

Save Anna Yates

Outline:

I. The Open Letter


II. Reasons to Preserve Anna Yates

III. Our Proposal



Save Anna Yates

The Open Letter

1. Number of signatories: 73
 2. Primary request:
Board should adopt a new vision that leaves
the elementary students at Anna Yates.
 3. Letter does NOT object to Measure J:
Community services
Public library
Public recreation facilities
- 

Save Anna Yates

- Reasons to preserve Anna Yates



This 1905 class photograph was taken at the Emeryville Elementary School on Forty-first Street. Note the identical twins holding a photograph of Pres. Theodore Roosevelt. The four-room schoolhouse opened in 1886 as the Emery Elementary School, but the name was later changed to Emeryville School. (Courtesy Ray Raineri.)



Save Anna Yates

- Reasons to preserve Anna Yates



The 1914 graduates of Emeryville Public School, grasping bouquets and diplomas, pose for a photograph. The school was located on Forty-first Street between San Pablo Avenue and Adeline Street, with D. B. Lacy serving as principal in 1914. The school was later renamed in honor of his successor, Anna Yates. (Courtesy Rav Raineri/Ed Clausen)

Save Anna Yates


- Reasons to preserve Anna Yates



Just completed multi-million
dollar improvements.



Save Anna Yates

- Reasons to preserve Anna Yates
 - Measure J's \$95 million in construction bonds maxes out Emeryville's bonding capacity and Emeryville's taxpayers will be paying these bonds off for the next 40 years.
 - The Anna Yates and Ralph Hawley sites will need major maintenance and repairs.
 - But this Board intends to spend all of Emeryville's resources on a single site, leaving the other sites to deteriorate.
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Save Anna Yates

- Reasons to preserve Anna Yates
 - There is no other fiscally sound alternative.
 - In July 2011 we learned that Emeryville's assessed valuation declined 6.62%, significantly decreasing our ability to issue the Measure J bonds.
 - Just recently the State Dept. of Finance determined that the City RDA could not give EUSD \$22 million that the ECCL project has always expected to have.



Save Anna Yates

- Reasons to preserve Anna Yates
 - The “data” is not determinative.
 - Educational research can be presented that shows improved academic achievement in various grade configurations.
 - Most research concludes that grade configuration alone is not a reliable predictor of student achievement.





JUNE 18, 2012

The Middle School Conundrum

INTRODUCTION



Patrick Kane/The Progress-Index, via Associated Press
Middle school students celebrate the last day of school in Dinwiddie County, Va.

Many fifth graders have walked out the doors of their elementary schools for the last time, or will do so this week, starting new schools in the fall. The [transition to middle school](#) can be a blessing or a curse for these young children on the verge of becoming teenagers

You don't have to have to read all the studies to know that the ages between 10 and 13 are socially awkward ones. But they are also important ones academically, crucial in determining college and career outcomes. Would these preteens be better off staying in an elementary school that covers kindergarten through eighth grade? Or is there a

DEBATERS



Why K-8 May Be a Better Approach

CLAIRE NEEDELL HOLLANDER,
MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER

By cordoning off 'almost teens' and their middle school teachers we fail to bear witness to the range of intellectual development.



Separate Them And Address Their Needs

NIOBE WAY, PROFESSOR OF APPLIED
PSYCHOLOGY

Middle schools are important but administrators need to emphasize personal connections, as much as academics.



Grade Configuration Isn't the Problem

DEBORAH KASAK, NATIONAL FORUM
TO ACCELERATE MIDDLE-GRADES
REFORM

Instead of trying to put students in one place or another, we need to focus on making the education of young adolescents a priority.



Keep Them Part of an Elementary School

PAUL VALLAS, SUPERINTENDENT,
BRIDGEPORT, CONN., SCHOOLS

The best system for preteens and young teenagers is a K-8 school with a separate building or wing for the upper grades.



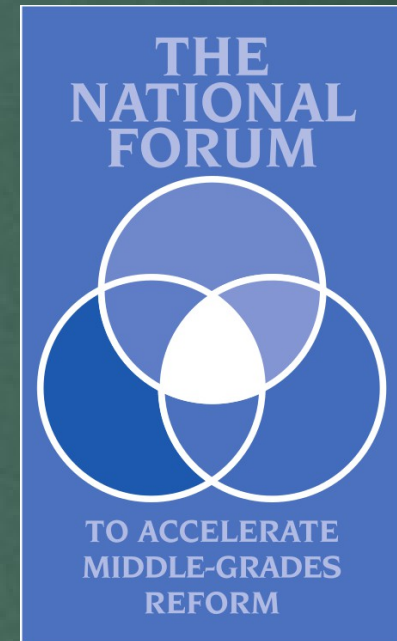
It's How They're Taught, Not Where

DAVID BREWER, FORMER
SUPERINTENDENT, LOS ANGELES
UNIFIED SCHOOLS

The challenge of educating children in high poverty and high crime areas is too complex to be solved by school configuration.

Save Anna Yates

- “Current research on grade configuration, however, is not definitive.”
- “What is most important for the education of young adolescent learners is what takes place inside each middle-grades school, not grade configuration per se.”



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- “This study did not find a consistent or strong association between student outcomes on standards-based tests and school grade configuration or organizational models of teachers and instruction.”

Williams, T., Kirst, M., Haertel, E., et al. (2010).

Gaining Ground in the Middle Grades: Why Some Schools Do Better.

Mountain View, CA: EdSource.



Save Anna Yates

- Rebuttals:
 - Those that want to save Anna Yates are:
 - Not motivated by fear.
 - Not against Measure J.
 - Not “Johnny-come-latelys.”
 - Not proposing something we could not accommodate within our current planning process.



Save Anna Yates

- We want what is best for all Emery Unified students.
 - We believe keeping the elementary students at the Anna Yates site is the best way to achieve that.
 - We propose that the Board adopt a policy to prefer that the Anna Yates site continue as an elementary school.
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