

# Enrollment Trends and Options Ad Hoc Committee

March 28, 2023



**PALO ALTO**  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Enrollment Trends and Options Ad Hoc Committee

- **Charge:** Prepare a series of options to address declining enrollment through open discussion and thoughtful debate that honors diverse perspectives for consideration by the Board. Everything is up for consideration and thoughtful debate.
- The committee was charged with preparing a series of “proposed options” to be considered by the Board in 2024-25. Proposed options are NOT recommendations.
- **Considerations:** Declining enrollment is an issue that requires our attention. We will either creatively address things like combination classes or embrace their reality. School closures are a last resort, but are on the table without a sustainable plan.



# Enrollment Trends and Options Ad Hoc Committee Members

- Parents, including PTAC
- Administrators: Elementary School Principals and District Director
- Classified and Certificated Union Members
- City of Palo Alto Representative
- PAUSD Board Members



# Committee Process



- Met five times from September 2022 to January 2023.
- Conducted bias check, reviewed historical background, and data regarding declining enrollment.
- Brainstormed options and developed criteria through which to vet the options.
- Site leaders on the committee put forth some options to their staff for additional feedback.
- The strengths and challenges of the options were discussed, leveraging the vetting criteria developed by the committee. Through this process, the committee reached consensus on selecting options to be considered by the Board.



# Proposed Options for Board Consideration:

The committee was charged with preparing a series of “proposed options” to be considered by the Board in 2024-25. Proposed options are NOT recommendations.

- Consider adjusting/expanding residential boundaries
- Consider both embracing and eliminating combination classes
- Consider creating an early enrollment deadline and moving any new or late registrants to schools with space
- Consider expanding language immersion programs
- Consider themed school model for Ohlone and Hoover where they would become neighborhood schools with themes and hold a percentage of lottery seats
- Invite full-time Palo Alto City employees to bring their children to PAUSD through a lottery system
- Barron Park and Briones function as one school with two campuses where one of the campuses is the upper grades (3-5) and the other campus is the lower (TK-2) grades
- Reduce the FTE percentage required for PAUSD employees to bring their children to PAUSD





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