



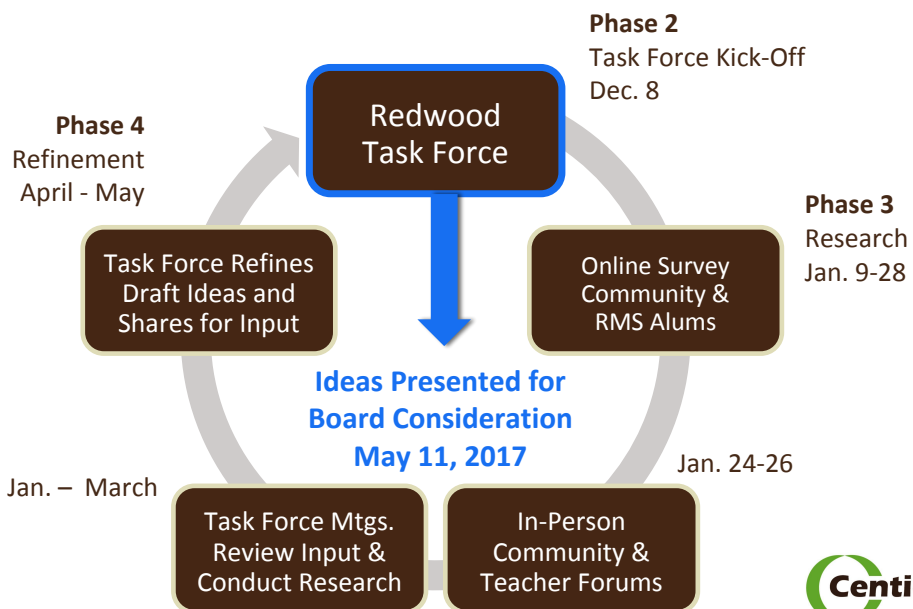
2016-17 Redwood Task Force

February 17, 2017 – SUSD Board & Community Update



Phase 3 Research Ongoing

Areas of Focus: Wellness. Culture. Electives. Schedule.



Examples of Task Force Work in Progress Draft Ideas for Emerging Vision

Wellness	Climate & Culture
<p>... exploring best practices that educate parents, students, and other stakeholders (staff, community members) to promote student connectedness and create support systems to help build resiliency, which will allow all RMS students to thrive socially, emotionally, physically, and academically.</p>	<p>... exploring ideas about creating a school identity where people can feel connection and belonging through community service, character building programs, students-supporting-students programs, student clubs/activities, and community events to create opportunities for as many RMS students as possible to feel safe, cared for, and successful.</p>
Schedule	Electives
<p>... exploring different ways of structuring the day to create opportunities for as many RMS students as possible to have reduced stress, sustained learning experiences, and better relationships with adults.</p>	<p>... exploring ways to offer a relevant electives program to create opportunities for as many RMS students as possible to create a smooth transition to high school, and for students to thrive and grow academically and socially.</p>

Examples of Community Input from January 2017 Online Surveys & Forums

Wellness	Climate & Culture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● support system at home and at school ● healthy body and mind ● academic support ● equip students with life skills ● communication: school & parents ● lessen stress given high expectations ● building students' self esteem ● celebrating differences ● less homework ● bring students together socially ● teach internet/online safety ● more health education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve safety during drop-off and pick-up ● value hard work and critical thinking skills ● create a more fun environment ● campus safety (fence, security, vandalism) ● embrace diversity ● improve communication ● inform community about safety issues/developments ● address academic/emotional bullying
Schedule	Electives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● consider block schedule ● 6 period day (more time for each class) ● two period core ● start & end time in sync with other schools ● after-school activities too late in day ● same dismissal time, eliminate ½ days ● simplify the schedule ● give 7th graders two electives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● more options, two electives for 7th ● consider speech and debate ● do not have new electives every year ● match teacher interests with electives ● music as an elective (orchestra) ● allow students to pursue their passions ● more foreign language options ● social media/online safety course in 6th ● higher-level electives for advanced kids ● semester-long electives

Examples of Research Ideas Submitted from Task Force, Surveys & Forums

Examples of model programs at other Bay Area schools:

- Crocker, Hillsborough (schedule & community service)
- Campbell Union (community service & staff wellness)
- Local middle schools: Fisher, Miller, Union, Blach
- Other independent and charter schools (Nueva SEL, Lakeside)
- SEARCH class at Miller...

Examples of additional resources suggested for review:

- Challenge Success (.org) - Denise Clark Pope / Stanford
- 20time project, Monterey
- #ICanHelp anti-negativity, Net Safety
- GreaterGood.berkeley.edu, gratitude...



Examples of Input from Jan. 2017 Alumni & Alumni Family Online Survey

Most Impactful / Memorable about RMS:

- Inspirational and motivational **teachers**
- **Exploratory wheel** subjects / elective options
- School organized **events** & field trips
- **Art** program / Media Arts class / working as art docent
- **Music** program / musical / marching band
- Lunchtime **sports**
- 8th grade graduation
- **Friendships** and meeting new people
- Learning life **skills**
- Developing a passion for **learning**
- **Inclusive** community



Examples of Input from Jan. 2017 Alumni & Alumni Family Online Survey

Opportunities to Improve:

- create more **elective options**, including STEM
- less focus on math and more focus on **life skills**
- more student body **involvement** (leadership)
- **orchestra** should be a class
- more **language** options
- prioritize **mental health** & balance
- minimize **academic peer pressure**
- more **field trips** and activities outside of class
- better/healthier **food**
- more **preparation for high school**



Examples Phase 1 Parent Input: Community Desires Similar Outcomes

We want our kids to:

BALANCE

- Be less stressed
- Love learning
- Discover their passions
- Have a balanced curriculum not solely focused on academics
- Develop good character
- Have a well-rounded education with a broad set of subjects

Be happy
Be safe

Be prepared for
the future
Be confident in
themselves
Be responsible
and mature
young adults

RIGOR

- Be academically advanced
- Focus the most time on math and science
- Learn advanced math topics
- Learn a challenging curriculum
- Be competitive with peers academically

Examples of Jan. 2017 In-Person Forums Brainstorm on Shared Values

How can SUSD balance desire for excellence & reduce student stress?

- Need diverse models to define success for kids and parents
- Help parents understand letter grades
- Break or free period so students don't run ragged
- Opportunity for education on good vs. debilitating stress
- Educate parents on homework and research role
- Consider making grades optional, prefer more teacher narrative reports
- Keep math in balance with other subjects
- Respect each other as parents (parents stressed too)
- Reduce screen time for kids
- Support activities to reduce stress (arts, dance, exercise...)
- Consider homework: time, expectations, support, the research
- Offer choice challenge homework packets for those who want
- Teach resiliency, life skills, study skills to deal with stress

Examples of Jan. 2017 In-Person Forums Brainstorm on Shared Values

How can SUSD balance desire for excellence & reduce student stress?

- Increase parent awareness that Ok for students to try and seek help
- For kids with special interests, how do we give deep choice
- Teach importance of respect for similarities, differences, values
- Parent integration: how do we build community all feel they belong?
- Accept limited resources and balance allocation of resources
- Evaluate home and school expectations, balance for kids
- Support teachers to coordinate expectations across subjects
- Give time for students to learn and demonstrate interests, more engaged if students love learning and are passionate about school
- **Example of Critical Question from Participant:** *What tools do we need to build resilience, study skills, mindfulness and allow kids to explore and teach them to be respectful?*

Next Steps & Action Items

- March Potential RTF site visits to model programs
Opportunity to consult subject-area experts
Task Force continues to develop initial ideas
- April 20 Emerging ideas presented for Board preview
- April 24 Online survey for input closes May 5
- April 24 & 26 Community Forums for input / discussion
- May 3 Teacher and staff for input / discussion
- May 11 Revised ideas presented for Board review
- May 17 Task Force concludes

Community comments may be submitted to the Task Force at anytime by email: RMSTaskForce@saratogausd.org.



Thank You!