

SCHOOL AND CLASS SIZE TASK FORCE

PARK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT MASTER PLAN - TASK FORCE MEETINGS

February 12, 2019

5:30 PM

ATTENDEES:

Meg Leaf
 Max Fink
 Rhea Schomaker

PRESENTERS:

Victoria Bergsagel
 Chris Guarino
 Sydney Rich

CRITERIA:

1. The PCSD current student-to-teacher ratio should be considered the maximum. Reductions are preferred.
2. As the student body grows, so should the system add square footage.
3. Smaller class sizes are worth significant investment.
4. Follow the research. Smaller schools contribute positively to student outcomes, including higher student achievement, better attendance, higher graduation rates and greater engagement in extracurricular activities. These effects are more powerful in relation to disadvantaged children. We should follow the researcher's suggestions ...
 - a. Elementary → 500 (300 if serving a high proportion of lower SES)
 - b. Secondary → 1000 (600 if serving a high proportion of lower SES)
 - i. We need to consider even smaller school size for middle schools
5. Explore several alternatives, e.g., meeting this criterion could possibly lead to two high schools and/or academies.
6. Larger school sizes might potentially work if there are smaller communities established within, yet we must follow the research.

OTHER NOTES:

- The group is aware of little individualization within current high school structure.
- Class size:
 - Park City is growing, and the community needs to make changes/invest to accommodate growth properly.
 - Even if we want to stay with the class sizes we have now, we need more space.
 - This will require an investment in infrastructure as well as more teachers and support staff.
- Consider surveying teachers about what they think is an acceptable class size (by subject)
- The group was interested in making sure that whatever results from this overall project has the long-term in mind. ("no quick fixes")
- The group was mostly in consensus about all topics covered. They want to follow the research.
- The only area that needs more discussion is whether the class size goal should be a blanket student to teacher ratio of 20:1 throughout PreK-12. (There was some discussion that indicated certain task force members thought that the current staffing ratios were acceptable.)

THINGS THAT NEED MORE INFORMATION:

- Incremental cost data to reduce class sizes.
 - Cognizant that lowering class size would include the need for more teachers and more square feet of space, the task force would like to know what it would cost to get to a 20:1 ratio throughout the school system in terms of both teacher salaries and space provision. They would also like to understand more detail concerning required investment to reduce the ratio even further.
- Would like to see long-term projections; 2027 demographic information may not be sufficient.