
**SCHOOL CLOSURES AND MERGERS:
TERRA NOVA, MERLO NIGHT SCHOOL, ACMA, AND ISB**

POLICY ISSUE/SITUATION:

School Board action is required to close a school or to merge two schools.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

• TERRA NOVA

Terra Nova High School is a Big Picture Learning School that originated with the NWRESD and was assumed by the Beaverton School District in Spring 2009. Over the past three years, the enrollment at Terra Nova has steadily declined; currently, 38 students in grades 9-12 are enrolled at the school.

The staff at Terra Nova consists of two full-time teachers, two part-time teachers, a secretary, a crew chief (farmer) and a campus monitor. Administrative staff and counselors are shared between Terra Nova and Merlo Station High School. Custodial staff is shared with two other sites.

It has become apparent that not only is it impossible to meet the requirements of the Big Picture Learning model given the financial situation of the District, it is also impossible to staff a school the size of Terra Nova with Highly Qualified teachers in all of the content areas required for students to meet Oregon Diploma requirements.

The students, parents, staff, and community were notified in January 2012 that Terra Nova would be closing at the end of the 2011-12 school year. Immediately, counselors, teachers, and administrators began working with students and parents to help determine which BSD alternative would be the best fit for each student. By the end of February, every 9th-11th grade student at Terra Nova identified which BSD school he/she will be attending in September 2012. Several of the students started at their new school this spring instead of waiting until fall.

Each of the staff members at Terra Nova will be placed in the District based on seniority and licensure. Like all other BSD staff, Terra Nova staff have been invited to Staffing Process Information Meetings provided by Human Resources.

The Beaverton School District recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups. It is the policy of the Beaverton School District that there will be no discrimination or harassment of individuals or groups based on race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, marital status, age, veterans' status, genetic information or disability in any educational programs, activities or employment.

Beginning in September 2012, the Terra Nova facility will house a new partial-day option for 11th -12th graders, Agricultural Biology. This course is for students wanting a hands-on experience to earn their biology credit for graduation. Students enrolled in Agricultural Biology will participate in career-related learning experiences at the Terra Nova Farm.

• **MERLO NIGHT SCHOOL**

Night School, a program designed for students who are ages 16-21 and have a minimum of 10 high school credits, meets between noon and 8 pm, Monday through Thursday. In order to more efficiently use school and District resources, Night School will merge with Community School, one of the daytime programs offered at Merlo Station High School. To accommodate for students who need access to classes late in the day, the Community School schedule will be extended to 5:30pm.

• **ACMA and ISB**

The middle school programs (grades 6-8) and the high school programs (grades 9-12) at the International School of Beaverton (ISB) and Arts & Communication Magnet Academy (ACMA) are currently identified as distinct schools. The benefits of merging the programs into schools that serve grades 6-12 include: the creation and implementation of a single, common School Improvement Plan, one State school report card, and a single representation in the new student information system. Separate cost centers for the middle and high school programs will still be required.

When Health & Sciences School was formed it began as a single school for grades 6-12. This recommendation will bring consistency to the three District options serving students in grades 6-12.

RECOMMENDATION:

(12-157) BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board authorizes

- The closure of Terra Nova High School
- The merger of Merlo Station Night School with Community School
- The merger of Arts & Communication Magnet Academy Middle School and Arts & Communication Magnet Academy High School
- The merger of the International School of Beaverton Middle School and the International School of Beaverton High School