



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING REPORT

Board Meeting Date: 19-Sep-11

Agenda #

Staff/Administrator: Debbie Breckner

Superintendent: Dan Huber-Kantola

Type of Item: Informational Action

Please state your proposal briefly and clearly. What do you want the board to know, discuss, or decide?

I am requesting to add 2.0 Licensed FTE to adjust for elementary class sizes. Currently, Manzanita Elementary's 4th and 5th grade classes are 36 & 37, so I would propose adding 1.0 FTE there to bring those classes to just over 29. I also would propose adding a .5 licensed FTE at both Manzanita and Fruitdale. Currently, Manzanita's 2nd grades are 35 & 36, and Fruitdale has a 1st and 2nd grade that are both 35. A half time teacher could provide solid support in the core classes in the mornings for those primary grades. In addition, both schools are looking to add additional Title 1 support with additional licensed staff in the afternoon. The total number of FTE added would be 3.0 FTE; with 2.0 FTE being paid from the General Fund(1.5 @ MZ + .5 @ FR), and the additional 1.0 (.5 @ MZ and .5@ FR) to be paid out of Title 1 provided we can structure the additional .5 FTE at each school to meet the requirements of utilizing federal dollars.

Provide history/background information on your proposal.

Last spring, the District staffed elementary schools at 30:1 and middle and high schools at 35:1. While we are still waiting for final, final numbers with our kindergartners not starting until September 12, the class sizes in these pockets are well above what we had staffed for and it assistance is necessary to ensure we can provide kids with the necessary instruction they need. The cost of the General Fund portion of this request is just shy of \$145,000; which would have to be transferred out of Contingency. The Title 1 portion is about \$66,000.

List the advantages of your proposal:

Class sizes at the elementary level would be reduced to the staffing levels identified by the District last spring, resulting in staff being able to better meet the needs of students.

List possible disadvantages of your proposal:

There may be some hurt feelings when classes are reallocated and students who have met their teachers have to leave to meet a new one.

List possible alternatives that could also offer a solution to your proposal. Why were they not recommended?

Additional classified staff could have been recommended, however a classified staff person is unable to do all of the duties of a teacher; leaving the burden of planning, assessing, etc. on the regular classroom teacher.

Superintendent's recommendation(s):

Approve: Yes No