

Appendix 5: Observations and Other Suggestions:

After intensively studying the district's process and documents provided, the team makes the following suggestions for the district based on its observations:

The team suggests that SCASD:

- 1) Provide a more documented, accessible, and proactive community- and consensus- building process for all future projects in the district - before decisions and design options are generated. The U.S. Department of Education offers guidelines¹ for starting such a process.
- 2) Improve documentation of the process and make clear and quantifiable "Guidelines," "Goals," and "Objectives" to inform design decisions and review designs to ensure that a building idea actually meets stated goals and priorities *before* making detailed architectural studies and construction.
- 3) Reexamine and update demographic information for the local area, as recommended by the SCASD's hired demographer. This should be done as soon as possible and prior to any further decisions regarding district facilities. See Appendix 2 for more detailed recommendations regarding demographics.
- 4) Completely update/redo the District Wide Master Plan in accordance with PDE standards to better reflect updated district wide priorities and deal with new concerns (such as limited capacity at Gray's Woods Elementary). A fresh look at the prioritization of facilities on the DWMP should occur before the district pursues any further projects.
- 5) Use funds set aside for a Public Relations Position, and instead, put that allocation toward a better use by hiring an experienced, professional Construction Manager to oversee district wide construction efforts over the next 10 years and oversee the development of a quantified master plan (with management strategies that examines realistic scenarios and generates recommended potential solution options). As an employee of the district (rather than being paid a percentage of the total cost of the project), he/she would be in a better position to look after the multiple interests of the district.

¹ Bingler, S., Quinn, L., Sullivan. (2003). "*Schools as Centers of Community: A Citizen's Guide for Planning and Design*". National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities. U.S. Department of Education.