

FOSTER CITY
★
HIGH SCHOOL



WHY FOSTER CITY WANTS SCHOOL UNIFICATION

Our reasons for seeking unification are probably familiar: Build a community high school; end student bussing; exercise local control over school issues; plain old community pride. But, if the reasons aren't unique, the history is. As a relative newcomer to the mid-Peninsula, Foster City's growing pains have occasionally strained the harmony with its more established neighbors. Nowhere is this more true than with our schools, where Foster City has struggled for almost thirty years to provide facilities that are routine in similar-sized communities.

A New Community

In the late Fifties, a group of developers headed by the Foster family unveiled a plan for a new Bay Area community on the site of Brewer's Island. Since most of this uninhabited mudflat fell within the boundaries of the San Mateo elementary and high school districts, they became the responsible agencies by default - and they didn't like it. It is a matter of record that both school districts opposed the project, urging their constituents to contact state legislators to derail the plan. The controversies have rarely abated since.

Despite opposition, the California Legislature passed the Estero Act in 1960, authorizing the sale of development bonds to create a brand new community, Foster City. The land was then filled, roads and utilities added, houses built. The first families arrived in 1964 and the first citizens group, the Foster City Community Association, formed soon thereafter to grapple with the immediately difficult school situation.

The Struggle For Elementary Schools

The two school districts reluctantly accepted Foster City students - but only where there was room in other communities. After the Foster family donated a school site, "temporary" (portable) classrooms were erected in 1966 to house some 400 children. These "temporary" classrooms were used for regular classes until 1985.

Seeing no progress toward permanent schools, residents joined forces with the developer to raise construction money with a bond issue. The San Mateo elementary district was decidedly cool to the idea of raising taxes to build schools in a then-unincorporated area. Tired of the foot-dragging, the Foster family threatened to withdraw the donated land. The impasse was resolved when the bond issue was broadened to include another school within the city limits of San Mateo. With vigorous support from Foster City, the measure

won and Foster City got its first permanent schools: Audubon (K-5) in 1968 and Bowditch (6-8) in 1969. Despite a burgeoning population, it would be fifteen years before another school would be built in Foster City.

The High School That Never Was

During this period, high school students were bussed as far north as Capuchino High School in San Bruno -- easily a thirty minute ride each way and enroute passed several high schools where they were not welcome.

In the late Sixties no one denied that Foster City should have a high school. With 16 acres again donated by the Foster family, the San Mateo Union High School district bought an adjoining 40 acres. These 56 acres - in the center of Foster City's growing population, adjacent to civic buildings, with wide boulevard access on two sides - were the cornerstone of Foster City's hopes for community-based education. The district erected a billboard on the site announcing as much.

But by the early Seventies Foster City's aspirations ran afoul of Baby Boom demographics and Peninsula politics. Though Foster City and its high school population continued to grow, district enrollment was declining everywhere else. In 1974 the Board of Trustees sought a tax increase to stave off school closure. Every city in the district voted it down...except Foster City. Without a local school, Foster City students now became attendance wildcards, useful for keeping open schools that otherwise might close.

A Case Study in Frustration

Burlingame High School is a telling example. Enrollment there was not only declining, but the school was old and within blocks of a larger school. The district offered a plan: close Burlingame High and build a new school in still-growing Foster City.

Burlingame citizens were outraged. In large numbers they forcefully protested the loss of community pride and identity, loss of synergy with their city's youth programs; the burden that commuting imposed on students and their families. The Board was swayed, the plan was scrapped, and millions of dollars were pumped into Burlingame High. In Foster City, rumblings of unification were first heard.

No one blames the residents of Burlingame for preserving what they held dear. That Foster City families might have had the same aspirations for their children and their community was brushed aside as the district now "proved" that bussing was cheaper than building.

Enter Unification

What to do with those prime 56 acres in Foster City? The district had long wanted a separate "continuation school" for the small percentage of students who were not progressing on the regular campuses.

In 1977 district trustees proposed building this school on Foster City's "high school site." Now it was Foster City's turn to be outraged. Both elected officials and private citizens pleaded with the district not to enact a plan that would foreclose on the chance for a community high school. The Board of Trustees listened attentively, thanked the speakers for voicing their concerns...and voted unanimously to put the continuation school in Foster City.

This was a stiff dose of Realpolitik: A Johnny-come-lately to the mid-Peninsula, Foster City just didn't have the clout of its sister cities. Within days a unification petition was circulating.

The petition worked its way through the required hearings, was favorably endorsed by the County Committee on School District Organization, and landed in Sacramento in May 1978. But in June, California voters passed Proposition 13 and the resulting uncertainty over school funding prompted the State Board of Education to "temporarily" table the Foster City petition.

However, during the unification campaign most of Foster City's elected and appointed leadership changed hands due to unrelated controversies. Now a key petition organizer (and Chairman of the City's Education Committee) moved out of the area. Eventually the high school district found a less controversial site for the continuation school. The petition was never heard from again.

Too Close For Comfort

The district soon moved to sell the "high school site" and eliminate any further agitation about a new school. Foster City fought a delaying action but, after all, the land belonged to the school district. Inevitably there was a compromise: The district deeded roughly one-half of the site to Foster City and the remainder was rezoned to permit commercial development. In 1984 the district's portion was sold to a builder of multi-unit housing. On an investment of \$800,000, the SMUHSD reaped an \$11 million windfall, all of which has gone to enhance schools in other communities.

Foster City now faced the prospect of permanent bussing. After Prop. 13, parents were required to pay for the privilege of bussing their students out of town -- about \$180 per student per year. The service is limited, does not accommodate after school activities well, and carries only those students assigned to San Mateo High School. Students in Foster City's western

neighborhoods are assigned to Hillsdale High, which is officially "within 3.5 miles," the district's definition of "walking distance." Limited commercial bus service is available.

Where We Are Today

Enrollment is rising. The 1990 Census, various State and local forecasts, and the SMUHSD's own data predict that within five years there simply won't be space for the growing enrollment without a capacity increase. Since Foster City students are "already on the bus" (as one former trustee phrased it) there is great concern that Foster City children will again become the district's "foster children" and simply be sent to wherever dwindling space allows.

To these concerns district trustees (none of whom live in Foster City) have implied that Foster City residents spend too much time worrying about the past. When asked directly for assurances that our children will not again be bused to remote schools as classrooms fill, the trustees have replied that they simply cannot make special promises to a single community. From the petitioner's perspective, the fact that Foster City is now *the largest city in California without a high school* already makes us distressingly special.

When approached last year by the Foster City Council to explore options for a local high school, the board unanimously voted not to even discuss the issue. As the Board president explained at the time: "This really is an issue that the people of Foster City have to wrestle with." We agree.

That's the background of this, Foster City's second drive for school unification. Undeniably the lack of a high school is a primary concern. But as residents learn more about school unification, other benefits are seen: local control of school issues, better articulation between middle and high school curricula, more community involvement. As one resident phrased it: More unity in the community.

We are not asking the State to impose anything on anybody, nor are we asking the State to build a high school for us. We simply want the chance to vote on this important, long-standing issue and to finally determine - for ourselves - what the future of public education will be in our community.

Please grant us that chance.

SMUHSD SCHOOL LOCATIONS

(With City Boundaries Shown)

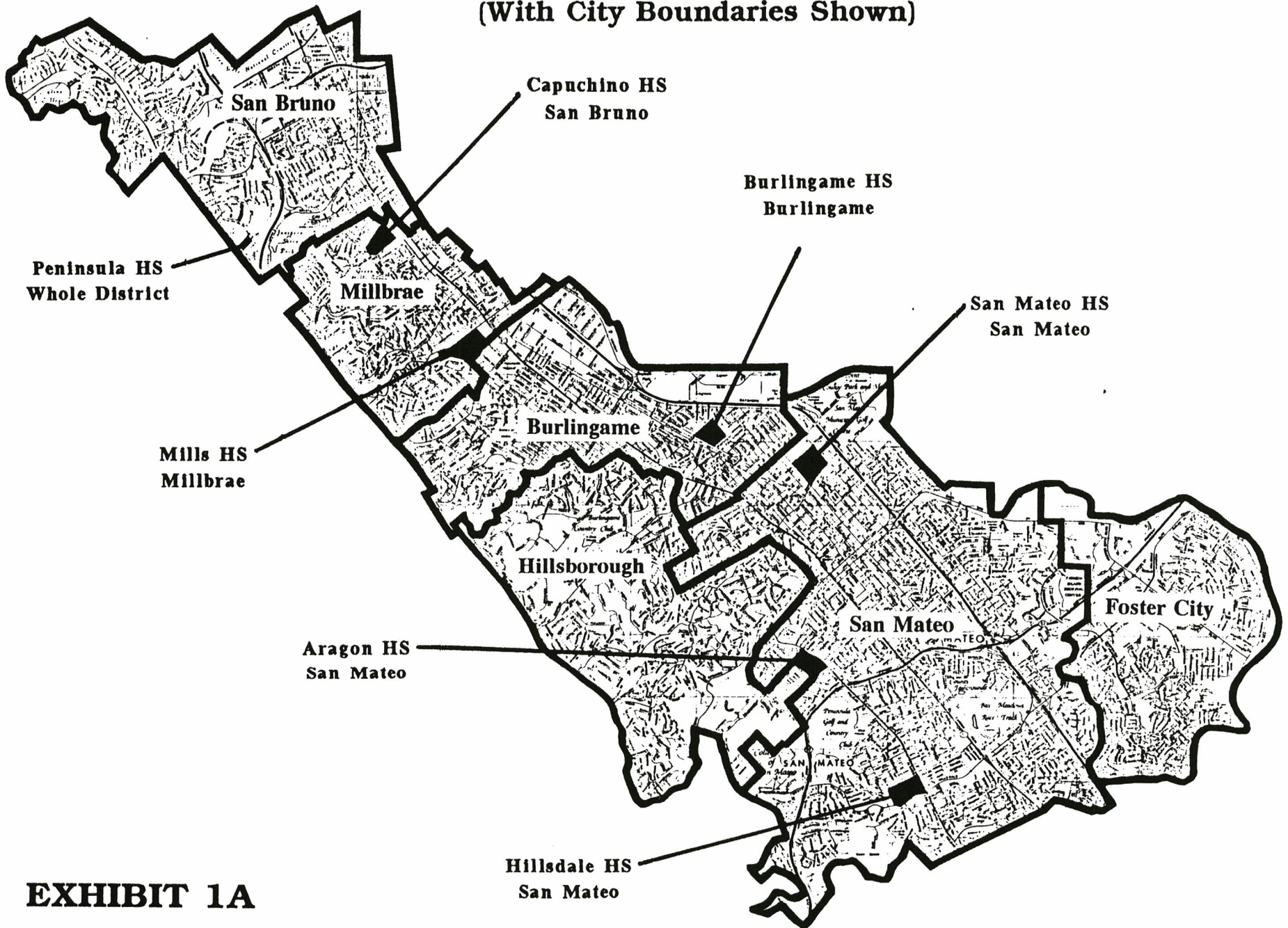
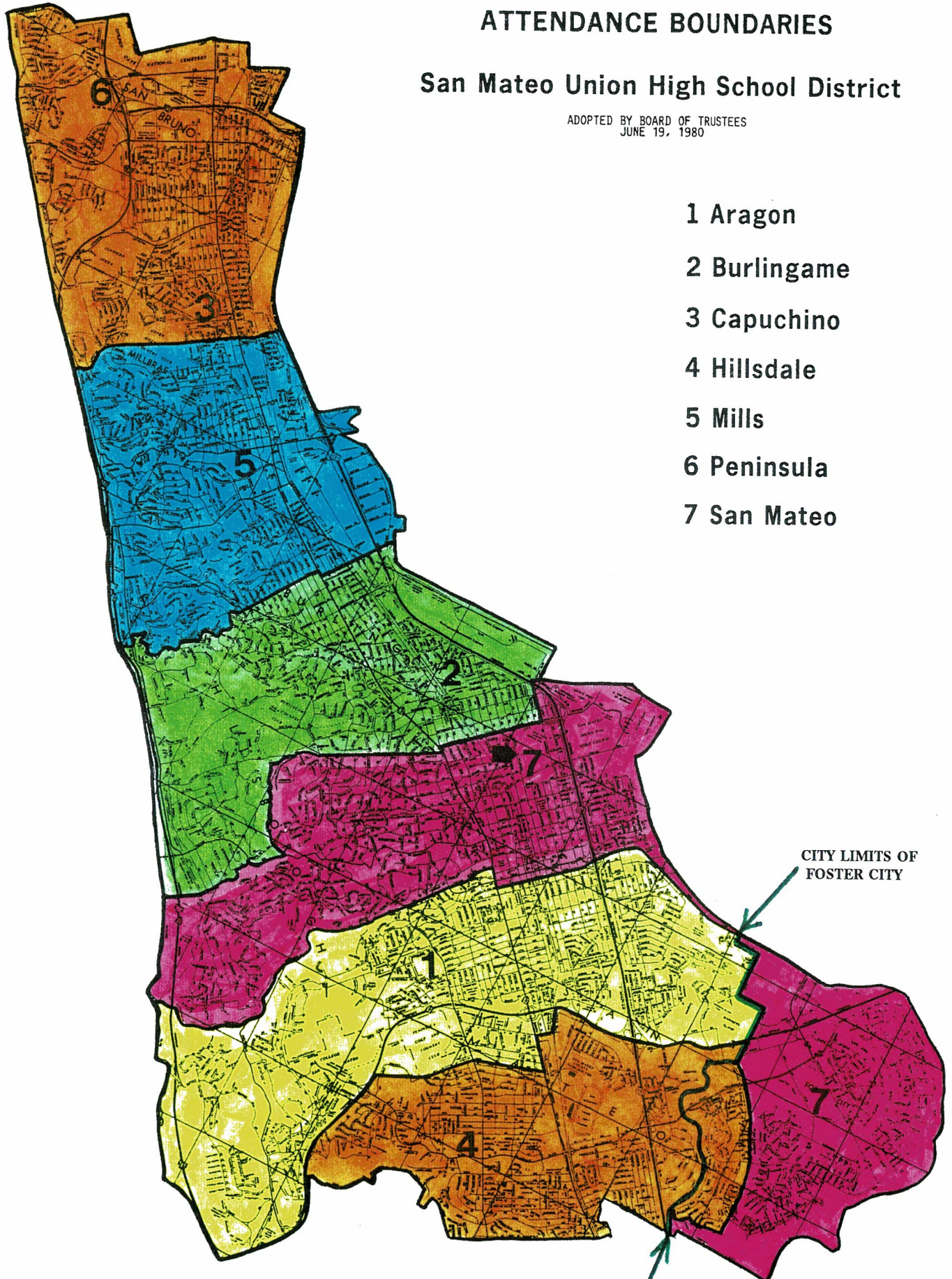


EXHIBIT 1A

ATTENDANCE BOUNDARIES

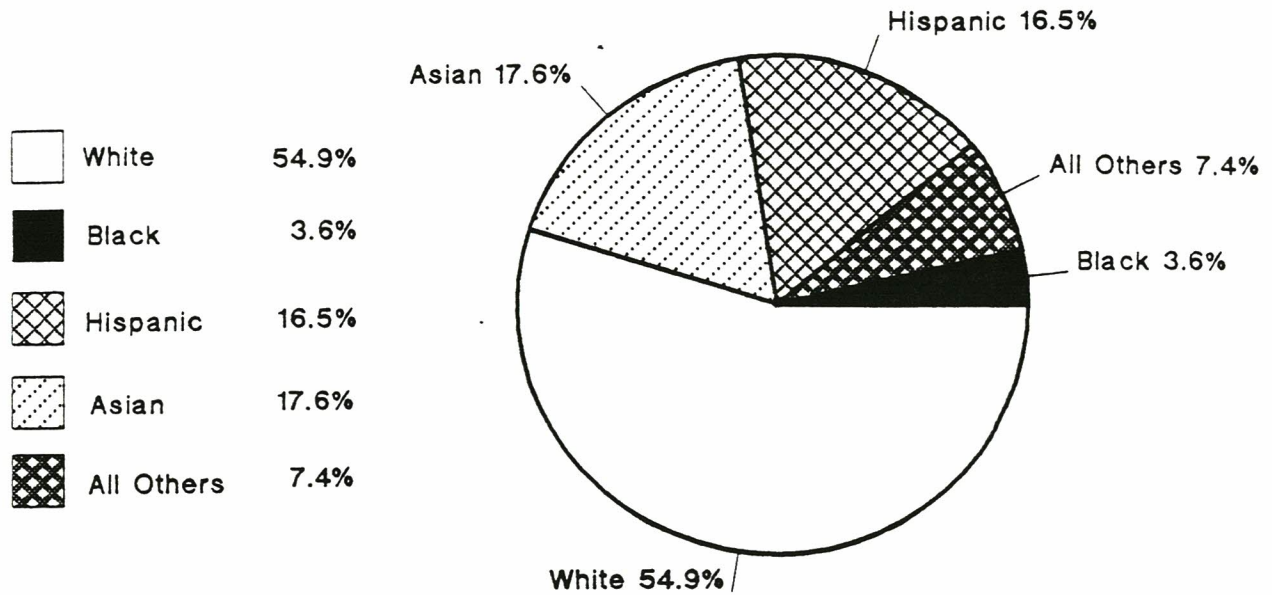
San Mateo Union High School District

ADOPTED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JUNE 19, 1980

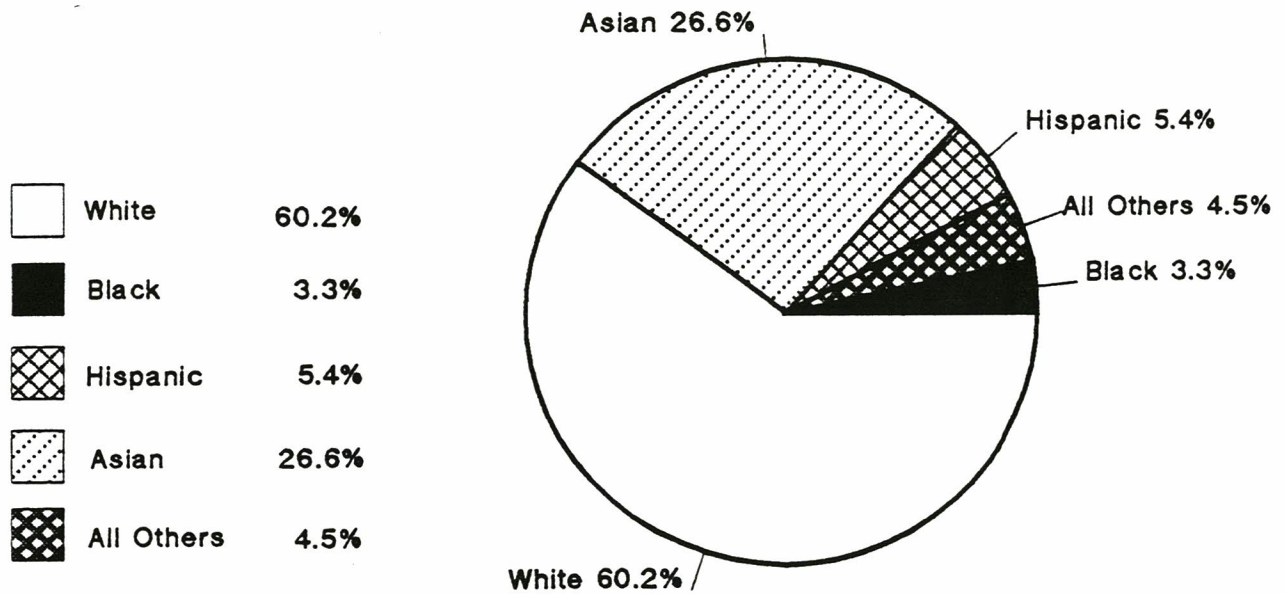


RACIAL BALANCE

San Mateo Union High School District



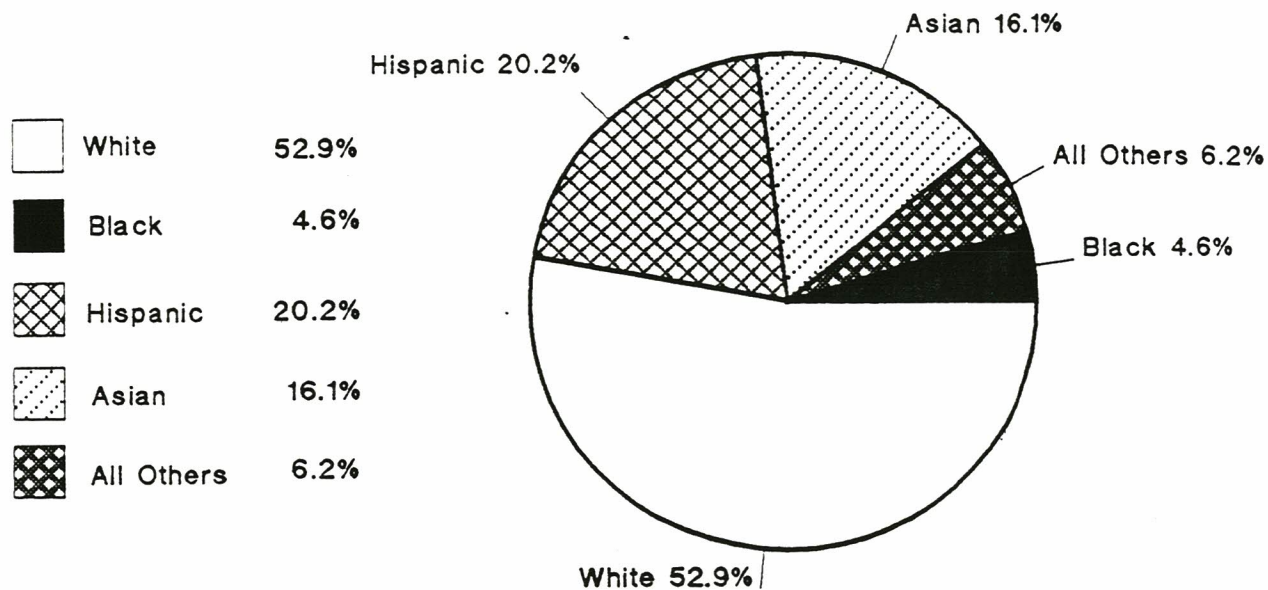
Elementary Schools within Foster City



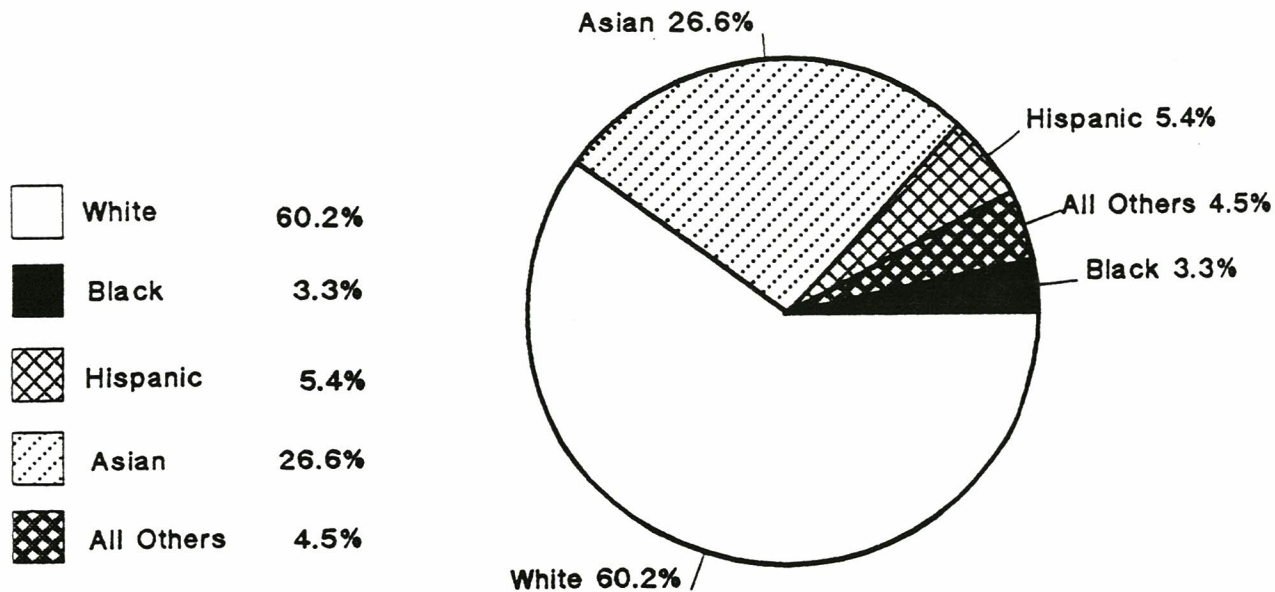
Source: CBEDS Data Collection, October 1991

RACIAL BALANCE

San Mateo - Foster City Elementary School District



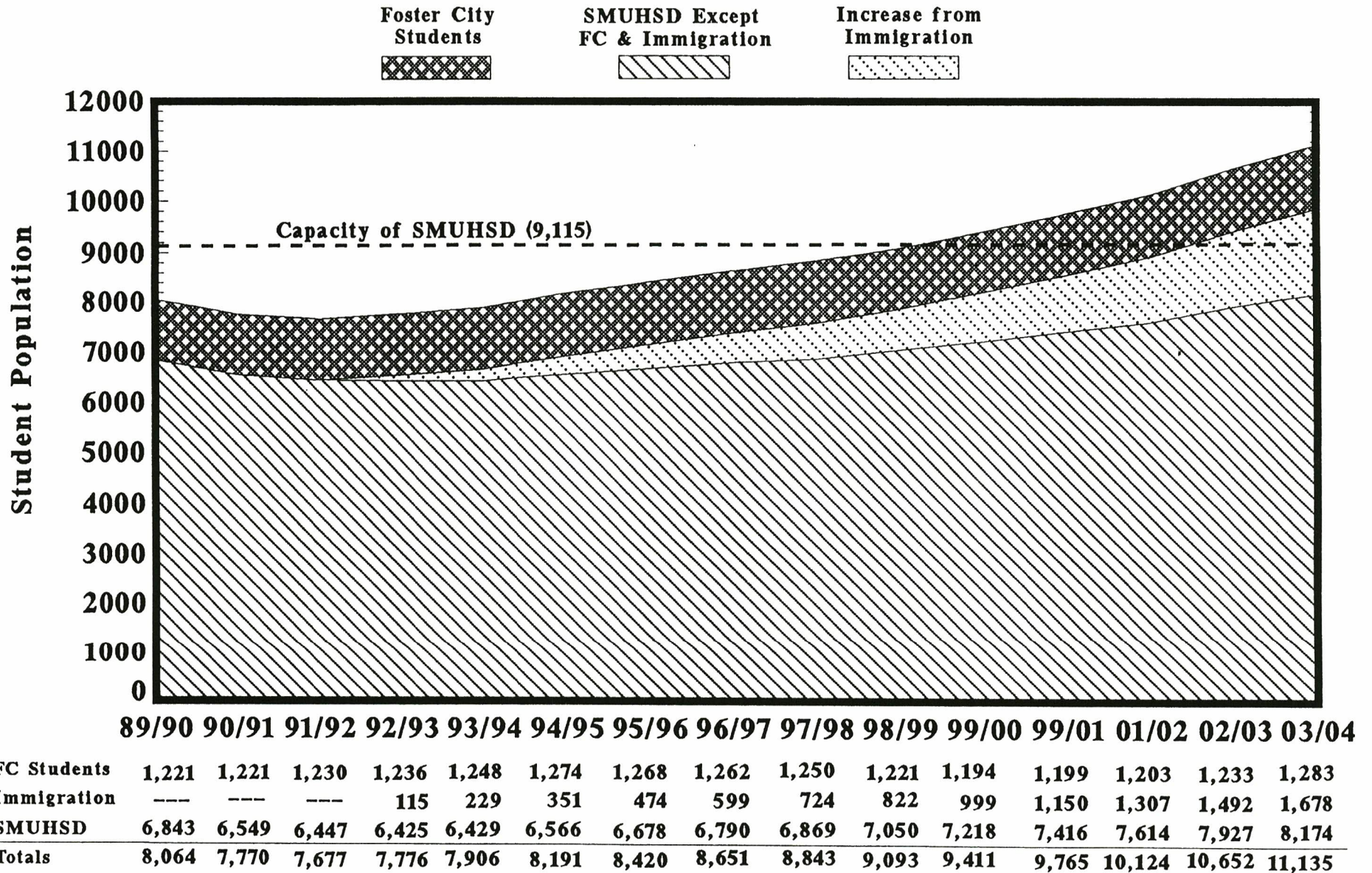
Elementary Schools within Foster City



Source: CBEDS Data Collection, October 1991

PROJECTED STUDENT POPULATION FOR SMUHSD

Data from 1990 Federal Census, State Report, and Local Report

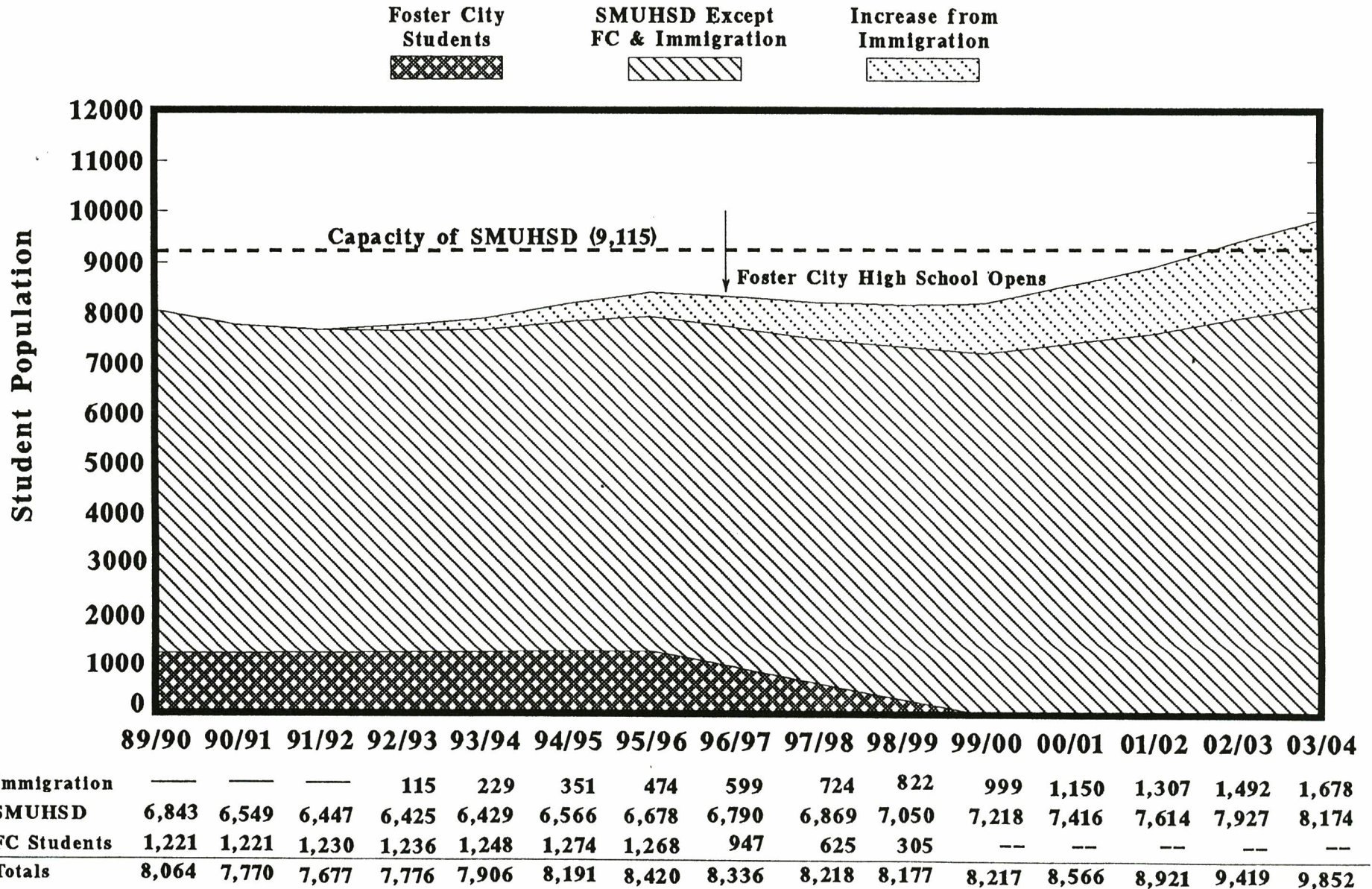


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EXHIBIT 7

EFFECT OF FOSTER CITY UNIFICATION ON ENTIRE SMUHSD

Showing Phased Unification Implementation

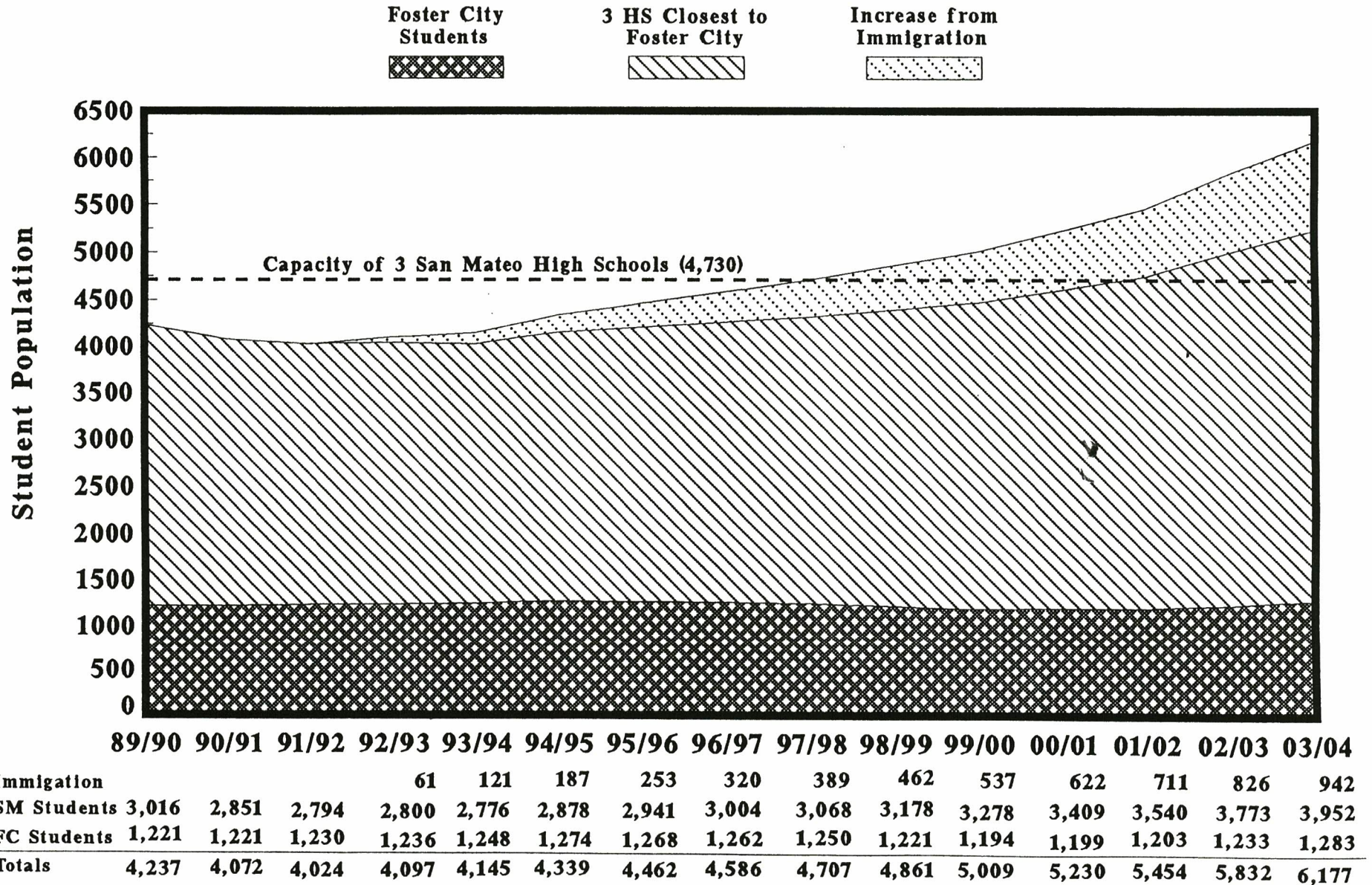


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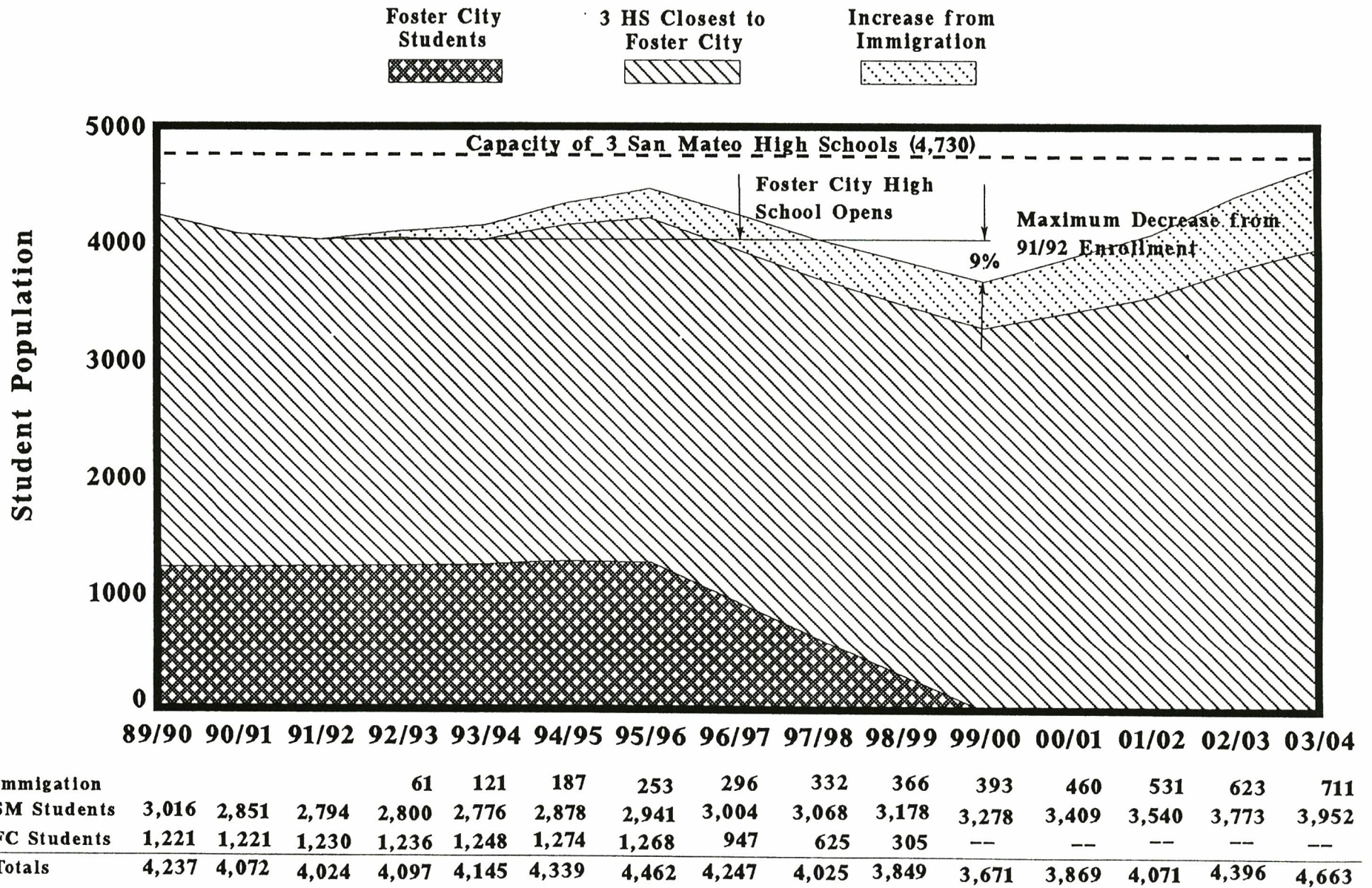
PROJECTED ENROLLMENT OF 3 HS CLOSEST TO FOSTER CITY

Data from 1990 Federal Census, State Report, and Local Report



EFFECT OF UNIFICATION ON 3 HS CLOSEST TO FOSTER CITY

Showing Phased Unification Implementation



County Says No

UNIFICATION PETITION GOES TO STATE!

Foster City's bid for a unified school district will be taken up by the State Board of Education next month, despite a NO vote by San Mateo County's Committee on School District Organization.

"We expected this," said Malcolm McNeil, who heads up Foster City's unification drive to obtain its own high school. "It would have been nice to have the County Committee's endorsement, but it isn't necessary. The State Board of Education's OK is all we need in order to get to vote on unification."

The State Board will hold its own hearing within 60 days, and it may approve, disapprove or amend Foster City's petition. If it approves the petition, the State Board will decide who gets to vote on unification: the residents of Foster City, or the voters of the entire high school district, which includes Foster City, San Mateo, Burlingame, Millbrae and San Bruno.

Opposing a Foster City Unified School District, which would have to include both a high school (to be built on the vacant land on Foster City Blvd. south of Hillsdale) and our elementary and middle schools, are the San Mateo Union High School District and the San Mateo-Foster City Elementary District.

The ten-member County Board's deliberations were dominated by member Carol Gonella, former president of the San Mateo Union High School District, who made 13 of the 16 Board comments during the public hearing before the vote, and made the motion to disapprove the unification petition.

"We don't need another high school in the district," she said.

(Cont'd on pg. 2)

Foster City Islander

Foster City's Weekly Newspaper

Foster City's Only Resident Owned Newspaper

574-5952

Now In Our 20th Year Serving Foster City

Decreed a Newspaper of General Circulation April 27, 1976 (Decree No. 200863) for the City of Foster City, County of San Mateo, Southern Judicial District of the County of San Mateo, State of California.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1992

COUNTY SAYS NO!

(Cont'd from pg. 1)

"We can always re-open Crestmoor High in San Bruno." To the Foster City audience, this confirmed the High School District's rumored plans to bus Foster City's students 19 miles each way to the nearly-vacant San Bruno campus.

In the high school district, every city but ours has a high school. Only Foster City students are bused, currently to Hillsdale High and San Mateo High. Both schools are filled to capacity.

After the meeting, current High School Board president Sue Lempert told a reporter "Your problem is timing. You need to wait for a high school--oh, maybe, another twenty years."

Most residents are not unhappy with the Elementary District, but the High School District is a different matter. For 28 years the High School District has refused to build a high school in Foster City. The District has adequate money to do so if it sells its San Bruno property (formerly Crestmoor High) and uses the 12 million dollars it got from selling half its Foster City vacant property.

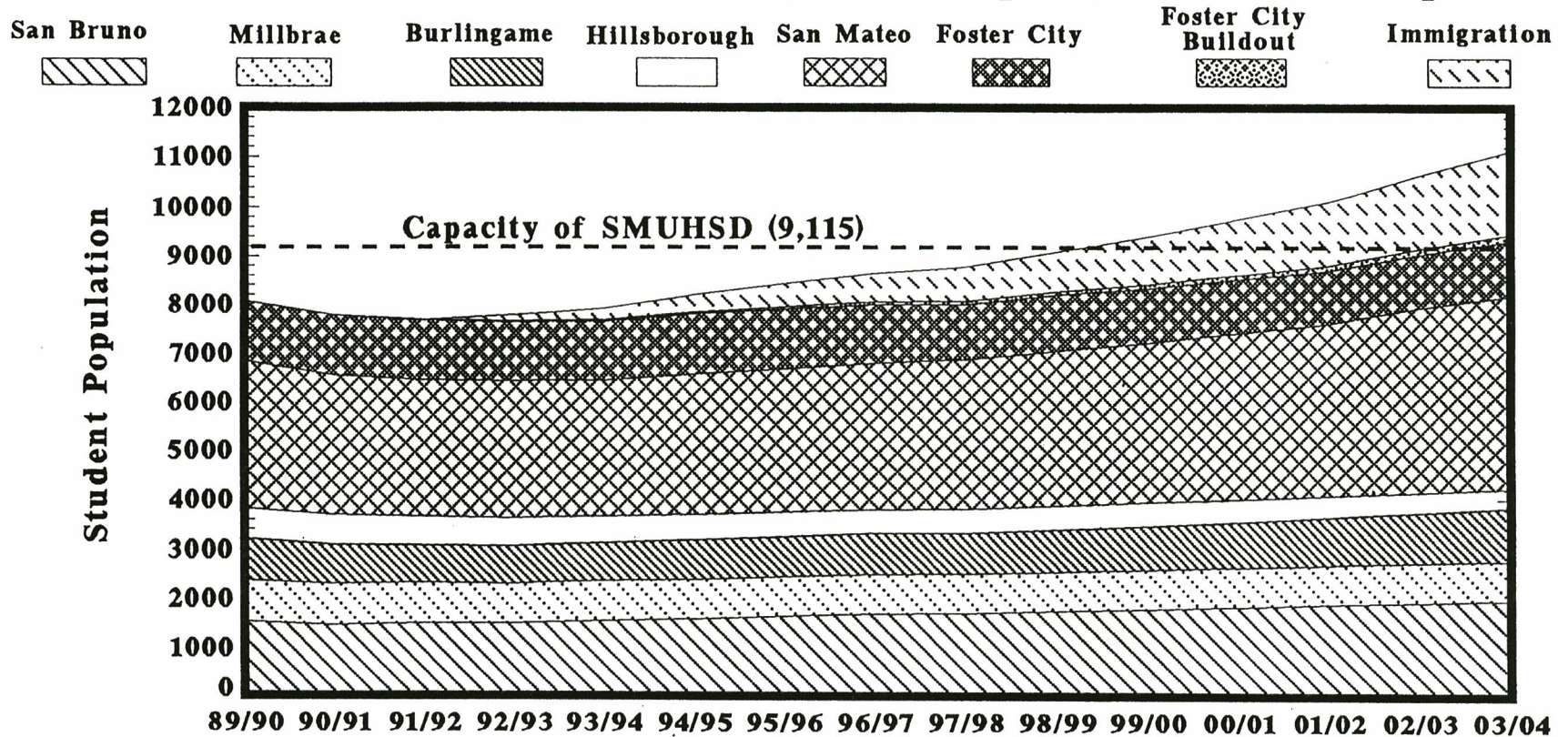
Foster City's council members offered to research the use of Redevelopment Agency funds, or possibly a bond issue, to help development Agency funds, or possibly a bond issue, to help build a high school.

But the High School District opposed this, on the grounds that if they lose Foster City's students, they will have to re-draw attendance boundary lines for students in San Mateo. They have re-drawn attendance boundary lines for Foster City's students 13 times, but feel it would be "disruptive" if they did this to anyone else.

If the State Board of Education okays Foster City's unification petition, it will go to a public vote sometime in 1993. If it passes, it will be at least another three years before a high school can be built in Foster City. No current high school students will be affected by unification, and when Foster City does unify, students already in high schools elsewhere will be allowed to stay there till graduation.

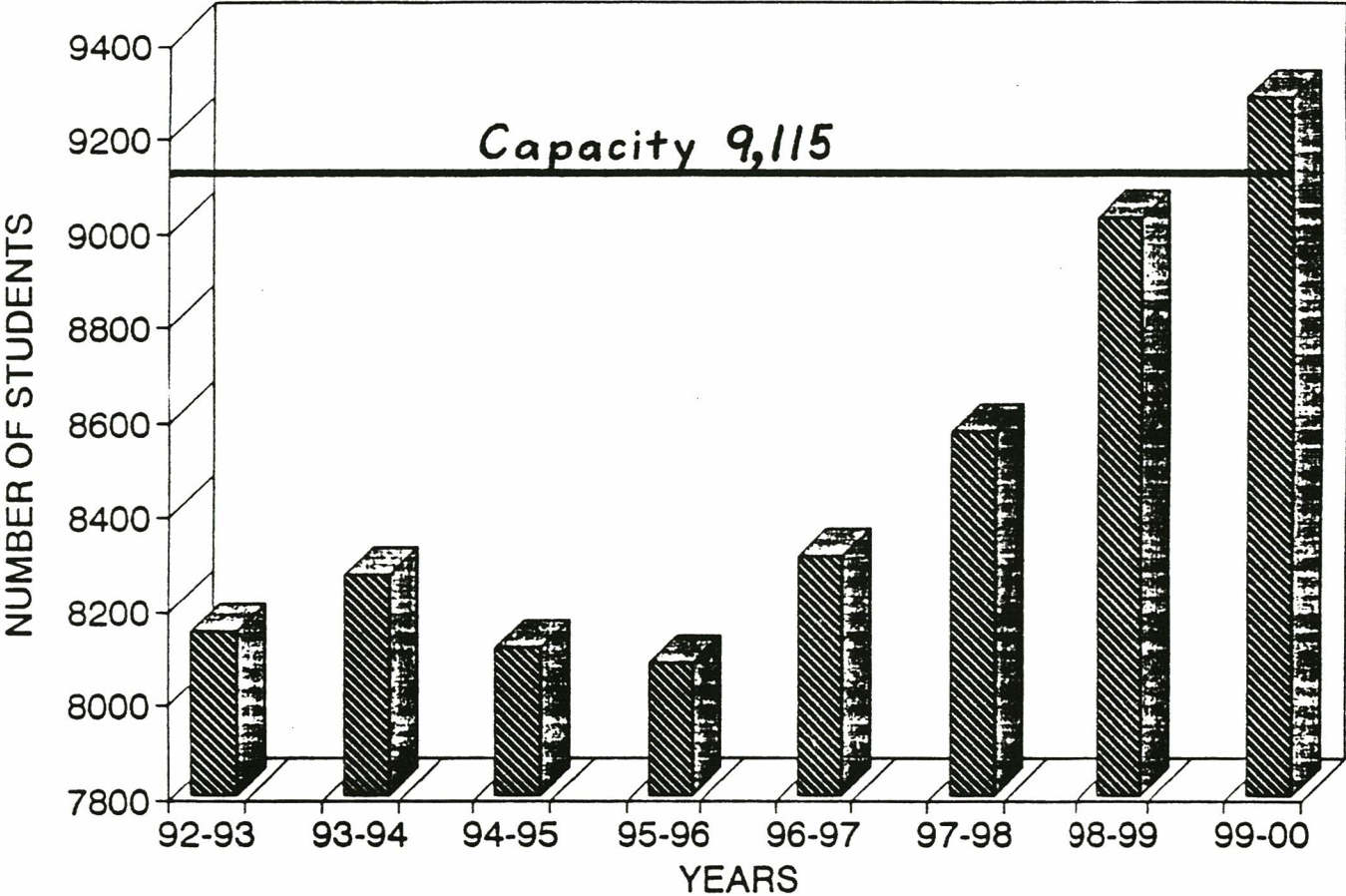
PROJECTED STUDENT POPULATION FOR SMUHSD

Data from 1990 Federal Census, State Report, and Local Report



	89/90	90/91	91/92	92/93	93/94	94/95	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04
Immigration	0	0	0	115	229	351	474	599	724	822	999	1,150	1,307	1,492	1,678
Foster City Build-out	0	0	11	22	32	44	54	64	73	81	88	98	107	119	133
Foster City	1,221	1,221	1,219	1,214	1,216	1,230	1,214	1,198	1,177	1,140	1,106	1,101	1,096	1,114	1,150
San Mateo	3,016	2,851	2,794	2,800	2,776	2,878	2,941	3,004	3,068	3,178	3,278	3,409	3,540	3,773	3,952
Hillsborough	612	603	568	555	519	500	482	464	476	483	480	457	434	410	384
Burlingame	837	785	761	767	773	798	813	828	820	842	868	910	952	1,006	1,064
Millbrae	841	839	828	804	806	798	801	804	794	793	800	798	796	802	810
San Bruno	1,537	1,471	1,496	1,499	1,555	1,592	1,641	1,690	1,711	1,754	1,792	1,842	1,892	1,936	1,964
Totals Excluding FC															
Buildout & Immigration	8,064	7,770	7,666	7,639	7,645	7,796	7,892	7,988	8,046	7,830	8,324	8,517	8,710	9,041	9,324
Totals Including FC															
Buildout & Immigration	8,064	7,770	7,677	7,776	7,906	8,191	8,420	8,651	8,843	9,093	9,411	9,765	10,124	10,652	11,135

SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT ESTIMATES



Francisco Chronicle

THE LARGEST DAILY CIRCULATION IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1991



41

Census Shows New Baby Boom In California

40% more preschoolers than in 1980 —
nobody knows where schools will put them

By Ramon G. McLeod
Chronicle Staff Writer

Thanks to birthrates unseen since the early 1960s, California now has a record-breaking 2.4 million children under the age of 5, according to figures the federal government will release today.

Figures from the 1990 Census showed 40 percent more preschoolers in California than there were in 1980, a statistic with enormous consequences, particularly for the state's financially strapped schools.

"Up until a few years ago, we were getting projections of 100,000 new students a year. Now we find out that it is more like 230,000 a year," said Dwayne Brooks, an assistant state schools superintendent. "It's like knowing that you're pregnant and planning for a baby — and then you suddenly have twins."

The twin forces of increasing birthrates and a huge pool of potential parents have ended an era of baby bust and brought on a new Baby Boom.

Last year there were more than 10 million people ages 25 to 44 in California, three million more than in 1980. These are the original Baby Boomers whose numbers have been bolstered by the addition of about 2 million immigrants also in their prime childbearing years.

The data released in Washington, D.C., by the Census Bureau also pinpointed:

STATE NUMBERS

■ There were 40 percent more preschoolers in California in 1990 than there were in 1980.

■ Last year there were more than 10 million people ages 25 to 44 in California — three million more than in 1980. These are the original Baby Boomers whose numbers have been bolstered by the addition of about 2 million immigrants who are also in their prime childbearing years.

■ After baby boomers and their children, the population of people over age 65 grew the most. There are 3 million people in the state over 65, 30 percent more than in 1980.

■ About 53 percent of all California households are married-couple families, down from 55 percent in 1980.

■ The proportion of families headed by a single parent, male or female, rose from 13 percent to about 16 percent of all households.

■ A giant increase in households headed by single parents, both male and female. Families headed by single males increased 74 percent between 1980 and 1990; those headed by single females went up 32 percent.

■ Home prices and rents rose more than three times as fast as wages, after adjusting for inflation.

■ After baby boomers and their children, the population of people over age 65 grew the most. There were 3 million people in the state over 65, 30 percent more than in 1980.

School officials have been watching the release of census figures with keen interest. The state already has a \$6 billion backlog in requests for new schools from local districts, Brooks said.

Before the census data were available, the state Department of Education had projected that between \$12 billion and \$14 billion in new buildings will be needed in the next five years to accommodate the new children.

Those estimates are now likely to rise, but it is unclear where the money will come from to pay for all these new facilities.

"We don't have anywhere to put these kids," said Jeff Youell, an analyst with the state Department of Education. "We keep hoping somebody will take care of this, but it seems like nobody is."

Even without the pressures of the new baby boomers, California

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EXHIBIT 14

Census Shows New Baby Boom in California

From Page 1

is in the midst of a major school financing crisis.

Pinched by a \$12 billion state budget deficit and hamstrung by Proposition 13 limitations on local tax increases, school districts all over California are now considering wide-ranging teacher layoffs and draconian program cuts.

Governor Wilson has proposed a \$6.7 billion tax increase to help balance the budget, but he is also asking for \$2 billion in cuts from schools and community colleges.

"How can there be any question that schools need more money? Every poll shows that the public supports that, yet our political leadership doesn't seem to understand this," said state schools Superintendent Bill Honig.

How Will They Compete?

"As a state, as a nation, as a society we continue to invest less in our kids than any other industrial nation," he said. "How are our kids going to compete if this continues?"

Paul Smith, an analyst with the

'How can there be any question that schools need more money? Every poll shows that the public supports that, yet our political leadership doesn't seem to understand this'

— BILL HONIG
STATE SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT

Children's Defense Fund, said political squabbling over money for schools reflects a huge change in Americans' attitudes toward children.

"Nobody in 1955 would have even thought that way. A Richmond situation would not have come up like this," he said.

The 31,000-student Richmond school district was nearly closed or lack of funds two weeks ago before a court order forced the state to pay to keep the district's doors open.

"Now we have come to a time where the attitude is that whatever the problems children have, that is a problem for their family, not the government. ... If the American family has to go it alone, it could get very, very rough," he said.

Big Changes

As the census data show, California's families have been undergoing great change in the past 10 years.

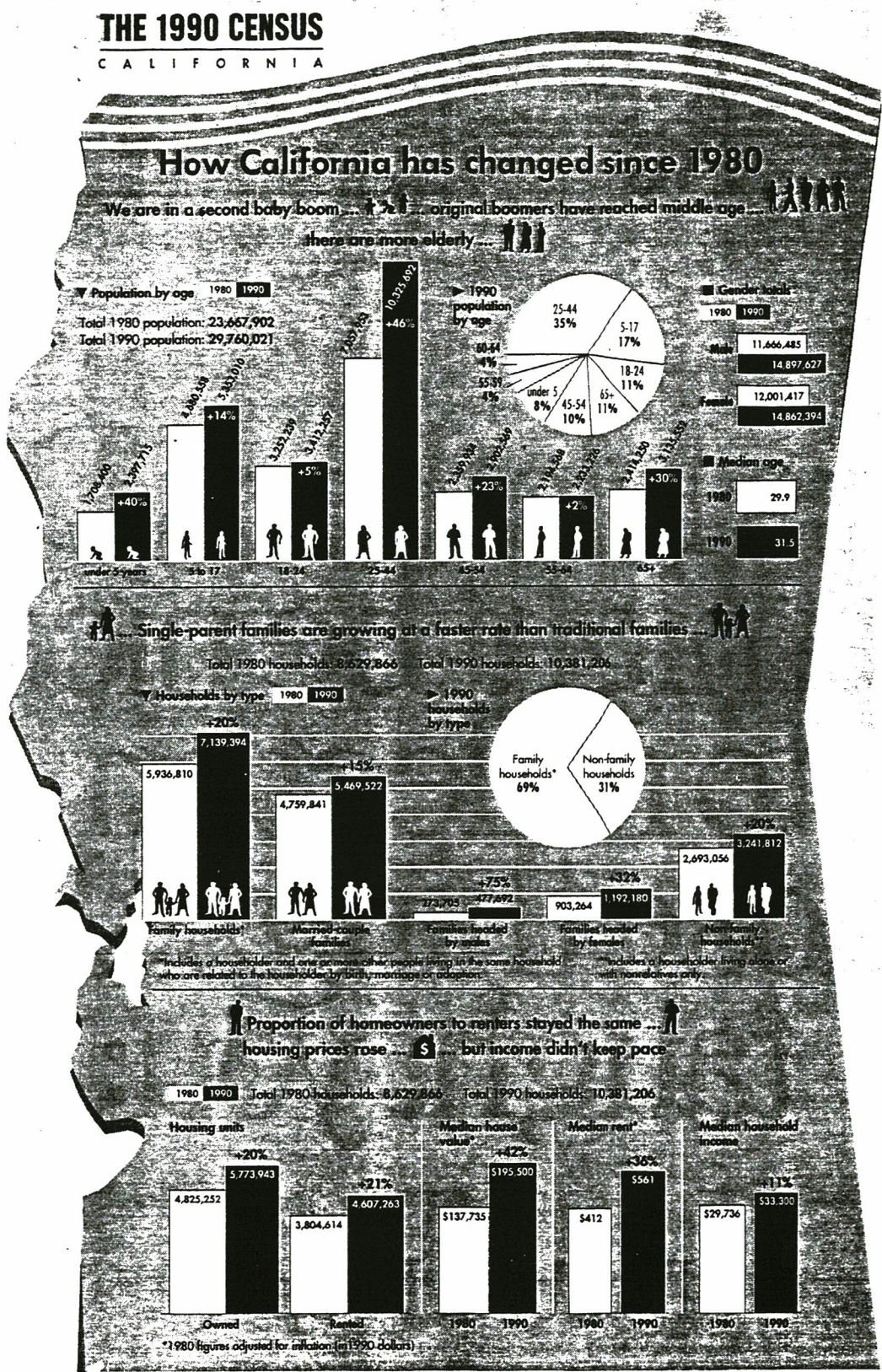
About 53 percent of all California households are married-couple families, down from 55 percent in 1980.

Meanwhile, the proportion of families headed by a single parent, male or female, rose from 13 percent to about 16 percent of all households.

Many of the married-couple families are likely also to be two-income families, census data have shown, a necessity for many in a state where housing costs are rising faster than income.

After adjusting for inflation, the median price of a home in California rose from \$137,735 in 1980 to \$195,500 in 1990, a 42 percent increase. Median rent went from an inflation-adjusted \$412 to \$561, up about 36 percent.

Meanwhile, median household income, adjusted for inflation,



CHRONICLE GRAPHIC

went up only 11 percent, from \$29,736 in 1980 to \$33,300 in 1990.

'We've Maxed Out'

"People coped by putting more workers out there. ... Women went to work in large numbers. But we've just about maxed out on that now," said Rolf Pendall, a housing analyst at the Bay Area Council.

"It is a real question how they are going to keep up with housing costs in this decade," he said.

The financial pressures on fam-

ilies, which are multiplied when a single parent is trying to make ends meet, cut across income levels, Honig said.

"What sometimes is overlooked is that it isn't just the poor feeling

a pinch today. The middle class and their kids are under tremendous stresses," he said.

"Both parents are out working, so the kid is home alone or with a baby sitter that they have to pay for. The recreation services that

these middle-class kids need have been cut, and they are coming from schools that are short on funds, too.

"It's like this society decided to forget about kids for 15 years," he said.

EXHIBIT 14

EDITORIALS

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PANORAMA

PAGE A19

New Immigration Studies Forecast Big Rise in '90s

Experts agree that changes in U.S. laws will mean larger demands on state dollars

By Tim Schreiner
Chronicle Staff Writer

As the debate intensifies over the fiscal impact of immigration to California, several new studies show that the number of foreign-born newcomers to the state will continue to grow dramatically in the 1990s.

Experts are divided over Governor Wilson's assertion, first made in a speech to the County Supervisors Association of California on November 13, that immigration is a major reason for the state's current financial problems. But there is broad agreement that recent changes in federal immigration laws will lead to larger demands on California tax dollars for welfare and education in the 1990s.

"Even if the governor is exaggerating or playing politics, there's no question the state is facing a bigger problem in the future because the trends are in place," said immigration expert Leon Bouvier.

"Whether you think immigrants are good or bad for the state, they are growing in number, so the state has to plan seriously now," said Bouvier, a senior fellow at the Center for Immigration Studies in Washington, D.C.

Members of Wilson's staff said that legal immigration from foreign countries probably will jump by about 23 percent during the 1990s because of a recent liberalization in the national immigration law.

About 2.3 million legal and undocumented immigrants moved to California in the 1980s, according to the state Department of Finance, which predicted that about 3 million new immigrants would come to the state by 2000. The state expects the amount of illegal immigration during this decade to be about the same as in the 1980s: 1 million undocumented immigrants.

Changes in Law, World Economy

Experts say the surge in immigration during the next decade will be the result of recent changes in U.S. law and significant shifts in the world political economy:

■ A 1990 change in the law, which was supported by then-U.S. Senator Pete Wilson, allows more foreigners to come to the United States in the next decade.

■ More than 1 million illegal immigrants granted amnesty by a 1986 make-over of immigration laws, which Senator Wilson also supported, soon will be eligible to bring parents and children to this country.

■ Despite democratization of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, the bulk of refugees and people seeking political asylum will continue to be from China and Latin America.

■ Poverty and war in many developing countries, especially those in Central America, is expected to keep illegal immigration at relatively high levels throughout the decade.

An Expert's Forecast

Bouvier, author of "Fifty Million Californians?" believes that the four factors could bring as many as 4.1 million legal and illegal immigrants to California during the decade — a 77 percent increase over the 1980s.

Before the most recent liberalization of the immigration law had even taken effect, foreign-immigrant numbers increased 15 percent in the 1989-90 budget year over the previous year, the Department of Finance said in a recent unpublished study.

"While the recession hurts California, people (in foreign countries) still see a land of opportunity here compared to other places and other countries," says Robert Valdez, a Rand Corp. policy analyst.

Wilson, whose administration faces a \$6 billion cash shortage, has vociferously blamed California's budget problems in part on a growing immigrant population that raises the costs of schools and health and welfare services.

Poor immigrants are heavy users of welfare, Wilson says, and their high birth rates have dramatically increased the number of schoolchildren in the state.

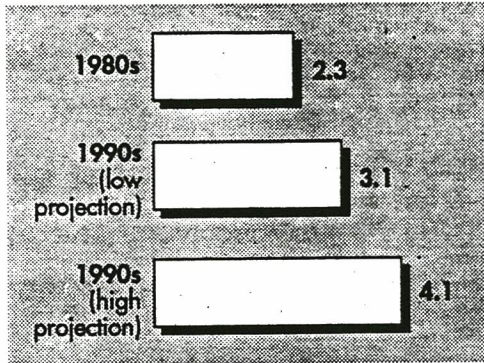
Experts disagree about whether immigrants are good for California in the long term, but they agree that in the short term large numbers of immigrant children require expensive outlays for public schools.

The school problem is not only

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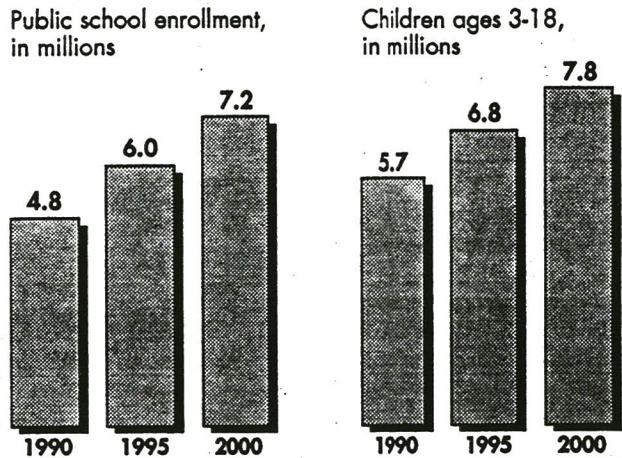
CALIFORNIA'S FASTEST-GROWING GROUPS: IMMIGRANTS, STUDENTS

■ Legal and illegal foreign immigration to California, in millions



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Leon Bouvier, California Department of Finance.

■ School-age children in California, 1990-2000



CHRONICLE GRAPHIC

Rising Immigration Expected

Change in U.S. laws could lead to increased demand on state dollars

From Page A15

one of immigrant children. The birth rates of every ethnic group — native and foreign-born alike — were up in recent years, sending projections of future numbers of school-age children soaring.

Number of Schoolchildren

The number of California schoolchildren — the largest group of tax-eaters in the state — will soar in the next several years, state and academic demographers say.

“From 1990 to 2000, graded enrollment is expected to grow by 48.1 percent, from 4.8 million students in 1990 to 7.2 million students in 2000,” a recent state Department of Finance study predicted.

In “Fifty Million Californians?” Bouvier says the state will have to build a new school every day for

the next 30 years to keep up with the increase in schoolchildren.

“If we assume 10 acres for each school, 160 square miles will have to be set aside for school construction over the next 30 years,” he wrote. “That is equal to about four San Franciscos.”

Sources of Immigration

The 1990 changes in immigration laws will bring a few more immigrants from Europe in the future, but demographers believe that in the 1990s foreigners will come largely from the same places as in the 1980s.

Almost two-thirds of California’s legal immigrants in the past 10 years came from Asia, while about a quarter came from Latin America, according to demographers at the state Department of Finance.

The sources of illegal immigra-

tion are the subject of much speculation.

Among legal immigrants, Mexico’s contribution to California of 28,677 people last year was the highest of any country in the world.

An additional 25,602 came from the Philippines, and 19,524 came from Vietnam. The People’s Republic of China and Iran each provided an additional 10,800 legal immigrants.

Most of the immigrant projections are conservative and understated, Bouvier says.

They do not take into account the foreign immigrants who first settle in another state and then move to California, such as the thousands of Hmong who moved to California’s Central Valley from Southeast Asia in the 1980s after first settling in Minnesota, Rhode Island, Virginia and other states.

San Jose Mercury News

Serving Northern California Since 1851

.... TUESDAY
JULY 21, 1992

Bay Area forecast for 2005 sees a million more people

BY E.A. TORRIERO
Mercury News Staff Writer

The Bay Area is expected to grow by more than a million people in the next 13 years, a faster rate than previously projected and a growth so rapid that it will leave residents scrambling for choice jobs and houses.

That's the conclusion of re-

searchers at the Association of Bay Area Governments, which on Monday unveiled its biennial look into the future and found it bleak.

"For years, we've been sounding the alarm about an uncertain future," said Raymond Brady, research director for the association — the region's major long-range forecasting group. "Now

that uncertainty is here, and how we deal with that will be the challenge of the '90s."

The fast-exploding Bay Area will be severely strained by more people, fewer high-paying jobs and tighter housing, the report projects. The study — similar to

See **FUTURE**, Back Page

**'It's clear from most
people's views what's
happening is a crisis.
But . . . we have to keep
in perspective that . . .
the economic base of
the Bay Area is still very
strong . . .'**

— Raymond Brady, ABAG

CAN BAY AREA HANDLE GROWTH?

Association of Bay Area Governments' projections for population and jobs in Santa Clara and Alameda counties.

Population				
County	1980	1990	2000	2010
Santa Clara	1,295,073	1,497,577	1,700,050	1,835,400
Alameda	1,105,379	1,279,182	1,426,200	1,557,200
Jobs				
County	1980	1990	2000	2010
Santa Clara	702,922	861,470	993,260	1,105,790
Alameda	513,797	622,230	718,460	830,710

Figures for more Bay Area counties, Back Page

EXHIBIT 14

Bay Area likely to see population, jobs boom

■ FUTURE

from Page 1A

ones in 1985, 1987 and 1989 — takes a snapshot of the Bay Area and shows increasing cracks in the economic and social facade of the nine-county, 100-city region.

Among the projections:

■ By the year 2005, the Bay Area's population will likely reach 7.2 million, up from a little over 6 million today. Just two years ago, association researchers predicted 6.8 million would live here in 2005. In 1985, the projections were for 6.52 million by 2005.

■ There will be more than a million new jobs created by 2010, but only 755,000 more people to fill them. Most of the available work, however, will be in unglamorous and low-paying jobs in the service, retail and manufacturing fields. By 2010, expect more than 500,000 service jobs, 163,000 retail openings and 129,000 manufacturing positions, the report says.

■ The housing crunch will get tighter. Most of the Bay Area already is developed, and of the 183,700 remaining acres that possibly could suit housing, large

chunks cannot be developed because of environmental, transportation and utility constraints.

■ San Jose will continue to be the region's largest city well into the next century with a population considerably over 900,000. Fremont and Santa Rosa will post the highest population increases by 2010. Fremont will be a city of more than 200,000 by 2005 and will add an additional 44,000 jobs by 2010, the most of any city.

■ In all, Santa Clara County's population will jump to more than 1.8 million, up from roughly 1.5 million today. Nearly half (41 percent) of the region's growth will be in Alameda and Santa Clara counties, which together will have 45 percent of the area's jobs by 2010.

Association researchers say their projections could be off if the Bay Area fails to find ways to meet the growth demands.

"It's clear from most people's views what's happening is a crisis," Brady said. "But there are also opportunities. We have to keep in perspective that despite the recession, the economic base of the Bay Area is still very strong and will continue to attract people."

BAY AREA GROWTH

The Association of Bay Area Governments projects that, from 1990 to 2010, the Bay Area's population will increase by 1.5 million — about 25 percent. It projects Santa Clara County's population to increase by about 338,000, or 23 percent. The association expects jobs to grow at an even faster rate: about 33 percent for the Bay Area and 28 percent for Santa Clara County.

Population

County	1980	1990	2000	2010
Santa Clara	1,295,073	1,497,577	1,700,050	1,835,400
Alameda	1,105,379	1,279,182	1,426,200	1,557,200
Contra Costa	656,380	803,732	970,700	1,095,300
San Francisco	678,974	723,959	766,100	778,900
San Mateo	587,329	649,623	717,250	739,150
Bay Area*	5,179,789	6,023,577	6,906,250	7,508,450

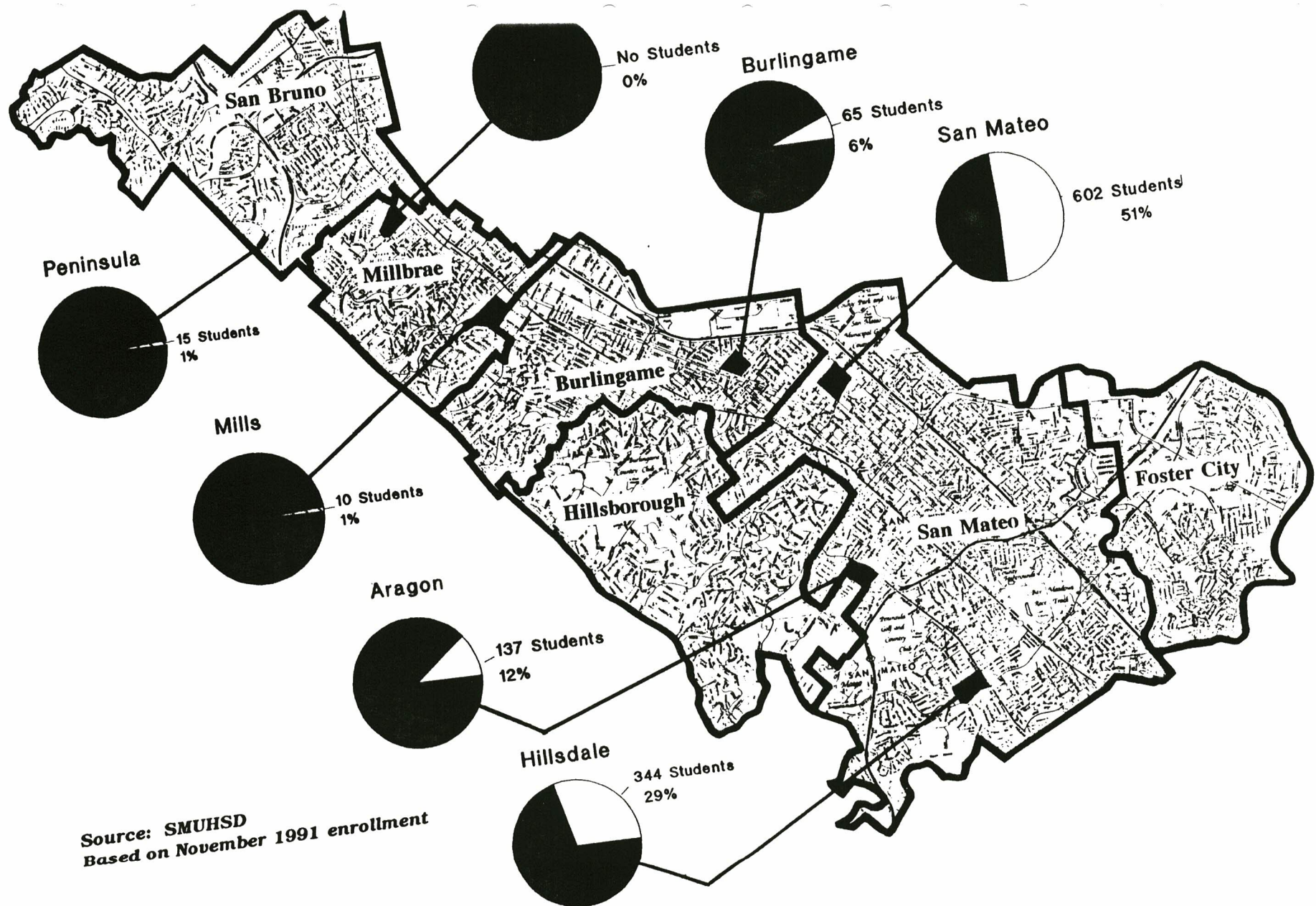
Jobs

County	1980	1990	2000	2010
Santa Clara	702,922	861,470	993,260	1,105,790
Alameda	513,797	622,230	718,460	830,710
Contra Costa	201,237	301,260	365,890	438,280
San Francisco	552,200	583,960	626,810	683,150
San Mateo	259,795	319,150	370,830	393,610
Bay Area*	2,537,856	3,114,440	3,631,130	4,128,080

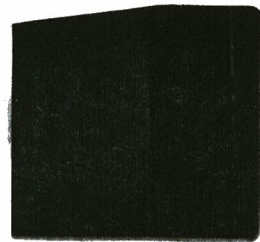
* Nine-county total, also includes Marin, Napa, Solano and Sonoma.

Source: Association of Bay Area Governments

MERCURY NEWS

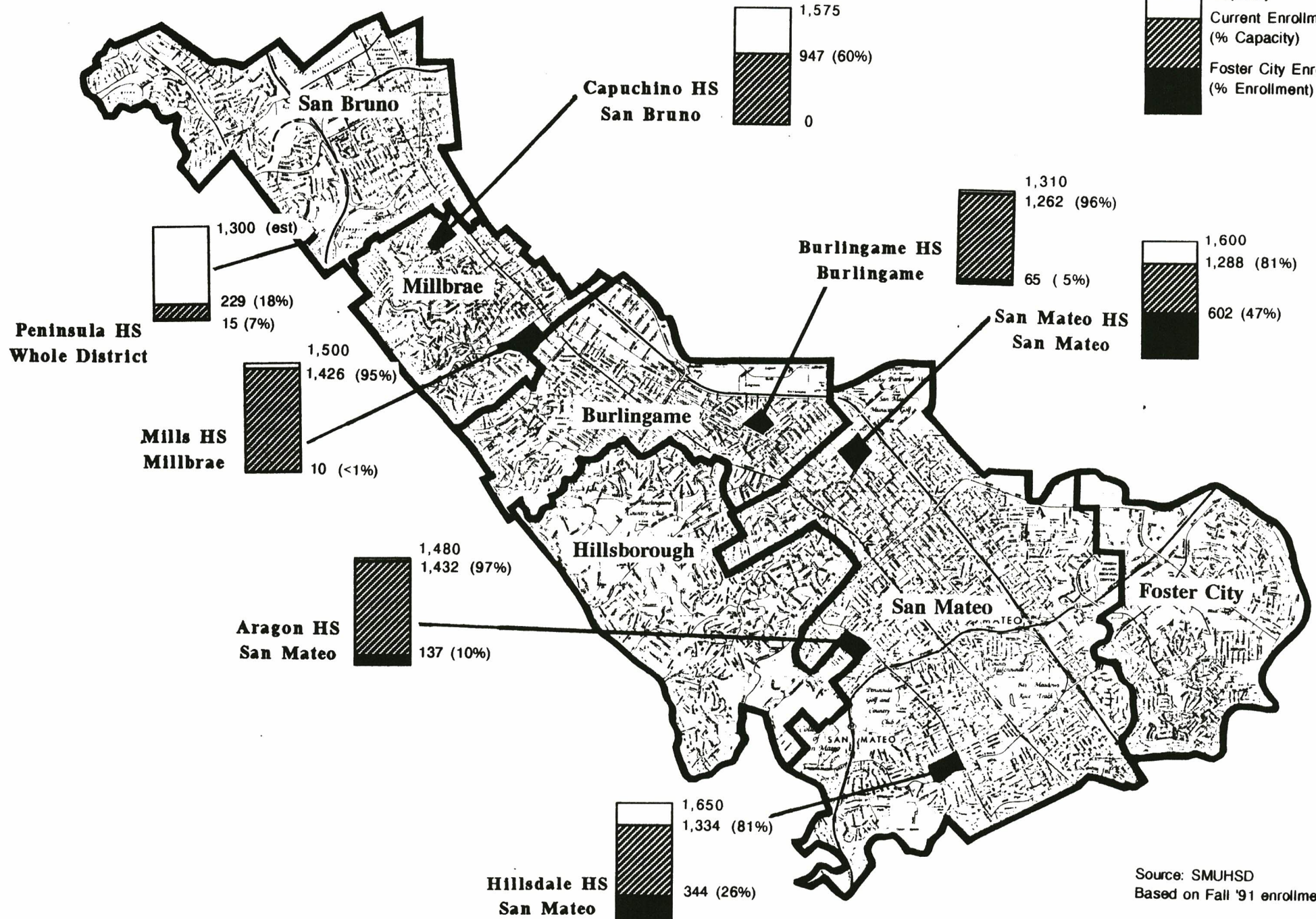
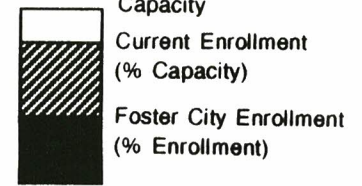


Source: SMUHSD
 Based on November 1991 enrollment



SMUHSD SCHOOL LOCATIONS, CAPACITY & ATTENDANCE

LEGEND



Source: SMUHSD
 Based on Fall '91 enrollment

San Mateo Union High School District Enrollment

School	Net Transfers In	Capacity	Fall 1991 Enrollment	Available Seats	% of Minority Enrollment
Aragon	-49	1,480	1,432	48	45.56
Burlingame	+151	1,310	1,262	48	40.04
Capuchino	-196	1,575	947	628	52.81
Hillsdale	+25	1,650	1,334	316	40.19
Mills	+113	1,500	1,426	74	46.96
San Mateo	-44	1,600	1,288	312	47.71
TOTALS		9,115	7,689	1,426	45.32

Source: S.M.U.H.S.D. Fall 1991

CHANDLER BRIGGS/The Times

Kids can pick school, so what's wrong?

By NANCY SOLOMON

Times Staff Writer

The option to choose any school in the San Mateo Union High School District may be limited next fall by the crowding at some of the district's most popular schools.

The board of trustees voted 3-2 recently to close transfer enrollment at schools that reach their capacity — most likely Mills, Aragon and Burlingame high schools — possibly as soon as next fall.

Students who live in the attendance areas of each school will be guaranteed a spot at their local school but those who want to transfer — 985 did so this year

In SM district, many want same sites, crowding some and draining others

— will be limited as schools reach capacity. The deadline to apply for a transfer is March 15.

A "School Capacity Report" prepared by the district office found that changes in academic requirements, student preferences for electives and the decrease in vocational education have changed the number of students each school can accommodate.

And open enrollment — the district's policy that allows parents to choose which school to send their child to — has left

some schools with empty seats while others are nearly full.

"The board finds itself with an interesting challenge," said John Mahaffy, fiscal director for the school district.

He prepared the schools capacity report which found that Aragon and Burlingame high schools have only 48 available seats remaining this year and Mills has 74. With the number of students expected to enter Mills High School from nearby middle schools, the district is planning to limit transfers and hold a lot-

tery if any unexpected seats turn up.

Capuchino High School, on the other hand, has 628 available seats, San Mateo has 312 and Hillsdale has 316.

"We still have 1,000 empty seats," Mahaffy said. The district is still 4,000 students under its peak enrollment of the 1960s and 1970s.

This leaves the district with little incentive to open another high school, yet unable to continue its present open enrollment policy.

"It's a no-win situation and that's what makes it a major problem," said Sue Lempert, president of the board of trust-

See SCHOOL, Page A2

The Times

School

Continued from Page One

ees. "What we did is a Band-Aid situation."

Ideally, the district wants to boost enrollment at the schools with extra room and maintain its policy of choice. The district approved all 985 requests for transfers this year, besides accepting 162 students from outside the district.

School administrators are reluctant to publicize the numbers of students who choose not to attend their neighborhood schools. They say so many factors go into those decisions, among them, students' tendency to follow their friends, and the special programs some schools have that attract students from other schools.

Superintendent Nicholas Gennaro also points out that most transfers are made by incoming ninth-graders who have never attended the school and are making the decision based on reasons not associated with direct experience with the school.

"If you just take a look at the raw data, you could come to the conclusion that some schools are not doing the job," Gennaro said. "Well, that is not correct."

Capuchino High School comes up the shortest in the numbers game. Of its 1,575 seats, only 947 are filled, leaving the school at 60 percent capacity. Aragon, Burlingame and Mills high schools are more than 95 percent filled and San Mateo and Hillsdale are 80 percent filled.

Administrators acknowledge that some parents do not send their students to Capuchino because the school has developed a reputation for lower academic achievement than other schools in the district.

"I think it's a terrible misperception," said Mark Vranes, a school board member and Capuchino parent. "If we change the perception and kids go there, I think they would see the administration, the teachers, the kids, the school is as good as any school in the district."

Lempert agrees. "Capuchino has some of our brightest new teaching stars," she said. "It's just fantastic what's going on there."

But the perception that Capuchino is not as good a high school as others in the district has continued to draw away top performers who then push up the test scores of other schools. Lower average test scores then work against Capuchino still further.

And the figure for net transfers — the difference between those who transfer in and those who transfer out — does not always indicate how well a school is performing. Aragon High School has scored highest on California Assessment Program tests and college-entrance exams, yet this year lost 49 students.

Aragon and Burlingame, however, are the district's smallest schools, with little space for portable rooms to be added.

Academic classes at Aragon are held in the sewing classroom and a cavernous, large group

Private school enrollments are up across the U.S. A8

meeting room. At Mills, a technology lab is pressed into use for English classes.

Lempert said several board members are also challenging some of the assumptions in the school capacity report, such as the idea that rooms designed for vocational classes cannot be used for academic classes.

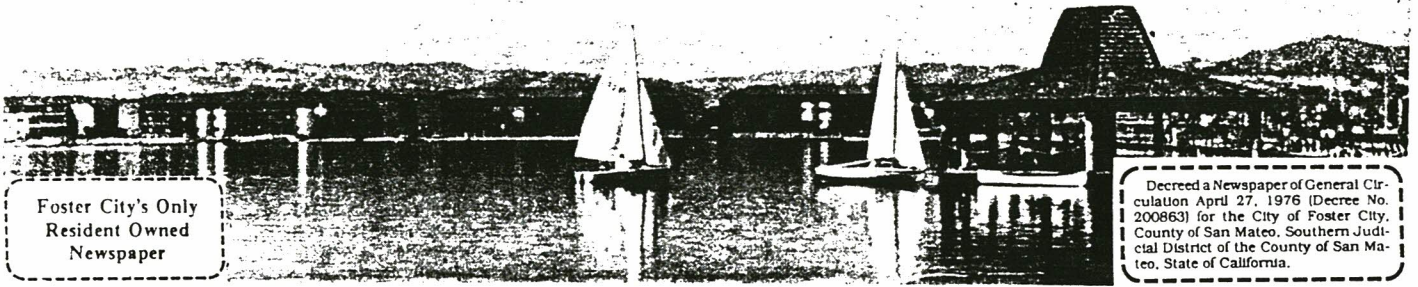
"Maybe we need to do more creative things in the space we have," she said.

But Mahaffy said the school administration is reluctant to remove equipment in the vocational classes and less popular electives because the classes would then be unavailable to those who want them.

Gennaro said he will look into placing portables at some schools, expanding the schedule to a seven-period day or moving athletics from the last period to after school.

"The students who live in the attendance area should have a right to be there without being crowded," Gennaro said.

Foster City Islander



Foster City's Only
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Newspaper

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574-5952

Now In Our 19th Year Serving Foster City

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1992

'Frankly, My Dear Foster City, The High School Board **DOESN'T GIVE A DAMN**'

See story on page 2

2---F.C. Islander-April 1, 1992

'Frankly, My Dear Foster City, The High School Board Doesn't Give A Damn'

So now we know. By the simple act of turning down the request by Foster City Mayor Roger Chinn to meet to discuss alternatives for schooling Foster City's high school students, the San Mateo Union High School Board last Thursday night made one thing perfectly clear: they have no intention of building a high school in Foster City. Ever.

In refusing even to **discuss** Foster City's high school plight, Board President Sue Lempert did this town a major favor. No time will be wasted in futile dialogue with the high school district. We can act now on our students' behalf.

The Choice - It' our choice now: shall we put in the huge effort to form our own school district, or shall we risk watching our high school students get bussed to Crestmoor High School in San Bruno? Those seem to be our only possibilities. As the 2 schools to which our students are now assigned -- Hillsdale High and San Mateo High -- become overcrowded, the San Mateo students will be given preference because they live in the attendance area, and Foster City students will probably be sent to the far north end of the county where there are empty classrooms. As a high school board staffer said years ago to irate Foster City parents, "What does it matter where Foster City students get assigned? They're already on the bus."

Advantages? - Up to this point, a lot of us hoped we could somehow work things out with the high school district -- that either they would put a bond issue on the ballot to build our high school (and refurbish other high schools), or that they would assign one of San Mateo's 3 high schools to Foster City, since San Mateo only has population enough to fill 2 schools. There once were advantages to being in the bigger district: but no more. Their open-transfer policy (allowing students to

attend the high school of their choice) has gone by the board as classes became jammed with students. This year **most transfers were denied**; next year will be worse.

Equal Education - I am now unhappily convinced that we **must** form our own district in order to give Foster City high school students an education equal to that of students in the high school district's favored cities. What our students get now is the district's leftover classrooms. What they'll be getting soon is a 34-minute bus ride in morning rush-hour traffic on their way to Crestmoor, a refurbished continuation school.

Pre-Approved - We've already been approved for unification once, in 1978, when we had fewer students than we do now. If we get a commitment again from the county and the state to let us build our school, whether with state school building funds or with Foster City redevelopment funds, I doubt very much that the high school district board could successfully sue to stop us from leaving their district, even though that is their threat.

We can easily prove their total indifference to the welfare of our students just by quoting their own statements on the public record.

The County's Best! - On the positive side, once we build Foster City students their own high school (a process that will take at least 3 to 4 years), it will undoubtedly be the best in the county. Why? Because whichever schools Foster City students were assigned to in the past immediately improved. Our scholar/athletes are superb young men and women, and the support of their dedicated parents will give our high school immense advantages. Our racial balance is exemplary, our spirit is superb, and we have the will to excel. Are we ready to go ahead? My bet is that we are.

The Times

San Mateo County's Daily Newspaper

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San Mateo, California, Friday, March 27, 1992

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School panel denies Foster City

By NANCY SOLOMON

Times Staff Writer

BURLINGAME — The San Mateo Union High School board rebuffed a request Thursday by Foster City officials to meet with them or attend a public forum on whether that city should have its own high school.

"The board appears to be

unanimous (in thinking) that this really is an issue that the people of Foster City have to wrestle with," said Sue Lempert, president of the San Mateo Union High School District board of trustees. "I think it would be inappropriate for us to participate in that dialogue."

Lempert's remarks came at the end of an hour-long discus-

sion initiated by Mayor Roger Chinn, who wrote on behalf of Foster City's City Council asking the school district board to discuss alternatives to putting a high school in Foster City.

Chinn and three members of his city's Education Committee attended the meeting.

A group of Foster City residents is working on a petition

drive to form a unified school district in Foster City that would require pulling out of both the San Mateo elementary and high school districts.

The school board listened to reports from its staff that the loss of Foster City students would cause serious financial losses to the district, which encompasses San Bruno, Mill-

brae, Burlingame, Hillsborough, San Mateo and Foster City.

Because 15 percent of the district's students come from Foster City, it would have to give 15 percent of its assets to a new Foster City school district.

"That would include everything from money from Fund 4 (the district's \$11 million sav-

See **SCHOOL**, Page A2

School

Continued from Page One

ings account) to the pencils on your tables," said Diane Finkelshtein, the attorney for the school board.

Chinn said he wanted to discuss unification, the possibility of the district's building a school in Foster City, or any other alternatives that would bring a high school to the city.

"I was very disappointed," Chinn said upon leaving the meeting. "I feel this is a very opportune time to discuss alternatives. They don't want to build

more facilities and they're opposed to unification — we're left with no alternatives.

"I'm perplexed that they don't have any desire for dialogue," he said.

The State Board of Education has the final say in whether Foster City would be allowed to hold an election to break away and form its own district, as well as the say in who gets to vote on the matter.

But if the state allows only Foster City residents to vote — and not every voter in the entire school district — the school board was advised that it should file a lawsuit to stop the election.

Foster City Islander

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Now In Our 19th Year Serving Foster City

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13th

SMUSHD Says No High School Here

Striving to appear calm and reassuring, High School board and staff members meeting in Foster City last week misstated their own enrollment projections, denied that any formal contact had taken place with Foster City's government regarding the city's desire for a high school (even though Mayor Roger Chinn had addressed the SMUSHD board at a public meeting), and admitted that the factors determining where they will send Foster City's students in the future were "hard to predict."

To hear the San Mateo Union High School District group tell it, they are providing Foster City's 1300 high school students, who are bussed from this community daily into San Mateo schools, with the best of schooling. To hear Foster City parents tell it, the high school district is ignoring Foster City students' needs.

No Capuchino? - High School Board president Sue Lempert said the district will not build a high school here. She was challenged by residents when she told the meeting, organized for parents by the PTAs at Audubon, Foster City and Bowditch. "We CAN guarantee there will be no bussing of Foster City students to Capuchino High School (in San Bruno) or Mills High School (in Millbrae). We think we can fill capuchino with the expanding school population in the North County." She added "If we did a boundary change, we'd have public hearings."

Asked by resident Larry Sweitanek about future enrollment growth, Mahaffey said the district would build extra classrooms onto San Mateo's 3 campuses, where Foster City students attend.

"I don't know where these rumors come from about vast enrollment growth in this district," said District Superintendent Nick Gennaro.

"The 'rumors' come from the data you supplied us with," answered Malcolm McNeil, head of the CAMPUS group working for a Foster City high school. Those figures show a 40% growth, the bulk of it in the southern part of the district -- San Mateo and Foster City - while the district's empty classrooms are in San Bruno 15 miles north.

"Enrollment is difficult to predict," conceded Gennaro.

Students blamed - Director of Financial Services John Mahaffey held Foster City's students responsible for their 1970s enrollment in the San Bruno School: "They were assigned to Capuchino because the students wanted to stay together with their class." Foster City high schoolers have been ordered by the SMUSHD at one time or another to every school in the district, and for the past several years have been assigned to Hillsdale High and San Mateo High in San Mateo.

In response to parents' questions, SMUSHD officials at the

No High School Here

(Cont'd from page 1)

meeting repeated that regardless of enrollment increases, Foster City students would be assigned only to San Mateo and Hillsdale high schools, and that open enrollment (where students can choose to attend other high schools in the district if they wish) will continue to be offered.

"History repeats itself," commented Sandee McNeil, referring to the similar assurances the High School District Board gave in the 1970s just before they changed all Foster City student assignments.

Frustrations - Several parents told the board of their frustrations in having students in school in another town, including the lack of available bus transport for students who participated in after-school activities (Take it up with Sam-Trans," counseled Board President Sue Lempert) and the difficulty of parent involvement. Mrs. Lempert repeated that the district has no intention of building a high school in Foster City.

Refusal To Discuss High School Alternatives

The San Mateo Union High School District Board last Thursday flatly rejected Foster City Mayor Roger Chinn's request to meet with them to discuss ways to bring a high school to Foster City. Mayor Chinn had planned to explore with board members the chances of the High School District building a school in Foster City, the possibility of unification, or any other plan that might give this city a high school.

"This really is an issue that the people of Foster City have to wrestle with," said Board President Sue Lempert bluntly. "I think it would be inappropriate for us to participate in that dialogue."

Despite evidence presented that the High School District would suffer financially if Foster City left it, not one member of the board made even a gesture to keep Foster City's students and school tax dollars in the district.

"I was very disappointed. I feel this is a very opportune time to discuss alternatives. They don't want to build more facilities and they're opposed to unification. We're left with no alternatives," the veteran Mayor told a reporter. "I'm perplexed that they don't have any desire for dialogue." The High School Board then quickly approved the spending of most of the \$11 million dollars they had received from Foster City in a legal settlement, a move which would keep the money out of Foster City hands if Foster City receives approval to form its own school district.

Under the law, our new district would be entitled to 15% of everything the High School District owns, including cash reserves. Instead, much of the money will be loaned to the San Mateo Adult School for construction of a new learning center.

"I'm flabbergasted," said Foster City Vice-Mayor Bob Field, a former district high school teacher. "I can't imagine why the board would do this; it's obvious their attitude will spur the unification effort."

"If we can't discuss our high school with the High School District Board, what purpose do they serve?" Commented Sandra McNeil, who with her husband Malcolm spearheads the unification movement.

Unification will require thousands of signatures on petitions, plus the agreement of the County School Board and acceptance by the State School Board. Success is not guaranteed even then, since the San Mateo High School District Board might sue to keep Foster City from unifying.

In the late '70s Foster City won the right to form its own school district, under similar circumstances of school board discrimination, and won all counts -- but the state pool of money to build schools was wiped out when Prop 13 was passed, and at that time no Redevelopment Funds were available, as they are today, so Foster City couldn't take advantage of the opportunity.

Right now, Foster City Redevelopment Funds are sufficient to cover the cost of a high school without raising taxes. Money for operating its own school district would come from the state, which would give Foster City the per-student dollars that now go to the San Mateo school districts.

There is also a state pool of bond money for school building, which Foster City could tap into if needed.

Meanwhile, most high schools in the district are seriously overcrowded now, and are expecting a 40% increase in students in the next 5 years. Asked if this would favor the district building a new school in Foster City, board staffers noted that "We can always re-open Crestmoor High School in San Bruno." Students from Foster City were bussed there in the '70s. The school is 16 miles from Foster City, between 280 and Skyline, south of South San Francisco. It is currently used as a continuation school.

"It's obvious that the High School Board's elected officials have abdicated their responsibilities toward their constituents by refusing to discuss Foster City's high school problems with us," said Fred Baer, chairman of the Foster City Education Facilities Committee. "Many more people are going to be thinking about unification now."