Redwood Task Force Update

Emerging Ideas Presented to SUSD Board - April 20, 2017



Overall Context and Vision

- 2016-17 Redwood Middle School Task Force efforts support the SUSD mission and ongoing commitment to continuous improvement

Saratoga Union School District Mission:

- "Create an innovative public school system that stimulates intellectual curiosity, providing academic rigor for each and every learner, and instills leadership, responsibility, and global citizenship in a safe and nurturing environment where learners THRIVE."

Centio

2016-17 Task Force Overview

Based upon broad and collaborative community input, the Redwood Middle School Task Force project identified areas of excellence to celebrate at RMS and four areas for focus:

- Student and Community Wellness
- School Climate, Culture & Safety
- Student Choice & Electives
- School Schedule

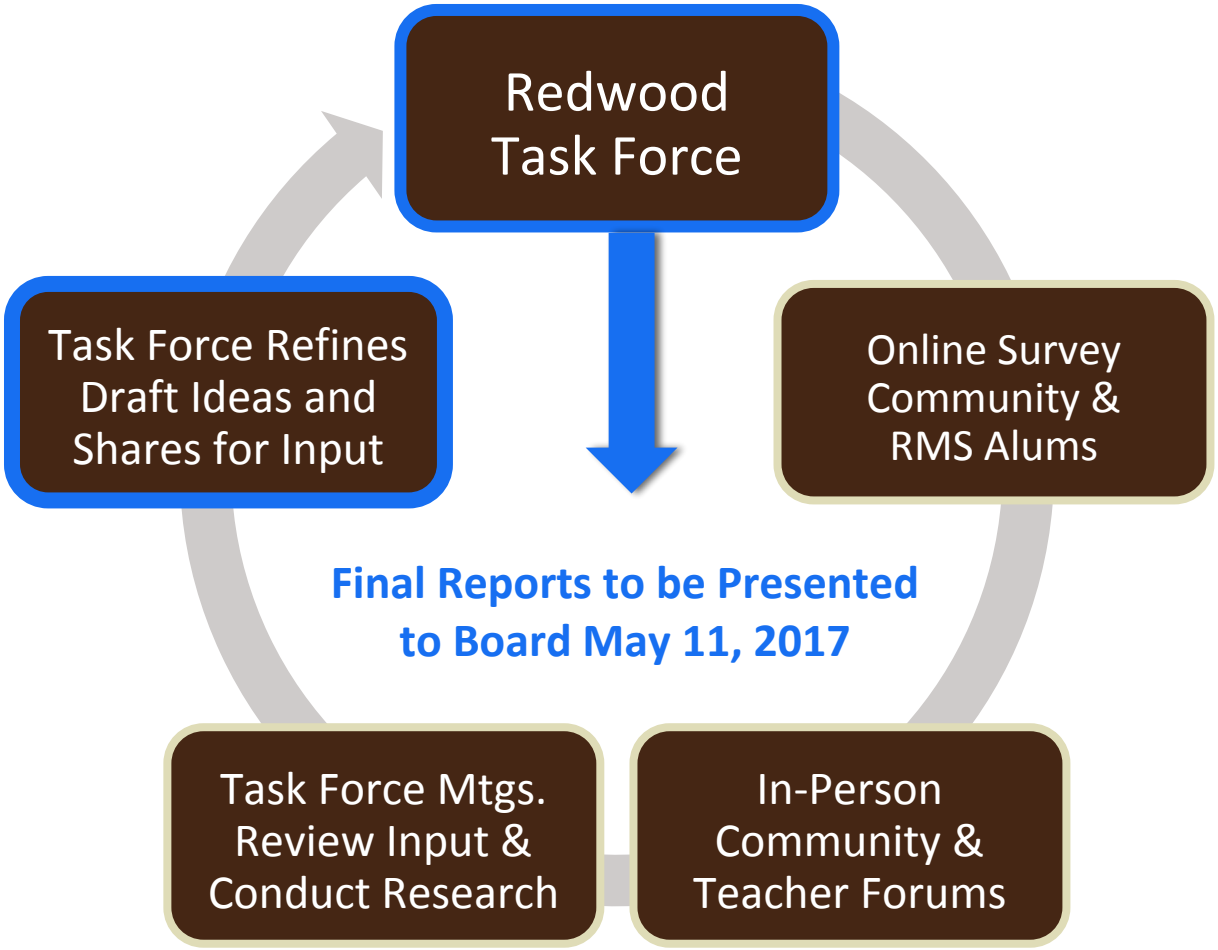
Phase 4 Refinement of Ideas

Phase 1
Community Brainstorming
July - Sept.

Phase 2
Task Force Kick-Off
Oct. - Dec.

Phase 3
Research
Jan. 9-28

Phase 4
Refinement
April - May



Centio

Shared Vision for Student Success

With input from Board / teachers & staff / parents / students, SUSD community shares common spirit for students to be:

- happy
- safe
- resilient
- connected
- engaged
- confident & empowered
- prepared & organized
- balanced (able to manage time / navigate choices)

- responsible and mature young adults who are prepared for their futures and contribute effectively to their communities

While there is a shared spirit across community for desired outcomes, the definitions of each term / concept and how best to achieve these varies significantly across the community

Centio

Emerging Vision for Possibilities

Areas of 2016-17 Task Force Focus

Student & Community Wellness	Climate, Culture & Safety
Increase student resiliency through health and wellness education, activities and classes	**Build and strengthen connections between stakeholder groups throughout the community and foster student empowerment. Attend to campus/facilities safety needs.**
• Wellness Week • Routine communication & activities focused on wellness (8th Period) • Common "Griffin Time" class for all • Explore more opportunities for before / after school activities (LGS Recreation and other options)	• Create School Safety Action Committee • Provide family/staff social opportunities • Support teachers in creating teacher wellness
• Comprehensive health program • Create Wellness Center	• Develop school-wide service learning program • Student-generated ideas for self-selected education and clubs • Provide parent education opportunities and parent-teacher partnerships to support student success and wellness

Emerging Vision for Possibilities

Areas of 2016-17 Task Force Focus

Student Choice & Electives	School Schedule
Create more opportunities for students to explore interests and passions through electives that are engaging for students & staff	**Enhance and improve the use of time during the day to increase time for projects, depth, student support, connections, and relationships**
• Research potential new electives and more hands-on offerings • Align offerings with high school • Create professional development opportunities for electives • Consider opportunities to add other elective options based on research (see: specifics to be in final report) • Evaluate potential for semester long electives as part of schedule	• Review and consider merits of block or hybrid block schedule including “Griffin Time” • Develop ideas for possible “Griffin Time” periods (i.e., Digital Citizenship, Academic Assistance, Advisory, SEL, Health) • Create more consistent start/release times • Pilot test schedule for few weeks / month(s)
• Create longer-term strategic plan for electives / implementation	• Determine opportunities for professional development to help teachers implement new schedule, including longer classes, “Griffin Time” and SEL • Implement new schedule 2018-19

Next Steps & Action Items

- April 21-28 — Online survey for community input
- April 24 & 26 — In-person Community Forum discussions
- April 26 — Teacher and staff input

- May 1 — Task Force meets to revise emerging ideas
- May 3 — Teacher and staff review of revised ideas
- May 11 — Revised ideas presented for Board action
- May 12-15 — Community updates on progress / action
- May 17 — Task Force identifies next steps and timelines

- June-July — Implementation plans formalized and integrated into plans for 2017-18 school year

It is recommended that any action items / timing be considered in context of other ongoing priorities at RMS to balance / stage workload and implementation resources

Centio

Board Questions & Discussion

Thank You!