

WUSD Considers New Schools Agreement

This past week the WUSD Governing Board spent some time discussing a proposed school development agreement with a new master planned community named Spurlock Ranch. The development is proposed to be located just north of Festival Ranch and the CAP canal where the District's southern most school, Festival Foothills Elementary, is located.

Although the development likely won't enter the building stage for another three years, it will eventually be home to three more K-8 buildings and the District's second high school. The K-8 facilities are planned on 15 acre sites, which will be built next to HOA maintained parks. The school district and the HOA will share the outdoor basketball courts and multi-purpose baseball/softball fields, which will save the District dollars from both a construction and maintenance perspective. We currently enjoy this type of design at Festival Foothills Elementary and it is of great benefit to the school and its students.

The high school facility will eventually be built on a 55 acre site, which is similar in size to Wickenburg High School. A site of this size will be large enough for multiple buildings and athletic facilities to serve student needs. Moving forward the Governing Board will designate 55 acre high school sites as a standard so the District has plenty of space to design and develop appropriate facilities.

As stated earlier this is a proposed agreement, which is experiencing ongoing review, refinement and consideration. It is the District's desire to be diligent in entering into this agreement as we believe many more will follow once the economy recovers in our area. I will be sure to keep the community updated on new school facilities which are being considered as time progresses. Again, I don't expect that we will be constructing new schools for some years to come, but is important to set the stage now so we are properly prepared for the future.