

# \*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



# \* Soldotna Area School Conversations

**February 11, 2013, 6:00 PM**

- K-Beach Elementary School
- Redoubt Elementary School
- Skyview High School
- River City Academy
- Soldotna Elementary School
- Soldotna Montessori Charter School
- Soldotna High School
- Soldotna Middle School
- Sterling Elementary School
- Tustumena Elementary School

**\* 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

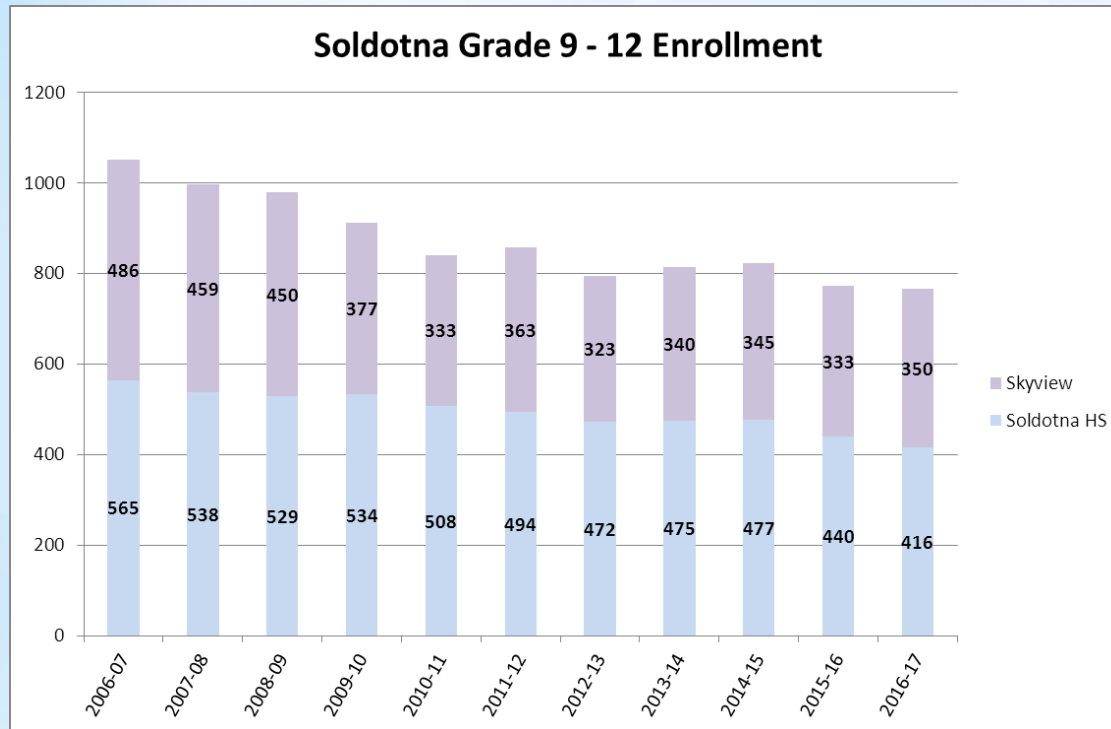
**\* Conducted survey to gain feedback from community on next steps (September 2012)**

**\* 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



# \* Enrollment

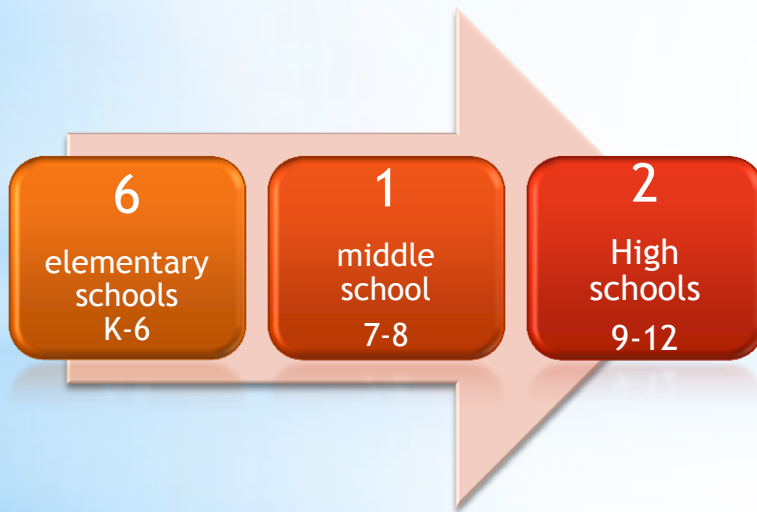
School	2006.07	2007.08	2008.09	2009.10	2010.11	2011.12	2012.13	2013.14	2014.15	2015.16	2016.17
Soldotna MS	481	455	443	412	371	401	404	369	355	381	406
Soldotna HS	565	538	529	534	508	494	472	475	477	440	416
Skyview	486	459	450	377	333	363	323	340	345	333	350
Total HS	1051	997	979	911	841	857	795	815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

**“Bringing the Community” together to offer the best possible educational experience for our students:**

- \* Two 7-9 grade middle schools with 9<sup>th</sup> grade house (300 students each)
- \* One 10-12 grade high school (600 students)

\*The Vision

- \* 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:



\* Why do things  
need to change?



- \* **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 school

- \* 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



10-12 grade  
high school

Current SoHi campus

Redoubt Elementary  
K-6



Soldotna  
Elementary K-6



Soldotna Montessori  
K-6



\*Current conversation

- \* **February 11, 2013:** meetings held at ten schools in Soldotna and greater area
- \* **February 12, 2013:** principal work group reconvenes to discuss individual school meetings
- \* **February 11– 22, 2013:** feedback welcomed by principals and the District (electronic or paper feedback forms) \*Survey link: [www.kpbsd.org](http://www.kpbsd.org)
- \* **Late February:** feedback to be reviewed by the work group
- \* **March 4, 2013:** school board work session prior to School Board Meeting. *\*The public is welcome to attend work session, and offer public testimony at the evening school board meeting.*
- \* **April 1, 2013:** school board work session and possible School Board action. *\* The public is welcome to attend work session, and offer public testimony at the evening school board meeting.*

\*Timeline

\* “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

\* “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

\* “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 principles 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

\*What questions do you have?

\*What do you think?

\*Positives

\*Concerns

\*Considerations

\*Thoughts?

- \* Please share feedback with your school principal.
- \* To offer your thoughts via an online form open February 11-22, 2013, go to [www.KPBSD.org](http://www.KPBSD.org) and follow the link in the community interest section.

The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to develop productive, responsible citizens who are prepared to be successful in a dynamic world.

\*Thank you!

