



# News from FJUHSD

Fullerton Joint Union High School District ■ 1051 West Bastanchury Road, Fullerton 92833

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## **Fullerton Union High School Gymnasium Closure**

The Board of Trustees and the Superintendent made the difficult decision during Closed Session of the January 8, 2019 Board meeting to close the Fullerton Union High School (FUHS) gymnasium immediately while engineers further investigate recent information identified on January 7, 2019, related to the structural integrity of the FUHS gym roof. It has not yet been determined if the closure will be permanent or not.

Director of Facilities and Construction Todd Butcher was made aware of the concern as a result of current work with structural engineers and construction professionals who were looking for possible ways to bring air conditioning into the almost 100-year old gym. While researching options, the engineers determined that the truss system that supports the roof had failed. This means that in the event of an earthquake, the FUHS gym would be at significant risk of catastrophic damage. With this new information, the Board of Trustees agreed that it was necessary to close the facility pending further investigation in order to protect students, staff members, and community members.

The FUHS gym was constructed prior to the Field Act. The Field Act was one of the first pieces of legislation that mandated earthquake resistant construction in the United States (specifically for schools in California). The Field Act had its genesis following the 6.3 magnitude 1933 Long Beach earthquake, which occurred on March 10 of that year and destroyed or rendered unsafe 230 school buildings in Southern California. Thankfully, school was not in session during the earthquake so children were spared. Public awareness of the risk to children led to the Field Act. The Act was named after California Assemblyman Charles Field, the key sponsor of the legislation. The Field Act calls for a specific level of structural integrity for all school buildings.

The District is looking at several solutions and will inform the public as soon as a plan has been developed; however, in the interim, all events scheduled for the FUHS gymnasium are being rescheduled to alternate locations. As additional information is determined, the FUHS community will be informed.