grossmont Union High School District  
P.O. Box 1043  
La Mesa, CA 91944

Dear Mr. Collins:

I am writing to you as a follow-up to the meeting that John Cooley and I had with you and your staff on December 16, 2008. At that meeting you restated your commitment to use the funds available under Prop H and Prop U for the construction of a high school in the Alpine/Blossom Valley area. You suggested the need for community involvement in the steps leading to the construction of the school and urged the formation of a committee to take the lead with that effort.

Since our meeting, the Alpine High School Citizens Committee (AHSCC) which has been, for over a decade, Alpine's advocacy group for a local high school, had taken on the role you recommended. To that end we have formed four work groups to play an active role in each aspect of the Alpine/Blossom Valley area high school. The work groups will not merely stay abreast of developments relating to the school but will work on and promote our local community ideas relating to all aspects of the school. Their role is to advocate, support and facilitate the timely design of an Alpine/Blossom Valley with a target opening date no later than August 2013. These groups will also develop criteria and a framework for a school that fully meets the needs of students and teachers and is oriented to the culture and environment of our community.

Here is a brief description of the work groups and their chairs and co-chairs;

1) Site Selection and Acquisition:

Issues: EIR (draft and final), site selection, site purchase & acquisition, site mitigation, community buy-in.  
Chair and co-chair: - George Barnett and John Cooley

2) Finance and Project Oversight:

Issues: Prop H and Prop U matching funds dedicated to the new school, financial oversight and project management, contractor selection, funding mechanisms (e.g., lease – lease back), scheduling and timing to assure 2013 or earlier opening.  
Chair and co-chair: - James Perkins and Patrick Waters

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### 3) School Design and Facilities:

Issues: - Architect selection, school size & layout, basic facilities (classrooms, science and computer labs, cafeteria, library) auditorium, indoor/outdoor athletic facilities, teacher and admin offices, parking, joint uses (park, community college, adult ed.)

Chair and co-chair: - Bill Weaver and Al Haven (Bill is also the Chair of the AHSCC)

### 4) Curriculum:

Issues: Core curriculum, AP & honors, music & arts, tech/vocational, athletics and teams, college linkage/interface.

Chair and co-chair: - Megan Werland and Delia Cooley

Because we are not yet at the school design stage and believe that curriculum should, to some extent, drive school design, work groups 3 and 4 will work as one for the next several months.

You will probably recognize some of the names of our chairs and co-chairs. This is a talented group, many of whom participated in the Bond Advisory Commission. They have diverse backgrounds covering education, engineering, finance, and law and they are backed by equally talented volunteers from the Alpine area who are members of their work groups and the AHSCC. These folks will be dedicated to providing our community's input and advice on the school and supporting your staff in any way we can. Our mutual goal is to emerge with a beautiful and outstanding high school that will proudly represent all of East County and the Grossmont District.

Now that our work groups are formed we would like to arrange periodic meetings, perhaps on a quarterly basis, with you and your staff. The meetings would involve an exchange of information on the status of the school and the ideas and suggestions the AHSCC has to offer. Hopefully, at least one of these meetings could be arranged in Alpine. We fully realize your and your staff's schedule is and will remain extremely busy. However, we hope that you will agree to squeeze in periodic meetings with the AHSCC as your schedule permits.

On a final note, I would like to commend Bob Kiesling and District staff for hosting an excellent public meeting in Alpine on the Draft EIR. As you know, the AHSCC has taken a neutral stance on the sites. (Attached is a copy of our comments.) However, as our comments reveal, we want the process to move forward as rapidly as possible to make our long-awaited high school a reality. The AHSCC looks forward to working with you in the months ahead and we again thank you for your dedication to excellence in education.

Sincerely,

Sal Casamassima, Vice Chairman  
Alpine High School Citizens Committee  
[sjcasam@cox.net](mailto:sjcasam@cox.net)

Cc: Scott Patterson  
Bob Kiesling  
Catherine Martin

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