SRCS Transition Plan Updates

Week of 04.14.2025

Dear Parents, Guardians, Students, SRCS Staff, and Community Members,

We must share timely information and update you on our progress as we transition to our Junior and Senior High Schools and Elementary consolidations. As part of our effort to ensure timely communication with our community, we will share weekly updates about this process.

Below is what we have coordinated or are working on this week:

Communication

- We are advertising 2025-2026 school registration on Wine Country Radio and Sonoma Family Life Magazine. We also facilitated radio interviews over the past week with SRCS leadership on Wine Country Radio to talk about the future of our schools. We plan to provide more information about these efforts on KBBF Radio on April 17.
- We released an infographic explaining that the middle schools that will merge with high schools will be two separate programs with distinct courses, bell schedules and staff on one campus. We shared this infographic via Parent Square, social media, and via email. We are working on an elementary infographic as well.
- We had a productive meeting with the SCOE and SRCS Ad Hoc Committee on April 10. We will meet again to continue our partnership on April 17.
- We shared the Panther Cub Night set for April 17 at Santa Rosa High School with our community via Parent Square and social media. We also shared (the infographic mentioned above) and the Panther Cub Night with our feeder districts with support from SCOE.
- We reviewed and answered dozens of questions we received from the community through the Transition Plan page on our website. The answers to these questions will be added to the FAQ section of the Transition page soon. We will also ensure the weekly update we send to our community about consolidation efforts on April 14 will be added to the webpage, along with the next Board update.
- Our Public Information Officer, James Hodgman, met with the Implementation Team on April 14 and will meet with the Design Team on April 18. He also met with our IT team on April 18 to discuss updates for the Transition webpage.

Educational Services -

Empower Teams	**Actions / Decisions**

Counselors	• Debi Cardozo, Director, College and Career Readiness, is scheduling a meeting with all secondary counselors to discuss transition support.
At MHS/HSMS	• Executive Director Alisa Haley facilitated the last Empower Team meeting • Decided to keep bell schedules as is for the upcoming school year and will re-evaluate as we move forward next year • We are working with MHS/HSMS to determine what traditions they would like to continue and what they can combine between schools, such as Spirit Days • Discussed behavioral expectations to align expectations • Staff meetings will be conducted jointly with junior and senior high school staff to promote community, and separately as needed. • Staff will use the Minga app to support on campus safety monitoring needs for junior and senior high school • Opportunities for summer training for AVID and IB were offered. • A no backpack rule will continue for seventh and eighth graders. Junior High School students will also have access to lockers. • Next steps are Safety Plans and School Plans for Student Achievement review
SRHS/SRMS	• April 4, 2025, Executive Director Dr. Perez, SRHS Principal Dr. Fong, and Assistant Principal Finnerty met with the SRHS English Department to discuss concerns with facilities. • April 16 is the next Empower Team meeting at SRMS. • April 17, Panther Cub Night: A welcome event is being held for rising seventh and eighth graders, families and staff at SRHS. • Working with facilities to find solutions for specific needs such as sinks in the DeSoto building, lunch spaces, and storage.
Albert Biella	• Planning events, along with Brook Hill Elementary School similar to open houses, to welcome families from closing schools. • Getting ready for their site color run on April 25th.

	● Held a listening session with school staff and district leadership last week
Brook Hill	● Held a Science Night on April 10th at Luther Burbank Elementary School for current and incoming students from Brook Hill ● Working on coordinating additional events
Counselors	● Debi Cardozo is scheduling a meeting with all secondary counselors to discuss transition support.

Special Services

- (Ongoing) Determining spaces for specialists such as SLPs, School Psychologists, Occupational Therapists (OTs)
- Visiting Biella with preschool community partners to start planning for the preschool move to Biella in 26-27
- Finalizing secondary spaces
- Determined our last elementary program site, and are notifying families
- Working with facilities to identify required upgrades to rooms for 25-26
- Determining site assignments for SLPs, school psychs, OTs
- Posted open teaching positions for 25-26
- Continuing to hold transition meetings for students

Business Services

- **Fiscal Support & Planning:** In partnership with Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE), Santa Rosa City Schools (SRCS) is excited to welcome two Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) personnel who will be onsite two to three days per week beginning the week of April 21. They will work directly with us in areas identified by our fiscal team to support preparation of the Third Interim report and development of the 2025–26 budget.
    - This support is not related to a state loan—SRCS is not in that status, nor do we anticipate being in that status. Their expertise will enhance our capacity, improve efficiency, and help us more clearly communicate our financial story in support of student programs and the upcoming transitions.
- **Repeated from last week:** Kelley Cook purchased supplies for staff moves and school site consolidation. The supplies will be delivered to sites the week of April 21. Kelley is coordinating the placement of additional waste and recycling dumpsters at sites significantly impacted by school consolidations. The additional dumpsters will be on site and available for use the week of April 14.
- **Repeated from last week:** Erik Oden met with the Empower Teams at Montgomery HS, toured areas of the campus, and answered questions from the team to determine the

best places to house the seventh and eighth graders on campus. The Montgomery HS Empower Team has settled on the first floor of the new building, with restrooms and 15 portables at the back of campus.
- **Repeated from last week:** Planning for a Piner HS seventh and eighth grade area is also underway, as we collaborate with a design team and the site staff on a solution.
- **Repeated from last week:** Planning is underway to add new restrooms at Albert Biella Elementary School to support the move from Lewis Early Education Academy and Steele Lane Elementary in 2026.
- **Repeated from last week:** Planning is underway for TK/K rooms at sites to accommodate the influx of students.
- **Repeated from last week**: Erik Oden and the facilities team continue to work with the site Empower Teams at SRHS/SRMS and MHS/HSMS to find appropriate spaces for everyone.
    - Facilities are working with SPED to finalize classroom locations. We are also planning for year two moves, including TK/K buildings at SRMS and Comstock and a new classroom building with bathrooms for PHS.

Wellness & Engagement

- Intradistrict Transfer appeal meetings have been completed and we are notifying families of the outcomes of their appeals
- 2025-26 School-Based Therapists will provide mental health services at SRCS schools at similar levels to the 24-25 school year.

Human Resources

- On Friday April 18 teachers from Biella and Brook Hill who are being transferred to one of our other elementary schools will begin selecting their desired school and grade levels based on seniority and available positions.
- The process for secondary teachers who are being transferred will begin during the week of April 21. A specific date has not been identified.

Glossary

CNS: Child Nutrition Services

CSEA: Classified School Employees Association

CTE: Career Technical Education

HS: High School

HSMS: Herbert Slater Middle School

MHS: Montgomery High School

MOU: Memorandum of Understanding

OT: Occupational Therapy

PHS: Piner High School

SELPA: Special Education Local Plan Area

SCOE: Sonoma County Office of Education

SLPs: Speech Language Pathologists

SRCS: Santa Rosa City Schools

SPED: Special Education Department

SRHS: Santa Rosa High School

SRMS: Santa Rosa Middle School

SRTA: Santa Rosa Teachers Association

TK/K: Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten

VAPA: Visual and Performing Arts