

# PIEDMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## M E M O R A N D U M

**TO:** Governing Board

**FROM:** Randall Booker, Superintendent

**DATE:** February 8, 2017

**SUBJECT: EXTENDED DAY KINDERGARTEN 2017-18**

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### I. SUPPORT INFORMATION

#### **A. Extended Day Kindergarten (EDK)**

Extended-day kindergarten (EDK) is defined as a class, taught by the same certificated staff member, that exceeds the four-hour maximum number of school day minutes. Currently, Piedmont Unified School District does not provide EDK as the District has been limited due to classroom space availability. During the Facilities Master Planning process, EDK was identified by elementary staff and families as being a priority for the District to improve the academic program at the elementary sites. Long-term sustainability of EDK would require additional facilities at the three elementary sites.

While school districts do not receive additional funding to lengthen the kindergarten day, a growing body of research suggests that extended-day kindergarten produces greater learning gains than half-day programs. Furthermore, elementary school curriculum is developed based on the assumption of students enrolled in EDK, so offering half-day-only kindergarten necessarily means that students are not covering all recommended curriculum.

The current kindergarten structure was built decades ago and reflects a different concept of what 5- and 6-year olds do at school. PUSD kindergartners are now engaged in complex, standards-based curriculum designed for both direct instruction and extended exploration and practice time.

In 2009, about two thirds of United States kindergarten children attended full-day classes; in California, the percentage of students in full-day classes increased by 43%.

Piedmont's educators recommend EDK in order to:

- improve the educational program
- provide more time for the teacher to get to know each child

- encourage children's maximum social, emotional, physical, and academic growth

### **B. Facilities Needs**

Due to declining enrollment over the past few years, there is currently classroom space available to support and house EDK at each of the elementary sites for the 17-18, 18-19, and 20-21 school years. As enrollment begins to climb back to average levels, the District will need to add classroom space on each of the three elementary campuses. EDK facilities are a priority in the facilities master plan and in the H1 Bond language.

### **C. Financial Impact**

Unfortunately, school districts do not receive additional funding to lengthen the kindergarten day. In order to provide the staff necessary to provide EDK, the District will need to budget \$55,000 in additional FTE for classroom instructional aides. No additional certificated FTE is required. Staff FTE would mirror what is provided for 1<sup>st</sup> grade.

### **D. Transitional Kindergarten**

The Piedmont Unified School District offers a half-day Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program for students who have their fifth birthday between September 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 2nd. Required by Senate Bill 1381 (also known as the Kindergarten Readiness Act), Piedmont Unified has offered TK since 2012.

There have been questions as to whether or not TK will be continued in Piedmont Unified. The answer is “yes”, regardless of any changes to the current traditional kindergarten program. Transitional Kindergarten will continue as a half-day program in Piedmont. Pursuant to California *EC 48000(c)(3)(A)*, "In the 2014—15 school year and **each school year thereafter**, a child who has his or her fifth birthday between September 2 and December 2 of the school year shall be admitted to a transitional kindergarten program maintained by the school district or charter school."

## **II. RECOMMENDATION: INFORMATION**

No action recommended at this time. District staff and teachers will be available for questions during the Board meeting.