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To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day

Oct. 3, 2019

Dear Twin Rivers School Community,

First and foremost, I want to acknowledge that any discussion around school consolidation/closures can be intense, painful and highly emotional. Unfortunately, that's the collective reality for our Twin Rivers school community as we deal with the fiscal impact of declining enrollment, underutilized schools, and a structural budget deficit.

Our willingness to move decisively to address our challenges has resulted in \$16.9 million in budget reductions over a two-year period. But that's not enough.

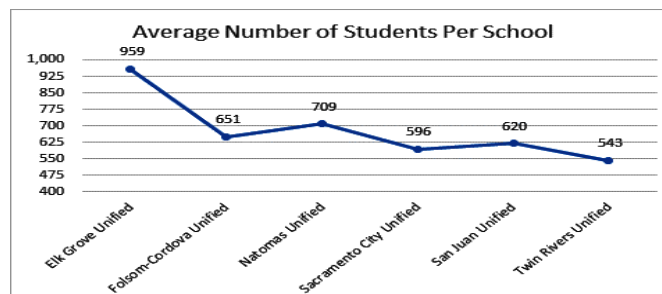
We are a district with a variety of grade configurations and too many schools for the number of students we currently educate. Among the 15 grade configurations—K-2, K-4, K-6, K-8, 3-6, 5-8, 7-8, 10-12 and 9-12. This is not an ideal standard. At current enrollment levels and operating so many different configurations, we have under-enrolled schools. Students are not concentrated on campuses in a way that allows the district to utilize staff efficiently and offer consistent and robust educational programming across all school sites.

On July 2, 2019, the Board of Trustees approved Board Policy 7112, based on a recommendation from the Student Housing Committee (SHC), appointed in March 2019 to review the Board's policy on student housing issues—optimal school size, optimal school grade configurations, school consolidations and school boundaries and staffing.

With the new policy, there is now a uniform grade configuration for what schools in Twin Rivers will look like as we move forward in rightsizing the district for the future:

- Elementary (Grades K – 6) 700 students
- Elementary (Grade K – 8) 900 students
- Intermediate (Grades 7 – 8) 1,000 students
- Secondary (Grades 9 - 12) 2,000 students

There are NO recommendations yet from SHC to close any schools. However, the committee has reviewed five different scenarios that involve closing schools. You can find the scenarios at <http://www.twinriversusd.org/Operations/Administrative-Services/Student-Housing-Committee/index.html>. The SHC webpage also includes the District's recommendation and information on schools and enrollment at the six largest districts in the area:



When it comes to the point where there is direction from the Board of Trustees, we will host a series of community informational meetings (November and December) to discuss next steps and the potential impact. We will let you know as soon as the dates, times and locations are finalized.

I know you have questions and concerns. We've already heard from you about class sizes and programs if schools are closed. Let me assure you that class sizes will not change with school consolidation/closure. Collective Bargaining Agreements and state laws determine class size, not the size of schools. Nor will we lose programs from school closures. The expectation is that all students have access to rigorous academic programs so they are college and/or career ready. We will continue to offer a full continuum of services and programs for our Special Education students. This means that if your child is at a regional program, that program will continue to exist.

The bottom line is our students will always be our number one priority, the center of our robust learning environment. No matter what the future brings, they will continue to benefit from exceptional academic programs, engaging instructional practices, and support in social-emotional learning.

Please know that throughout this long process the goal is to recommend options to achieve the best results for all students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Martinez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steve Martinez, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Twin Rivers Unified