

Saugus Union FAQ #1 & #2

The FAQ below combines the questions received by parent emails, questions submitted by parent groups, and questions submitted via various meetings on this process. The BLUE questions and answers are new and the BLACK questions and answers are from FAQ #1 that was previously distributed to stakeholders. The headings for the FAQ are in alphabetical order to allow for each of reference and represent no hierarchy of importance.

Alternative Housing Options Related Questions:

Q: Would moving the fire lane or construction route to behind the school allow for the portables to stay?

A: The proximity of the portable buildings and the demands of the new building do not allow for use of the portable buildings that are currently in the rear of the campus or “fire lane” to remain on the campus during the construction. Mr. Heinlein has met with the fire inspector about the construction process and it is not recommended for us to keep any more than the portables noted in Update #2. Moving the fire lane to the park land behind the school would not change our need to remove the portables.

Q: Can the Child Development Program (CDP) buildings be used for regular classes?

A: Unfortunately the childcare buildings are part of the childcare program and unavailable for use by regular classes. The CDP building is need during the day for our pre-school program and for our child care program before/after school. During construction the Helmers campus will continue to provide childcare and pre-school to support all those families which need and count on this service.

Q: Can the entire school move to the old Bouquet Canyon Elementary School site?

A: Unfortunately that is not possible as the number of classrooms needed (26) is more than the number available on the Bouquet campus (12-14).

Q: Are there other locations that are available to house the entire student body? Would it be possible to keep the entire school together in a different location?

A: Unfortunately the District does not own any other property that can accommodate 26 classrooms of students, an administration space, a cafeteria space, and a play space. We have no alternate location available to allow the entire school to stay together.

Q: Can the start and end times at Helmers be staggered to allow all students to remain at Helmers?

A: The number of instructional minutes required for each grade span is such that we are unable to stagger the day and allow all students to stay at Helmers. We have looked at the issue and it would involve starting school prior to 7 am and ending after 6 pm. Also, the switching of the classrooms, the furniture, and the use of the food services would be extremely difficult to accommodate.

Q: What are the safety issues associated with putting temporary housing on park land?

A: If temporary housing were placed on park land there would be temporary fencing surrounding the units to keep the public from wandering through/around buildings. As the park is a public space there is no ability to limit the use of the park during the school day and people will be close to the classroom buildings throughout the school day. This would mean park activities and visitors could disturb instruction and present an issue in the daily routines of students entering and leaving the classrooms (i.e., using restrooms during class, going to the office to see the nurse, visiting the main campus for support services, etc.). While security could be provided, the number of classrooms needed and students involved would make properly staffing this area very costly and still very open to public areas/street. If the basketball courts were used the “back fence” would no longer be available to allow students and classes access to the main campus. Again, the unsupervised travel through the park would present a safety concern. Communication with temporary housing in the park would be difficult as Internet and PA communications would not be available creating difficulty to notify classes of safety concerns or for classes to notify main office of safety issues.

Alternative Housing Options Related Questions (continued):

Q: Would there be restrooms available if temporary housing were placed on park land?

A: Placement of any building (portable classroom or portable restroom) would be dependent on approval by the City of Santa Clarita. Restrooms would not be available in classroom buildings and main campus restrooms would not be easily accessible to the park land during construction. If a portable restroom building was added to the configuration it would need to be serviced regularly by a waste management company. This would increase costs and this must be allowed by the City.

Q: Where will people park if the school parking lot is used for temporary housing?

A: All parking would need to be moved to the public streets. Any available parking lot space, not being used for temporary housing, would need to remain unused to allow for a fire lane. Mr. Heinlein has met with the Fire Inspector to discuss this option and he has advised us of the appropriate placement of portables.

Q: If the school parking lot is used for temporary housing, where will the entrance to the main office be located?

A: A fenced path will be created to allow access to the main office while securing the student classroom area. This path will allow access to the main office but would limit access to the front of the school during arrival and dismissal.

Q: If temporary housing is placed in the school parking lot, how will students get to the nurse?

A: They will need to walk to the nurse via the path designated by construction fencing. The temporary housing would be fenced to allow students access to the main office building while not allowing access to the public pathway used by visitors.

Q: Is it possible that we could use the city basketball courts, etc. to temporarily house portable classrooms during the construction, to avoid moving children to another school?

A: The city would need to give permission for use of any park land (i.e., basketball courts, grass area, etc.) and use of that land would take park space away from the community. The access for students, however, to the main office building for services, to restrooms, the cafeteria and fenced play yard would not be available via the "back gate" as it enters into the construction area. Students and staff would need to travel to the front of the school to use these facilities if this option is implemented. Fencing off a travel space would not be practicable.

Q: Can the primary students move to North Park to allow older students to remain at Helmers and promote from the school they have attended longer than the primary students?

A: The issue is around space, so yes it is possible for primary students to move to North Park. This option will be discussed and shared on the 11th (with staff & with parents) and both options will be presented to the Board.

Attending North Park Related Questions:

Q: Would Helmers students have a separate lunch and recess time from North Park students?

A: School schedules will be developed to maximize the services available (i.e., playground space and lunch area space). Upper grade students will continue to remain separate from primary students during recess and lunch. As no decision has been made regarding the integration of Helmers students into North Park classes it is difficult to speak definitively about format of recess and lunch periods. **It is, however, the Districts intention to ensure that ALL students attending North Park, regardless of home school, are well treated and feel a part of the school(s) community.**

Q: Will Helmers students be integrated with North Park students?

A: No decision has been made regarding integration of the two schools. While there are benefits to integration, there are also benefits to separation. If the option for moving students temporarily to North Park is made, then we will have an additional discussion with the community to gather feedback on their preferences for integration or separation. The District Cabinet will base its recommendation to the Board on that feedback and the Board will approve or reject that recommendation.

Attending North Park Related Questions (continued):

Q: How will school schedules be adjusted to meet the demands for busing students to temporary housing at North Park (i.e., start and end times, after school enrichment, TK, etc.)

A: When the final option is determined and approved by the Board (March 10, 2020), then schedules will be developed to meet the demands of that decision. The District will make every effort to ensure that regular school activities, after school enrichment, and childcare services are impacted during construction. The District will also work with our TK schedule to best support the demands of parents transporting students to two different locations.

Q: Why was North Park chosen as the temporary housing site for Helmers during construction?

A: North Parks is in the immediate area of Helmers and allows families needing students during the day an ease in reaching either campus. North Park allows for a short travel time for students via bus. North Park has ample permanent classroom and playground space for the approximately 281 students in need of housing during construction, while still allowing for the current number of students at North Park. North Park also has a full SDC program so special education services are currently available at the site.

Q: If Helmers students move to North Park, will they remain as Helmers classes or become integrated into North Park classes?

A: While no decision has been made at this time, both options will be presented for discussion on the 11th (with staff & with parents) and both options will be presented to the Board.

Busing & Traffic Related Questions:

Q: How much will the bus cost?

A: Bussing costs are approximately \$489 per day/bus. While we have estimated the cost for transporting all students in a grade span, we are aware that some families may choose not to use the bussing service. We will request that families register to use the bus so we can best maximize our resources and best schedule the bussing services. Families will not be charged for students to be transported to and from North Park during construction. Buses will leave from and return to Helmers each day to allow parents to drop off and pick up siblings, relatives, neighbors, etc.

Q: How will the District ensure that students arrive at North Park safely and know where to go when they arrive?

A: Arrival and dismissal procedures will be developed with the Helmers and North Park staff to ensure that students are safe and secure during arrival and dismissal. Just as occurs at Helmers, teachers will be responsible for greeting their class during arrival (from the bus) and dismissing their class at the end of the day (taking to the bus).

Q: Is there a safety issue with more buses at North Park?

A: Only some special education students are transported via bus to North Park (1 small bus). All general education students in SUSD arrive at school through their own transportation (i.e., walk, bike, scooter, parent vehicle, childcare vehicle). There is no safety issue with additional buses going to North Park.

Q: What if parents transported students to North Park rather than take the bus?

A: Busing the students is being suggested to minimize the demands on families to transport their children to two (or more if older students) schools. It is also being done to minimize traffic stresses in the community. North Park's past enrollment has exceeded the number of students that would attend the site if it were used for temporary housing of Helmers students. The site can handle the traffic as bussing was not done when their enrollment was similar. Again, the idea behind use of buses is for convenience for the families that are already inconvenienced.

Q: What time would the 4-6th graders need to be at Helmers to take the buses? Where will those buses park?

A: We will arrange the school schedule to allow parents to drop all of their students K-6 at the Helmers campus in the morning and pick them up in the afternoon. This will allow students to continue using the Helmers child care services, to walk to/from school together, to be picked up/dropped off together, etc. The District will work with the city traffic staff to determine the best schedule and process for the buses once a decision on housing is reached.

Busing & Traffic Related Questions (continued):

Q: How will the school address traffic concerns around Helmers and North Park during construction?

A: SUSD will work with the city traffic experts to minimize traffic concerns during construction at both sites. The district will also examine start and end times to minimize traffic issues for each site. North Park has housed more students than it will if adding Helmers students and traffic has been managed during that increased enrollment.

Child Development Program (CDP) and Day Care Related Questions:

Q: Will the Child Development Program (CDP) remain open during construction?

A: Yes. All CDP services are planned to be maintained. Helmers students, regardless of grade level, will use the Helmers CDP services if childcare is needed. If a student transfers to another school site during construction, then arrangements with that site's CDP will need to be made.

Construction Related Questions:

Q: What exactly is being built? Are other buildings being modernized?

A: A two story classroom building containing 12 new classrooms and restrooms is being built. Also a science/flex lab space is being built to allow classes the opportunity to have a space to do experiments and other large group projects that require more room to collaborate, create, and explore. The play yard for the students will be revised to allow for additional play space. The court yard around the lunch area will be remodeled, too. The main building has already begun to see refreshing with the cabinet remodel in the Library. The front of the campus is being fenced in and the main office administration building entrance is being remodeled to provide a single point of entry and create a more secure entry into the campus. New flooring, paint, etc. will be done to the main building so that the new and the old combine to create a whole new campus.

Q: Will the plans for the design be shared with stakeholders?

A: The architectural drawings for the both the new building and the revised administration office entrance will be shared during the parent meeting on 2/11/2020, will be attached to future Parent Square updates, and a poster rendering of the project will be shared with the community during the planning and construction phases.

Q: Will there be a representative from facilities or someone who can answer questions about the construction process at the meeting on 2/11/2020?

A: The Superintendent, Dr. Hawkins, and the Assistant Superintendent of Business, Mr. Heinlein will be presenting the information related to the construction project, timeline, options, etc. Mr. Heinlein is responsible for the facilities department and both he and Dr. Hawkins have met with the architects and been involved in all planning aspects of the project. A contractor bid for the construction phase has not been submitted or awarded at this time.

Q: Why is the construction taking 2 years?

A: The actual building construction process is slated for about 1 year (January, 2021 to January, 2022). The preparation work needed to begin construction will take several months. To ensure that students and teachers do not need to move classrooms/campuses during the school years, we are starting the temporary housing process prior to the start of the 2020-2021 school year. If we are able to return students to the Helmers campus prior to the end of the 2021-2022 school year we will make those moves.

Q: If there were no students at Helmers during construction, would that shorten the proposed construction timeline?

A: No. This timeline is dependent on the needs for the construction project. The presence of students within the main campus area does not lengthen the timeline and removing all students from the campus will not shorten the timeline.

Q: What will be done to minimize noise on the campus during the construction?

A: We will use noise barrier blankets/cloths on the construction fences to minimize the noise. In addition, the proximity of the main building to the construction is limited.

Construction Related Questions (continued):

Q: Will Risk Management staff secure the campus?

A: Our Risk Management staff and other district administrators, as well as the site administrators, are responsible for ensuring that the site is safe during construction and that proper protocols are followed by the construction teams who work on the campus. The District will hire a project management team who will be responsible for the daily supervision of the construction crews and for daily communication with District staff.

Q: Will the workers involved in the construction project undergo background checks?

A: Workers that come onto an SUSD campus check-in using the Raptor System if they are going to be in areas that have students. Workers that are in the construction area, will not be in areas that have students. Because they are only working in the fenced construction area there is no requirement for background checks.

Q: Can the construction of the new classroom building and science/flex lab be postponed?

A: Postponing the project presents the District with escalating costs that will impact our ability to complete other projects within the district and ultimately does not represent a fiscally responsible process. It is critical that the District respect the communities generous tax dollars support for the Measure EE Bond and maximize the use of those dollars by completing this projects as quickly as possible.

Q: Can a contractor be at the meeting on 2/11/2020 to answer construction questions?

A: The contractor for this project has not been chosen at this time. We are in the process of receiving approval for the plans from the Department of the State Architect (DSA) on the project. We must receive this before we can properly bid the project to a contractor. Mr. Heinlein and the Superintendent will be available to answer construction related questions during the entire construction process.

Q: What is the construction timeline?

A: Anticipated start date for building is January, 2021; Demolition & Site Preparation start date is June, 2020

Q: Why is new building not placed along property line to maximize use of space?

A: Building is placed to maximize space and maintain required setbacks for all buildings from the property line and geographical feature of the land (i.e., slopes in the property)

Q: Why is the new building so small? Does it accommodate for future growth?

A: The new building provides for a science lab (as noted in Measure EE Bond)/flex classroom space and the number of classroom spaces to accommodate 700 students on the campus if needed in the future. Helmers, like most schools in California, is in declining enrollment (see projections above)

Q: Is it possible for the construction to be done in phases over the summer, to avoid moving any children to another school?

A: Unfortunately, the new building is too large to be completed in the two month period we have during the summer. The portable classrooms must be removed for construction to occur and those portables are needed to house all students/grade levels currently projected for the school - Need 26 classrooms (including TK); Only 19 available during construction.

Play Yard Related Questions:

Q: If the school parking lot were used for temporary housing, where would the students play?

A: The only play yard spaces available at Helmers during construction are the current kindergarten play yard and the primary play yard used by the CDP. No asphalt areas at the rear of the campus will be available. Students will continue to have access to use of the park, but supervision of the park land would be extremely challenging during recess and lunch as there will not be direct access to the park from the main campus during construction. The park land may still be used during PE activities during construction.

Play Yard Related Questions (continued):

Q: Given the extended timeline of construction, will the District consider additional renovations to the school, such as updated play structures and shade for play areas?

A: The play space is being revised during the construction to include a new play structure for students. Other renovations have begun on the campus and will continue during the construction (i.e., new cabinetry, new flooring, paint, etc.)

Q: Can some of the big kid playground equipment be moved to the K yard or daycare yard?

A: The playground equipment currently in the K yard and the "daycare yard" are rated for students between 5-12 years of age. We have had staff out to Helmers to review each play yard area and we are planning to adjust these areas to better accommodate their use during construction. While new play structures are not included in these plans, we will ensure students have a proper play space during construction.

PTA Related Questions:

Q: What will happen with PTA things for those kiddos that move to another school? For example, CHORDS and after school enrichment. Will our students located at another school have the same programs as those students remaining at Helmers? Will our PTA money be able to be used for our students at the other campus just as it would be used for our younger students still at Helmers?

A: Students would be transported to and from Helmers each day via bus. After-school services for Helmers students will be provided on the Helmers campus (i.e., after school enrichment, CDP, etc.). Schedules will need to be adjusted to allow this to occur. Funds allocated or raised to support the Helmers students will be used to support Helmers students. The specificity of scheduling for individual events will need to be addressed for each event. Funds raised by and expended by the Helmers PTA will be based on the decisions made by the Helmers PTA.

Special Education & Related Services Questions:

Q: How will IEP's be handled if the student body is split between Helmers and North Park?

A: Staff assigned to support special education students are assigned annually based on the needs of the special education students at the school (i.e., number of RSP staff, psych time, etc.). Once we have determined the temporary student housing option to be implemented, the needs of the special education students impacted by that option will be reviewed and appropriate staff will be allocated to both Helmers and North Park to meet the needs of the students. Both Helmers and North Park have SDC classrooms currently being supported so staffing these needs should not be difficult.

Q: What happens with medical care for students requiring an RN?

A: Staffing needs for medical and special education services are determined each year based on student needs. If specific services are required for a student, then they will be provided and staff will be allocated / scheduled to meet those student needs.

Q: Where will the children in SDC go?

A: We strive to keep SDC/Special Education students with their typical peers. This would be the case during the Helmers construction. We plan to move the appropriate Helmers SDC classes to be with those grade levels of their typical peers. For example, if the general education classrooms move to North Park, then the SDC 4th-6th class would move with them. All service for those students would move with them, too.

Temporary Student Housing Decision Making Process Questions:

Q: Will parents vote on the options?

A: Parents will be provided the opportunity to provide written feedback during the meeting on February 11th and a survey will be created, following the parent/staff meeting, to allow all stakeholders the opportunity to share their opinions on the various options proposed. No formal vote will be tallied, but data on preferences will be considered as part of the feedback provided to the Board.

Temporary Student Housing Decision Making Process Questions (continued):

Q: Will parents have a say in the decisions?

A: Parents and school staff will provide feedback on the viable options presented and prioritize the concerns for consideration by the Board. That feedback will be presented to the Board on February 18th to allow the Board time to discuss the stakeholder feedback in reference to the viable options and to examine any additional options developed as a result of the feedback gathered. Stakeholders, parents and staff, are encouraged to attend the Board meeting on the 18th to provide public comment to the Board. The format of a regular meeting only allows for public comment (3 minutes per speaker; 20 minutes per topic) with no dialogue between speakers and the Board.

To allow for dialogue, the Board will host a Study Session on February 25th at the District Office at 7:00 pm. At this meeting the stakeholders may directly engage with the Board members around the issues concerning student temporary housing. On March 10, 2020, District Leadership will present a recommendation for temporary student housing during Helmers construction to the Board for them to approve or reject. The Governing Board will make the final decision on the housing option selected.

Q: What will the timeline be (for the final decision)?

A: Timeline for Temporary Housing Decision for Helmers ES:

- 1/21/20 - Board discussion related to overall student housing for the 2020-2021 school year. Discussion included specific conversation related to temporary housing for Helmers as a result of the construction demands place on the campus.
- 1/22/20 - Updates to all parents began. These updates meet the District's goal for transparent communication and the Boards directive that all stakeholders are regularly informed.
- 2/4/20 - Board presentation by District leadership to approve District Principles for making student housing decisions during construction AND sharing of options developed for the temporary housing of Helmers students.
- 2/11/2020 - Helmers staff meeting to share information and gather feedback (@ 3:00 pm)
- **2/11/20 - Parent meeting at Helmers to gather feedback and input from the parent community on the options developed (Helmers @ 6:00 pm). Written feedback will be gathered from each participant based on the activities completed during the meeting.**
- **2/14/20 - An electronic survey will be administered to gather information relevant to the housing options to assist in informing the Board**
- 2/18/20 - District leadership will present stakeholder feedback gathered via the parent meeting, emails, phone calls etc. to the Board for consideration. Parents are invited to attend Board meeting to make a public comment to the Board following the public comment procedures (i.e., 3 minutes per speaker; 20 minutes per topic; dialogue between speakers and Board members is not allowed) (District Office @ 6:30 pm)
- **2/25/20 - Special Board Study Session to allow stakeholders (parents and staff) to engage in a working session related to temporary housing options for Helmers students. This meeting was established to allow stakeholders the opportunity to engage in dialogue with stakeholders. Unlike the restrictions placed on public comment at a Board meeting, a study session can allow for a more fluid exchange of ideas.**
- 3/10/20 - District Leadership will make a recommendation to the Governing Board for approval. The Governing Board will vote to approved or reject the recommendation.

Q: Who decides what happens?

A: The District Cabinet will review all of the feedback provided, consider all of the discussions with the Board, compare the variety of options developed against the Board's guiding principles and make a recommendation for the final plan to the Governing Board. The Governing Board either approves or rejects the recommended plan. The Governing Board will make the final decision on the housing option selected.

Q: Can the District survey parents to see what they want?

A: Yes. The District is completing a variety of feedback gathering processes to ensure that we have a thorough representation from the stakeholder community (parents and staff). Included in those process will be an electronic survey to prioritize stakeholder concerns.

Timing for Construction Related Questions:

Q: Why did the timeline for this project move up?

A: The Saugus community approved a bond (Measure EE) in 2014 to provide new science flex labs and new classrooms to replace aging portable structures so that students could have 21st Century classroom environments. In 2016, the District created a Master Plan that the Board approved for implementation which included these buildings for the Helmers campus. In June, 2018, the Board approved the architectural work begin so that the building could start during the 2019-2020 school year. In December, 2018, a group of PTA and other parent representatives as well as Mr. Pak, met with district facilities staff to revise plans for the placement of the building. The project is currently a year behind schedule.

Q: Why can't the construction happen when staff and students aren't in session?

A: The construction can and will occur when staff and students are not in session. Many projects that are difficult to accomplish, or projects that need a specific progression of events are scheduled for weekends, holidays, school breaks and the summer. The challenge for this project is that the portable classrooms needed for students must be removed in order to begin building the new classroom structure, thus creating a shortage of classrooms.

Q: What if the construction was done in phase over breaks or the Helmers calendar were changed to allow for phases of the project?

A: The construction will be done in phases. The first phase is removal of the portable classrooms to allow the trenching, electrical, plumbing, sewer, etc. to be completed before the foundation is poured. Then there are several phases to the construction until the building is completed. Unfortunately, once the portables are removed, there are not enough classrooms to house the 26 classes needed for the students at Helmers. Altering the school calendar will not provide 26 classrooms needed to complete the project.

Transfer Related Questions:

Q: Will families have the option to transfer their children (primary or upper depending on option selected) to North Park to keep siblings together?

A: North Park is closed to transfers to allow room for Helmers temporary housing. If a family desires to maintain siblings at the same school during construction, the District will allow transfer to any of its open to transfer schools. Helmers families who select to transfer during construction will be responsible for their own transportation and will be allowed to return to Helmers once construction is completed.

Q: Can students who are not living in the Helmers school boundaries (i.e., transfers) be asked to leave?

A: Once a transfer is approved by the District, that school becomes the students home school. It is not district practice to require them to reapply for transfer each year or to treat them any differently than someone who lives within the school attendance area. Only if and when the student on transfer moves does the transfer cease. For example, a student who lives in Helmers attendance area and transferred to Emblem, several years ago, but now moves to the Tesoro attendance area. That student's transfer to Emblem would be ended and the student would need to attend Tesoro.

Q: If a family wants to keep their children together can they take them all to a new school?

A: Yes. Any family who desires to keep their children at the same school can request a transfer to any of the open to transfer schools in SUSD. We have identified three sites specifically for Helmers during construction – Mountainview, Tesoro Del Via, and West Creek. Once a decision is made on the temporary housing of Helmers students the transfer process will be shared. If, however, a family has already decided that transferring is a better solution, then they may submit transfer papers through the District office.

Transfer Related Questions (continued):

Q: If students transfer during construction, may they return when construction is completed?

A: The typical process for student transfers is that the transfer school becomes the home school. Because construction is creating the desire for transfer, the District will contact each transferred family, upon construction being completed, to determine if they want to return. **If a family wants to return upon completion of construction, they may return.** If they want to remain at their transfer school, then that school will become their home school.

Q: How would transferred in students be impacted/will they lose their spot - would they end up sent back to their "home" school?

A: Transfer students would be treated as Helmers students during construction. All agreements and protocols used for transfer students would still apply (i.e., behavior, siblings, etc.). Helmers is closed to new transfers for the 2020-2021 school year.

Miscellaneous Questions:

Q: Why are we making the children adjust rather than make the construction adjust?

A: The size of the available land at the Helmers Elementary School site does not allow for much ease in maneuvering nor does it provide many options for different building locations. It is impossible to build the new building without the removal of the portable classrooms that are already on the campus. Attempting to have as little impact on the students as possible is why we are proposing these different temporary housing options.

Q: Is there an underlying issue with the portables that parent should be aware of?

A: There is absolutely NO issue with the portables other than they are old. They are safe and no one should have concern.

Q: The FOB system was just installed on all the portables, this seems like a waste of funds and poor planning.

A: The FOB system was installed on the portables to ensure security. When the portables are removed, those locks will be removed and used in other locations within the district.

Q: Why is pre-school allowed to stay at Helmers, but TK has to leave?

A: The pre-school program is a for fee program that is provided to families as part of our childcare program. The building that holds the program is owned by the program. This building is used as part of the before and after school day care program, too. Each year, the District reviews the number of TK students enrolled and then it finalizes the location of the classes. While Helmers has had a TK for the last few years, other sites have not had classes on their campus. TK students from those campuses attended the program at other locations. We have not slated a TK for the Helmers campus to allow us to maximize the regular K-6 and Special Education classes. Depending on the option selected by the Board, it may be possible for a TK to be offered on the Helmers campus. Knowing that pick-up and drop-off will be challenging for Helmers families, the District will attempt to adjust the TK schedule and enrollment location to make this easier for families.

Q: Would it be possible to have someone from the city at the meeting to answer questions about who owns what land?

A: The land owned by the district is the land that is currently inside the fencing of Helmers Elementary School. The surrounding park land was once owned by Los Angeles County and is now owned by the City of Santa Clarita. There is a small piece of land near the front of the school that has been used by the District, but is actually owned by the City as part of the park. This area will be returned back to the City once the portables are removed during demolition. The placement of the new classroom building does not require SUSD to maintain access to this portion of land.

Q: What will change in lockdown procedures and emergency procedures be during construction?

A: There will be no changes in the lockdown procedures followed by students and staff during construction. Emergency evacuation procedures for the campus will be reviewed by Risk Management staff and the fire inspector to determine that appropriate practices are implemented for the number of students remaining on the campus.

Miscellaneous Questions (continued):

Q: When will specific schedules for school start time / end time, student recesses and lunches, etc. be available?

A: Once the decision is made regarding student housing and we determine the enrollment demands following any voluntary transfers, we will develop the exact schedules that the school(s) will follow.

Q: Helmers has had too many principals in the last few years. Movement of primary students would allow for upper grade students to maintain consistent school leadership, while primary students would not be impacted as greatly from new leadership.

A: Mrs. Velikorodnyy and Mrs. White will remain the administrators for Helmers during the construction. Mrs. White would be housed on the North Park Campus to work with the classes on that campus and communicate regularly with Mrs. Velikorodnyy to ensure consistent leadership of the school. Mrs. Velikorodnyy would remain the principal of the students enrolled at Helmers and would work with the Helmers staff and community to maintain a consistent vision for the school/students.

Q: If upper grades move to North Park, where would they promote?

A: Helmers administration and staff will continue to work with the families, PTA and students to arrange for promotion. The ceremony would be done at the Helmers campus, but the location on or near the campus would be determined so that construction does not take away from ceremony.