*Vision

"We envision KPBSD students
who engage in their learning,
participate in their community,
reach high levels of achievement,
and graduate prepared for their future."

- Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

* **Initial request to reconfigure Soldotna Middle School and Sterling Elementary** (Fall 2011)
  * District Strategic Plan
  * Nikiski Middle School and High School reconfiguration
  * Seward Community Discussions(currently)
  * Enrollment trends at middle school level
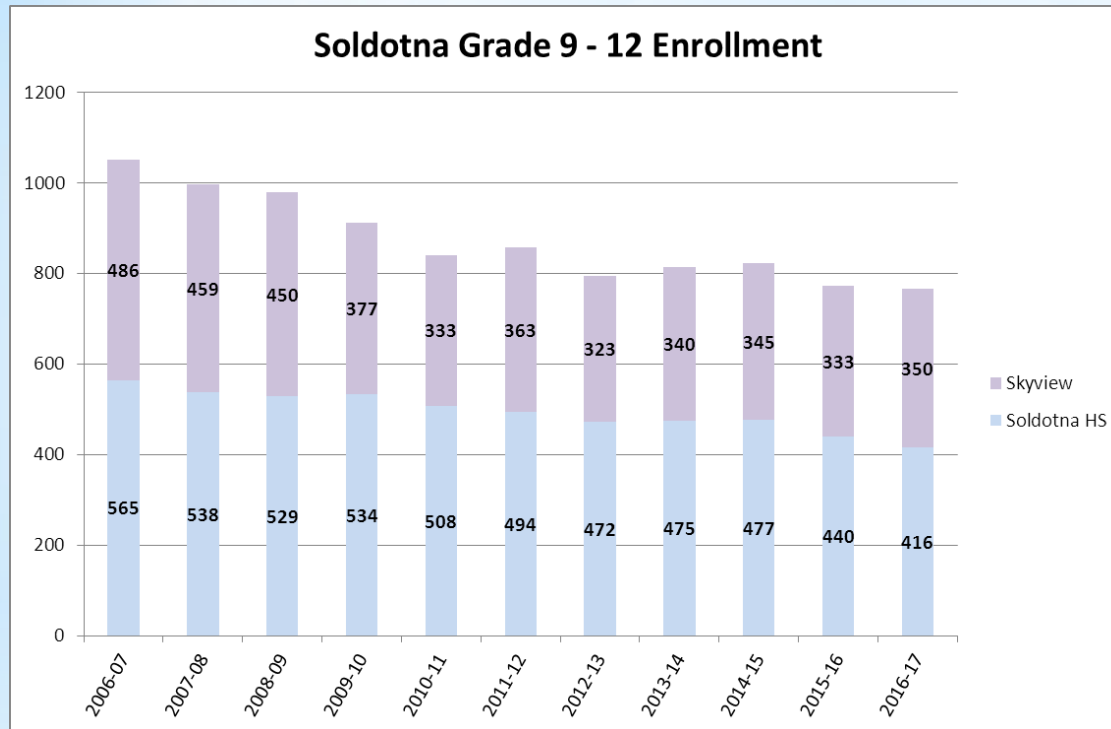 * Current sixth grade opportunities – allowance to expand
  * Site Council discussions

* **Conducted survey to gain feedback from community on next steps** (September 2012)

* Why are we having these conversations?

* Approximately 66% agreed to support changing current configurations but asked for more information. (1,067 parents, students, and employees started the survey; 989 completed the survey.)

* Several options and school configurations were considered by ten principals and District administration

* Focus groups—elementary teachers and community leaders, parents—met with the ten school principals and District administration

* Strong support for moving forward from both focus groups

* Survey results
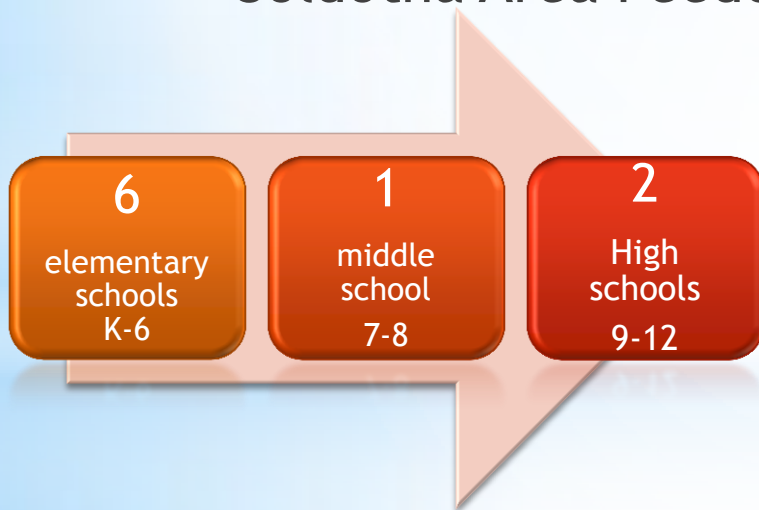
*A critical element is projected enrollment

Soldotna Grade 9 - 12 Enrollment

*Enrollment

School	2006.07	2007.08	2008.09	2009.10	2010.11	2011.12	2012.13	2013.14	2014.15	2015.16	2016.17
Soldotna MS	481	455	443	412	371	401	404	369	355	381	406
Soldotna HS	565	538	529	534	508	494	472	475	477	440	416
Skyview	486	459	450	377	333	363	323	340	345	333	350
Total HS	1051	997	979	911	841	857	795	815	822	773	766

*Loss of course offerings and opportunities at high school level

*Loss of Programs: electives, Career and Technical Education (CTE), Advanced Placement, etc.

*Soldotna Area Feeder System Concerns:

6
elementary schools
K-6

1
middle school
7-8

2
High schools
9-12

*Why do things need to change?

* January 10 – conducted focus groups to provide information and receive feedback from other sources – Elementary teacher representatives and Community members

* February 11 – conducted 2nd round of Community meetings at all of the Soldotna area schools

* Continued Transparency

* "There are lots of things to like about this plan. I like the opportunities it can provide students in the classroom. The 'flow' of students to a single high school offers improved community relationships rather than pressing students to choose between two high schools. A challenge will be to nurture high levels of student involvement so that this reconfiguration does not result in less activities being offered to students." - **Paul Kupferschmid**, Kasilof community member

* "I'm encouraged by the consensus of support from those in attendance, for the proposed changes." - **Ryan Kapp**, community member, business owner, Soldotna High Alumni

*Focus Group

* "Any change we make will require sacrifice. Only through making sacrifices can we better our schools and community. Concentrating on the end goal and its benefits are a sure path to success. Dwelling on the sacrifices will be the quick road to failure."
- Paul McConnell, parent and community member, Sterling Elementary and Soldotna Middle School

* "I believe change is long overdue. This hasn't been a two year conversation; it's been a 20 year conversation. I think after the transition takes place and the dust settles, the benefits of a single high school and two middle schools will be clear." – **John Mills**, teacher, Tustumena Elementary

* Focus Group

* "The end result of the model I support will be a more unified community and more options for both the middle school students and the high school students. I really like the way the principals are already sharing and discussing how class schedules will be done to maximize teachers for the students benefits." - **Renee Rybak**, parent SMS and Skyview High School

* "I support Soldotna's transition to two balanced junior high schools which feed into a single high school. One high school will allow for stronger academic and athletic options for all students without disrupting the existing elementary schools." - **Kristin Mitchell,** parent and APC, member, Soldotna Montessori and Kenai Middle School

*Focus Group

"Bringing the Community" together to offer the best possible educational experience for our students:

* Two 7–9 grade middle schools with 9th grade house (300 students each)

* One 10–12 grade high school (600 students)

*The Vision

kpbsd
where kids come first

* **Implement two 7-9 grade schools**
    * Approximately 300 students at each school
    * Each school fed by 3 elementary schools
* **Implement one 10-12 grade high school**
    * Approximately 600 students at this school
    * Fed by the two new 7-9 grade schools
* Original recommended implementation date: Fall of 2015
* Focus Group asked: *why not move up to Fall 2014?*

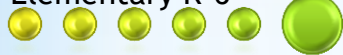**The KPBSD School Board will make final decision**

*Current conversation

K-Beach Elementary K-6

Sterling Elementary K-6

Tustumena Elementary K-6

7-9 current Skyview campus

Redoubt Elementary K-6

Soldotna Elementary K-6

Soldotna Montessori K-6

7-9 current SMS campus

10-12 grade high school

Current SoHi campus

*Current conversation

* 10-12 High School

o Personalization opportunities – in depth pathway development

o Enhanced blended learning

o Wider variety of course offering

o Piloting opportunities for district-wide implementation

*7-9 Junior High Schools

o Natural feeder to provide smaller community setting

o Enhanced exploratory options based on collaborative scheduling

o Advanced opportunities for 7th and 8th grade students

o Transitions kept to a minimum

o 9th grade options

*What are the possibilities?

* Current programs

  o Overall, current numbers indicate similar amount of opportunities will be available

* Future programs

  o Sports opportunities will be enhanced for the most part

  o Academic opportunities will be created in areas lost by declining enrollment

* 9th grade participation with high school activities

* Activities

* Task Force
  o Responsible for working on social/emotional aspects of a possible change – Culture, mascots, colors, etc.
* Transition work group
  o Responsible for working on pathways, exploratory opportunities and refining instructional delivery model
* Administrative work group
  o Responsible for transportation, scheduling, staffing and input on instructional delivery system
* **April 1, 2013**: school board work session (to answer Board questions from March 4). In order for the various groups to get started, we will request School Board action at the regular meeting.

*Next steps

*What questions do you have?

*What do you think?
  *Positives
  *Concerns
  *Considerations

*Thoughts?