



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Assistant Superintendent

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TO: Board of Education
FROM: Glen Szymoniak, Assistant Superintendent
SUBJECT: Kaleidoscope Charter School

During the 2005-2006 school year, Kaleidoscope Charter School maintained an enrollment of approximately 115 students in six classrooms, housed at Sears Elementary School.

Earlier this school year, Kaleidoscope provided the District with an enrollment projection of 136 students for the 2006-2007 school year.

The most recent communication from Kaleidoscope contains four prioritized requests/options for classroom space in District facilities. All four requests contain student enrollment numbers that exceed the previously submitted number of 136. The number of classrooms also exceeds the district's ability to house Kaleidascope solely at Sears.

Sears, Kaleidoscope and Mountain View all draw their students from the same or nearly the same population. That population of K-5 students in the Kenai area has steadily decreased from 791 to 602 students in the last eight years. The combination of steadily decreasing numbers and charter school growth has led people to ask several pointed questions that are addressed below.

When will Kaleidoscope grow to the point that Sears cannot provide adequate space to house the entire program?

This is highly dependent on the demographics of Kaleidoscope.

If Kaleidoscope growth only occurs in grades K-2 as a result of Sears transfers, they will be able to share the facility indefinitely. Sears will shrink in direct proportion to Kaleidoscope growth. Classrooms will transfer to meet the demand.

If a portion of Kaleidoscope growth is attributed to grades being added beyond second grade, as is occurring now, the net gain to the building will quickly exceed the capacity of

the facility. In 2006-2007, the combined projected enrollment of Sears and Kaleidoscope is 358, which exceeds the rated capacity of 300. In this case, overcrowding is relieved by three portable classrooms located at Sears. Adding additional grades is not a viable option for Kaleidoscope growth at Sears.

Is there adequate classroom space at Mountain View for the entire Kaleidoscope program?

Using projected enrollment numbers, status quo staffing, and extremely condensed classroom space, Kaleidoscope would fit into Mountain View if Kaleidoscope enrolled 157 or fewer students. Please see the maximum number of Kaleidoscope students allowed at Mt. View over the next 4 years. Please remember, these numbers assume a significant impact to Mt. View. Examples include the displacement of the student council game room, science storage, Quest, three double rooms and office space for Title I, Title VII, and speech.

	rated capacity	90 % capacity
Mt. View	430	387
	proj. enrol.	available space
05-06	285	102
06-07	230	157
07-08	203	184
08-09	197	190
09-10	222	165

What will need to occur for Sears and Mt. View to consolidate, leaving the Sears building for a charter school?

Sears and Mt. View projected enrollment would need to decrease dramatically until the numbers reached 350 to 390, with little chance of increase in the future. Even if Kaleidoscope reaches 200 students, the adjusted, combined projected enrollment of Sears and Mt. View does not dip below 399 students.

	Sears and Mt. View	Kaleidoscope	adjusted for growth beyond 136 students
2005-2006	506	115	506
2006-2007	452	136	452
2007-2008	449	150	435
2008-2009	438	175	399
2009-2010	475	200	411
2010-2011	493	200	429

Options and Recommendations

Based on the enrollment calculations, if Sears services are extremely compacted in the building, the District is able to provide Kaleidoscope with six classrooms: rooms 137, 138, 139 and three portable classrooms. This equates to an average class size of 22.5 for 136 students.

Based on the enrollment calculations, if Mt. View services are extremely compacted in the building, the district is able to provide Kaleidoscope with seven classrooms: rooms 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. This equates to an average class size of 21.4 for 150 students.

Recommendation #1 (for 2006-2007)

Offer Kaleidoscope the six available classrooms at Sears, allow them to bring in an additional portable or secure suitable outside housing at their expense.

This will not relieve the overcrowding at Sears but Kaleidoscope will have the option to grow beyond the confines of Sears.

October 2005 KPBSD School Board agenda item - Begin discussing the possibility of Kaleidoscope moving into Mt. View. Moving Kaleidoscope to a new District facility, which is already occupied by a neighborhood school, should involve ample opportunity for public comment and adequate time for the transition.

Recommendation #2 (for 2007 and beyond)

Offer Kaleidoscope 4 classrooms at Sears and 5 classrooms at Mt. View.

Kaleidoscope will have enough classrooms to house 88 students at Sears, with an average class size of 22. They will be capable of housing 125 students at Mt. View with an average class size of 25. This allows for a total of 213 students possible in all their classes. This option meets major portions of their requested options, allows for growth and takes advantage of available District facilities, without exceeding the 90% capacity guideline for either of the shared facilities.

This will help relieve both Sears and Mt. View of the “space issue” burden related to housing another school. Primary students can ride the bus to Sears. Intermediate students can ride the bus to Mt. View.

While a split campus may not be ideal, the District currently employs several administrators that oversee multiple sites much farther apart in distance than Sears and Mt. View.