

Fairmont School Needs 6500 Stockton Back

What's wrong?

The school district owns the building and parking lot at 6500 Stockton, originally built as part of Fairmont School, which has been leased to the City of El Cerrito for use as a senior center, for many years. The lease is up on June 30. The city has no plans to move their senior operations after the year extension the school district has offered, and is actively protesting the district's need to resume school operations on its own property to help address overcrowding at adjacent Fairmont (at 140% capacity).

Why does it matter?

Fairmont's students, who are majority low-income and students of color, are in an inadequate facility that the district has no money to rebuild. Resuming school operations of some sort in the 6500 Stockton building is one small way to eke out more space for kids on district property. The City of El Cerrito is the wealthiest City in the school district boundaries, with over \$3 million in unallocated reserves this fiscal year. It has plenty of resources to relocate its senior programming to one or more temporary city-owned locations beginning in 2018-19 while it plans a larger permanent facility.

What should be done?

The City of El Cerrito should accept a one-year lease and start making immediate plans to relocate senior programming onto City properties, such as the vacant lot on San Pablo near the police/fire station or the City Hall parking lot. Opportunities for shared uses with local churches (underutilized during the week), or one of the city-owned sites currently occupied by small preschools could be investigated for shared use - the City has many options.

Fairmont's children have no options. They need that space.

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