

A Brief History of School Configuration in the **Susanville School District**

The Susanville School District is the largest District in Lassen County and currently consists of three schools within the Greater City of Susanville area. The District encompasses the City of Susanville and stretches north to the shores of Eagle Lake. Although several schools were established in the Susanville area as early as the 1860's, the Susanville School District was originally established in 1925. Washington School was the original grammar school in Susanville and was later joined by Lincoln, Roosevelt and McKinley Schools. Today, the three schools that service the Susanville School District are McKinley School (K-2), Meadow View School (3-5) and Diamond View Middle School (6-8).

McKinley School was opened as a public school in Susanville around 1948. Diamond View School opened as a fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade school around 1967. Meadow View School opened as a K-5 school around 1992. At the time Meadow View School opened, McKinley School and Meadow View School served K-5 students and 6th to 8th grade students all attended Diamond View School. In 2004, sixth grade students moved from Diamond View School to McKinley and Meadow View Schools, and attended either McKinley or Meadow View School, based on their residence.

In the middle of the 2007-2008 school year, the Board of Trustees closed the Diamond View Middle School campus, located on Richmond Road in Susanville, because Fire and Life & Safety conditions could not be corrected without significant reconstruction. Diamond View School was relocated to the Meadow View campus during the summer of 2008. All K-3 students in the District were moved to the McKinley School campus all 4-6 students were moved to the Meadow View Campus; this configuration allowed the Meadow View campus to house both the Diamond View and Meadow View students together. While this move created turmoil and was difficult for many, it provided a means to begin modernizing the Diamond View campus.

Following the temporary resignation of students and staff to the McKinley and Meadow View Campuses, the Susanville community approved a \$9,000,000 general obligation bond to provide modernization funds for Diamond View Middle school and to support needed projects at the other campuses as well. Prior to finalizing architectural plans for the rebuild of Diamond View, the Board of Trustees established an Organizational Advisory Committee (OAC) to serve in an advisory role to the Board in making recommendations for the future grade level configuration of the District's schools.

The Organizational Advisory Committee, consisting of administrators, teachers and support staff members from all three schools, surveyed parents and staff regarding five different models for the configuration of the schools in the District. Both online and printed surveys were distributed to the entire Susanville Community and public meetings were held at all three of the schools. At the February 12, 2009 meeting of the OAC, the team presented their findings and recommendations. A forty-two (42) page report was shared with the Board of Trustees shortly after indicating the committee's recommendation to move forward with the model for configuration that exists today; McKinley as a Kindergarten through Second Grade School, Meadow View as a Third through Fifth Grade School and Diamond View as a Sixth through Eighth Grade School.

Following the report, the Board of Trustees notified parents that beginning in August 2010, Diamond View Middle School would re-open and the new configuration would be in place. The following benefits to the new configuration were shared with parents:

- Greater ability to concentrate staff development efforts to grade level teams;
- Grade level teams will have more opportunities for directing instruction that targets student needs, including remedial and enriched instruction;
- More classes at each grade on a single school campus will allow for fewer combination classes at each grade level in the District.

Superintendent of the Susanville School District (at the time), Dr. Gary McIntire shared with parents and community members that the District believed this grade level configuration would provide the schools of the Susanville School District with the best opportunity possible for providing the type of high quality education program our students need and deserve.