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.”
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 1  
Community Brainstorming  
July - Sept.

Phase 2  
Task Force Kick-Off  

Phase 3  
Research  
Jan. 9-28

Phase 4  
Refinement  
April - May

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Redwood Task Force

Task Force Refines Draft Ideas and Shares for Input

Online Survey Community & RMS Alums

In-Person Community & Teacher Forums

Task Force Mtgs. Review Input & Conduct Research

Final Reports to be Presented to Board May 11, 2017
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.
## Emerging Vision for Possibilities
### Areas of 2016-17 Task Force Focus

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

#### Areas of 2016-17 Task Force Focus

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

Thank You!