



**GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM
AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10**

DATE OF MEETING: **September 9, 2014**

TITLE: **Review of Enrollment Projections and Actual Enrollment for Current (2014-2015) School Year**

BACKGROUND:

Each year, the District projects enrollment for the subsequent fiscal year as a key component for budget planning resource allocations. Previously, the District relied upon a 2007 growth study which the Board commissioned to predict enrollment expectations, and that study was initially a fairly accurate predictor of school population trends immediately following its completion. Within a relatively short period of time, however, the unanticipated economic and demographic changes in our community dramatically affected the reliability of that growth study.

As a consequence, in more recent years, our projections have been based upon student cohort information, combined with other demographic information, such as expected property development in neighborhoods served by individual schools, anecdotal data from schools on population trends, etc. The District's initial model driven estimates are then shared with principals, who provide feedback on the District estimate. This feedback is essential in determining the final projections. It is the final projection upon which staffing and non-staffing allocations are made.

Each year, the administration must reconcile the estimates for enrollment with actual enrollment experienced in the early stages of the school year. This helps ensure equivalent and equitable distribution of resources across the District's schools. This agenda item is the first step in reviewing the actual data and its implications for resource adjustments. In most situations, changes in existing distributions are simply effected through budget code changes, e.g., changing a staffing allocation from general maintenance and operation funding to override class size reduction funding, or *vice-a-versa*.

Since the time this agenda item was prepared, work has continued to make adjustments to actual enrollment data. This consists of deletion of students (drops) who may have preregistered but who never arrived to attend school in the District or perhaps arrived to attend a different school than originally planned. Occasionally, students will also withdraw early in the first few weeks of the school year to change schools or perhaps move. The same factors work in reverse as well, with new students enrolling in our schools through the first few weeks of school (adds).

After taking such factors into account and including their effects into our actual enrollment counts, it presently appears that, overall, enrollment is approximately 212.5 students (FTE) shy of what our enrollment projections for the year were. There are some areas of significant discrepancy.

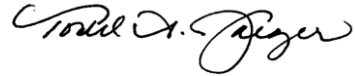
The attached table provides detail for each school site. The table compares the projections made for the current school year with the *current actual* enrollment. In the attached table, it is evident that enrollment is lower than anticipated, though it is also notable that this decrease is largely attributable to a few schools and their open enrollment students. It should also be noted, however, that our enrollment is considerably down at some schools. As we have just passed the Labor Day mark, we may expect an additional but small spike in enrollment, as some families do not return to school until after that holiday.

The numbers presented count each Kindergarten student as a 0.5 FTE student, in accordance with the state's funding formulas.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is presented solely for the Board's information. No action is requested at this time.

INITIATED BY:



Todd A. Jaeger, Associate to the Superintendent

Date: September 2, 2014



Patrick Nelson, Superintendent