

May 1, 2023

Dear Pomona Articulation Area Staff and Families,

I have enjoyed the opportunity this month to get to know so many of our Pomona area families. Together, over three sessions, we have explored the collaborative vision created by the articulation area principals to deliver a thriving 6-12 secondary experience at Pomona High School starting in the 2024-25 school year. **This vision is to provide extraordinary experiences for our students—building academic and workforce readiness skills as early as 6th grade to best prepare students for rigorous college and career pathways through 12th grade.**

Updates from Community Conversations & Engagement Opportunities

We have had three community conversations about this vision and received many helpful comments from [our Google Form](#). Your engagement has helped us understand what is most important to you and your family, and is informing how we design safe, welcoming and thriving experiences for our students, especially our younger learners. If you have not been able to attend conversations but are interested in touring Pomona High School, please join us for a tour at 3:00pm on May 3 to understand how different age groups would be served within the building. For more information and to sign up, [please fill out this form](#).

We have also hosted lunch-and-learns with students at Pomona and Moore and engaged directly with their staff, who shared the questions and opportunities that are most important to them.

Timeline

Ms. Fletcher and I have been invited to present our vision to the Board of Education at their May 3 study session. This plan to create a 6-12 at Pomona requires Board approval. The earliest that grades 6-8 would be offered at Pomona would be for the 2024-25 school year. Please visit our [updated webpage](#) where you can find detailed responses to questions, information on upcoming events, and more resources.

Our Reality

Our articulation area is facing significant challenges. Moore Middle School is Pomona's only middle school and will be Jeffco's lowest enrolled middle school next year, with 298 projected students, but capacity to serve nearly 800. Since 2018 Moore's enrollment has declined by 50%, making it difficult to provide students with the quality experiences we believe they need in order to thrive. If Moore were to close and consolidate with another middle school, it would be a school outside of the Pomona articulation area, meaning Pomona High School risks losing its only feeder school. Long term, we believe this would jeopardize the sustainability of the entire articulation area, Pomona High School in particular.

We also know that there are fewer students who live in the Pomona articulation area boundary and only about half choose to attend our schools. In a choice environment, shifting boundaries

will not solve our problem; we need a solution that will create stronger programming by maximizing our resources. This is why we have asked the district for their support to explore, together with our community, the opportunity to create a thriving 6-12 secondary experience at Pomona High School starting in the 2024-25 school year.

What is next?

First, the Board of Education will study this topic during their May 3 study session. You can see our [presentation materials here](#). If you would like to watch the session, you will be able to view the [live-stream or recorded presentation here](#). There will not be opportunity for public comment at this study session.

If you would like to share your point of view with the Board of Education, you can [sign up](#) for public comment at a regular meeting or a special public hearing on this topic. Here are some upcoming opportunities:

- May 11, 2023: Public Comment at the Board of Education meeting
- May 24, 2023: Public Hearing with the Board of Education on the vision for a 6-12 school at Pomona (held at Pomona High School Library, 5:00-6:00pm)
- June 22, 2023: Public Comment at the Board of Education meeting and potential Board vote on the 6-12 school at Pomona

We are proud of the school communities within this articulation area and excited to join as one community to create a vision for new opportunities for our students – the POWER OF POMONA.

In Partnership,
Patrick Rock
Principal, Pomona High School