

# Designing Booth Free School

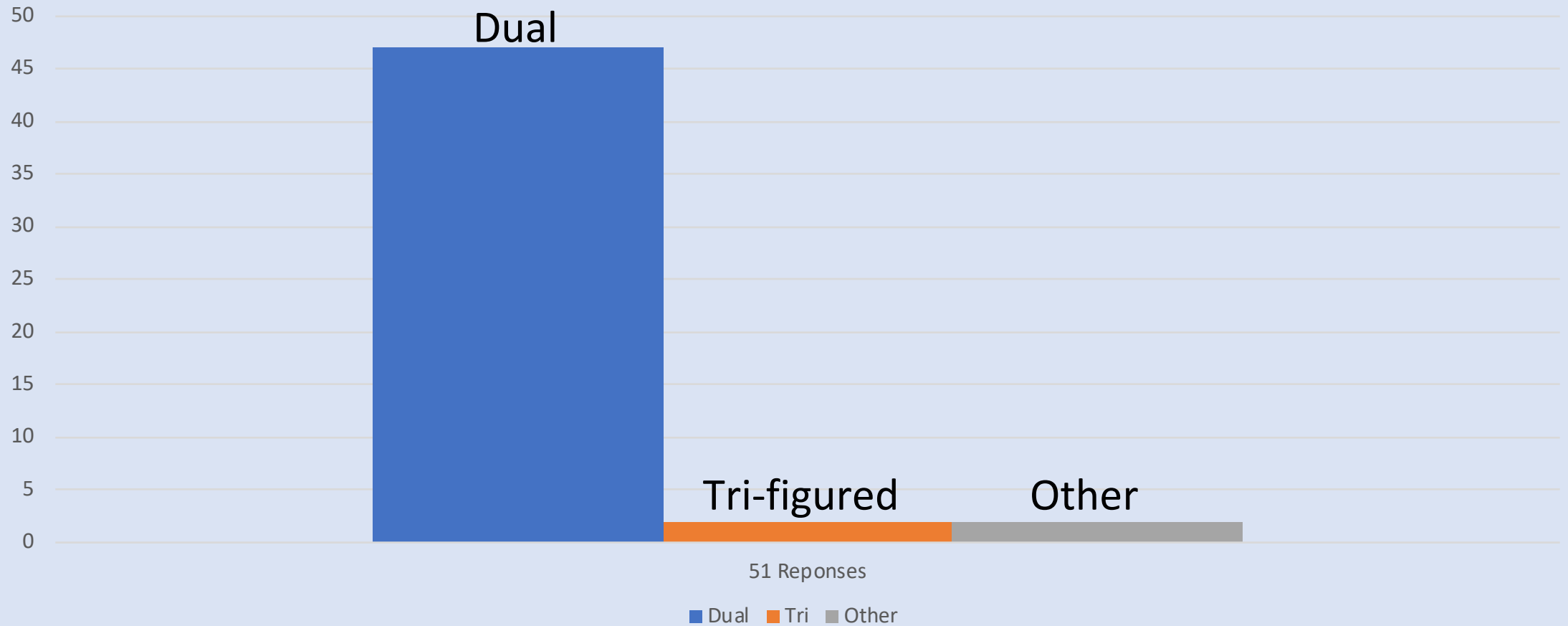


Presentation 3

February 12, 2020

Survey and Feedback

# Preference for Multiage Configuration



# Altering the Presentation a Bit

## Addressing Thoughts and Concerns from Surveys

- Montessori Model
- Speed
- Preparation
- Change Justification



# Multiage is NOT Montessori

- Montessori education is student-led and self-paced
- BFS have curricular expectations, requirements for learning, established objectives, project based learning.
- BOTH have small groupings and individualized supports.



# Timeline of Booth Free Planning

- Year 2010 - Booth Free's enrollment was 113 students
- Years 2010-2014 – Booth Free's enrollment dropped by 35 students.
- Year 2014 - Burnham School transitions to multiage with 53 enrolled students
- Year 2016 – Burnham School transitions to full multiage
- Year 2016-2019 – Data Collection, Research, Monitoring of Multiage

# Timeline of Booth Free Planning

- School Year 2018/2019 - Booth Free's enrollment 71 students
  - Discussion with teachers' union regarding multiage and process considerations
  - Professional development for curriculum, scope & sequence, writing development across elementary schools
  - Evaluation of curriculum, student data
  - Discussions with administration and town officials about possibility of multiage in Roxbury
  - Facilities analysis
  - Listening tour – culture and morale
  - Budget for 2019/2020 - no cuts to the BFS support in preparation for potential shift
  - Building teacher capacities with grade moves and training

# Timeline of Booth Free Planning

- Fall 2019 - Booth Free's enrollment 71 students
  - Discussion with Booth Free School administration regarding multiage models
  - Long Range Planning for Region 12 and Booth Free
  - Prowda Enrollment Report
- Winter 2020
  - Kindergarten enrollment
  - Morale
  - Retirement notifications
  - New hires contracted to the end of current school year
- Spring 2020
  - Decide on Booth Free structure
  - Post for the Booth Free positions (Three classroom teachers, one math teacher, one reading teacher)
  - Professional development for the teachers chosen to teach at Booth Free
  - Social opportunities for students with multiage peers

# Timeline of Booth Free Planning

- Summer 2020
  - Professional Development for Booth Free Teachers
  - Classroom Visitations
  - Ice Cream Socials
  - Teacher Meet & Greet
- Fall 2020
  - Social Events
  - Additional Support Placed at Booth Free
  - Multiage Starts
  - Teachers given additional planning time to support the model
  - Professional Development throughout

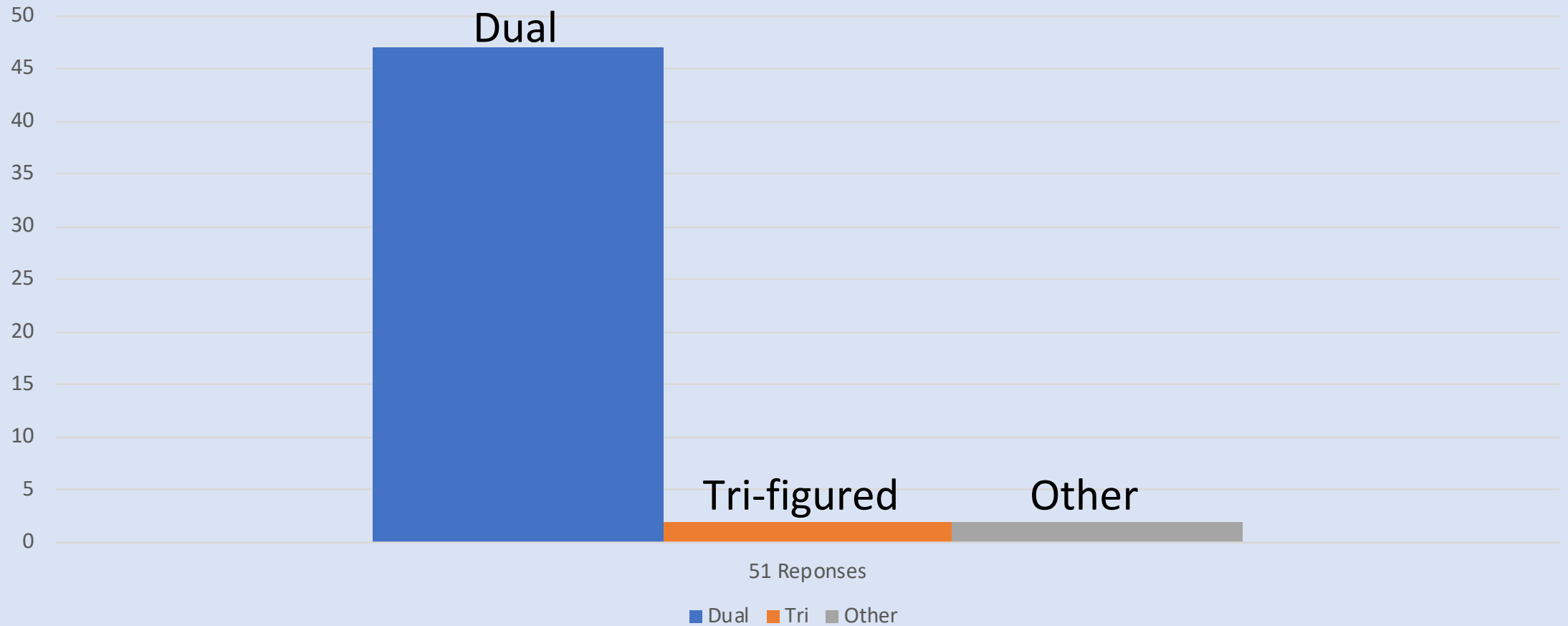
# “Honestly - Why the Change?”

## BAN THE AVERAGE

- Sustainability issue of the current model
- Educational opportunities for more time on task
- Social issues
- Culture enhancements
- Capability to focus on Booth Free

## MULTIAGE in REGION 12

# Preference for Multiage Configuration





# Feedback – Question 2 Concerns for children

- **Academic** - “How will advanced students stay challenged?”, “How will repetitive curriculum be minimized?”
- **Social** - “Social differences between the ages”, “My child may not like the multiage experience”
- **Time restrictions**
- **Size** - “Not getting enough individualized attention”, “Students who struggle will get lost”, “Losing the close connections with teachers”
- **Return to Grade leveling** - “Transitioning back at Shepaug”

# Suggestions made by families

- BFS students shadow Burnham students
- Transition in the multiage, one grade level combination at a time
- Start in 2021-2022
- Move staff from Burnham to help the transition
- Tours of Burnham – *or Cornwall*

# Synthesis of Information

- 92% of survey responses choose dual grade level over tri-figured
- Choice of dual over tri-figured level response does not mean endorsement of multiage classroom
- Information parents are seeking is specifically about their child's adjustment to the multiage grade levels
- Families are concerned with the transition process
- Trust issues exist

Superintendent's Recommendation

Transition Booth Free School to  
Multiage using the Dual Grade Level  
Configuration

# Formal Next Steps

- Meeting to Showcase Dual Grade Scheduling
  - Typical student
  - Students with varying needs
- Final Decision
  - Sharing information with the Booth Free School community before the Board
- Parent Meeting
  - Questions and Answers