

I. PRELIMINARY

Shepherd called the December 16, 2014, meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

The following members were present:

JulieMarie A. Shepherd, president
Cathy Wildman, vice president
Mary W. Lewis, secretary
Dan Jorgensen, treasurer
Amber Drevon, director
Eric Nelson, director
Barbara J. Yamrick, director

Also meeting with the Board of Education were:

D. Rico Munn, superintendent of schools
William Stuart, deputy superintendent
Brandon Eyre, district legal counsel
Lisa Escárcega, chief accountability and research officer
Damon Smith, chief personnel officer
David Trautenberg, chief financial officer
Anthony Sturges, chief operating officer
Adrienne Bradshaw, controller
Tonia Norman, assistant to Board of Education

Pledge of Allegiance

AXL Academy student Vance Manzanares led the Board and audience in the pledge to the flag. Shepherd welcomed visitors to the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

The December 16, 2014, agenda was approved as written.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the special open meeting of the Board of Education held on December 6, 2014, and the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held on December 2, 2014, were approved as written.

II. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

AXL Charter Renewal Recommendation

Brent Reckman, principal of AXL; Jason Guerra, G & G Consulting; Matt Wasserman, AXL board member and parent, were present to provide information to the Board related to AXL's financial challenges and charter renewal recommendation.

Reckman provided an overview of AXL Academy, sharing that it is a school in which students develop the power to think and confidence to act and create their

own future in a safe and stimulating environment. He stressed that AXL can be a highly efficient organization with a responsible and sustainable business plan that aligns and supports its instructional vision. He requested that the APS Board grant AXL an 18 month contract extension and defer service fees for two years to give AXL an opportunity to re-pay the district in full. He noted that current financial challenges are being addressed with meaningful changes to AXL's business practices and acknowledged that trimming the budget has forced AXL staff to look at what is most important and recommit to their original instructional mission to provide choice and high achievement through the expeditionary learning model. He added that AXL is also cultivating relationships that have opened new opportunities to partner with experts and local education funders within the Aurora community.

Reckman highlighted a blueprint of AXL's 18 month plan that identifies what is working at AXL, including community support, staff commitment, facility and location, and funding supports and partnerships. He reviewed important actions that have been initiated by AXL's new leadership to address financial challenges, including staff reorganization, partnership with Catapult leadership to support additional organizational development, partnership with the Gates Family Foundation with a conditional commitment of \$150,000, and partnership with G & G Consultants that includes a full review of AXL's financial policies and procedures, current business practices, and a financial forecast to demonstrate that AXL can be financially solvent by June 2016 and is able to meet financial repayment obligations to APS by June 2017. He noted that AXL intends to restore its partnership with expeditionary learning, provide monthly progress reports to the Division of Accountability and Research and the Division of Finance, work to improve the terms of its current lease agreement, develop a balanced budget using conservative enrollment projections, and have a full strategic plan by April 2015.

Reckman requested that the APS Board grant three specifics in order to accomplish the 18 month plan as follows:

- Allow AXL to deduct at-risk adjustments in equal installments from January through June in lieu of a full deduction in January.
- Allow AXL to defer fees owed to the district and repay 50 percent in the 2015-16 school year and 50 percent in the 2016-17 school year.
- Allow the AXL budget to run with a \$170,000 deficit through June 2015.

Wasserman reviewed a statement from the AXL board that expressed their commitment to AXL students, staff and the 18 month plan.

Heather Rivers, third grade teacher, shared that staff is committed to AXL and dedicated to the expeditionary learning model, which is strongly embraced and valued by students and families, and provides students with motivation and persistence to be successful and to become active community contributors. She noted that AXL is the only district middle school that provides expeditionary learning opportunities for students.

Rivers highlighted AXL's diversity and instructional strengths, sharing that teachers provide students with differentiated or enrichment opportunities during small group instruction for one hour, four days per week. She expressed that classroom teachers have and continue to be supported by AXL administrators and support staff, and are more secure about planning for the future. She

concluded by emphasizing that all students should have an opportunity to obtain a strong education.

Amber Marlin, parent and sixth grade teacher, expressed that AXL is a close knit community school as evident by the large turnout of parents, students, staff and community supporters at tonight's meeting. She noted that AXL teachers know their students and indicated that she has been with her current students for three years, which has eased transition anxieties to middle school and decreased time spent on classroom management.

Marlin shared that her daughter attends AXL and noted that teachers have both challenged and assisted her with behavior management. She noted that students are taught character development and core values, including respect, responsibility, integrity, courage, stewardship, and craftsmanship. Her daughter is reminded each day that she has a choice to uphold core values and a team of supporters that encourages and holds her accountable. She noted that teachers are always available for her to talk to as a parent, and now understands the phrase "it takes a village to raise a child."

Vance Manzanares, fourth grade student, has been enrolled at AXL since the first grade. He expressed that his mother visited AXL when he was one year old, and believed that it was a dream school. He feels that teachers learn with students, care about their futures, and want them to go to college. He shared that AXL feels more like home than a school. He noted that students receive positive referrals when someone is doing a really awesome job and now wants to give a positive referral to all of the AXL teachers. He highlighted an overnight trip to the Plains Conservation Center in which students had an opportunity to tour the center and learn about different animals. He expressed that he will always remember the trip.

Naiara Koln, seventh grade student, has been enrolled at AXL since the first grade. She shared that her family came to America shortly before she was born to seek better education opportunities. Her mom heard about AXL through a neighbor and fell in love with the school after her first visit.

Koln loves the diversity at AXL and how everyone treats each other with respect and dignity. She noted that the teachers are the best part of AXL and shared that her mom feels that they are like her second parents. She expressed that AXL teachers care about their students, always put them first, and request their opinions when making decisions that affect them. She likes that teachers and staff know her name and hold her accountable. She expressed that teachers encourage students to go to college and always talk about what it takes for them to be successful and accepted into choice colleges and universities. Her goal is to become a lawyer so she can help people and make a difference, and plans to apply to Harvard and Stanford. She expressed that AXL has helped shape her into the person she is today and knows that she will go on to do great things.

Rene Leon, parent, shared that her daughters have been at AXL for more than two years and are thriving because of the fantastic teachers. She shared that there is an emphasis on responsibility at AXL and students driving their own education. She noted that her daughters have developed both personal and educational goals, which they have shared at student-led conferences, and has watched their confidence and sense of ownership grow with each semester. She gives all of the credit to the academic expectations at AXL.

Leon selected AXL because it is a smaller school environment that encourages parental input. She noted that past school administrators did not always encourage parent participation, but the school feels different with the current leadership and she has seen parents rallying around teachers and staff to make needed changes. She was mortified to hear about all of the financial challenges that AXL is facing, but is encouraged to hear about steps that have been taken to turn things around. She is grateful to the district for standing with the new leadership and working to find solutions. She expressed that the AXL community is getting stronger and will become a tight knit community with high performing scholars that all of Aurora can be proud of if given the chance to grow.

Max Garcia, AXL parent, volunteer and community leader, has three students currently enrolled at AXL and has been involved with the school since it first opened. He highlighted concerns regarding the previous leadership at AXL, including lack of transparency, communication, inability to retain quality staff and dismissal of parental input and feedback related to fundraising opportunities. He is thankful for the new leadership change and noted that it was unprecedented in the past to see the high number of families in the audience in support of AXL. He now sees the commitment of leadership and expressed that now is the time for change.

Lisa Flores, senior program officer with the Gates Family Foundation, works with charter schools and has a long-term relationship with AXL. She is committed to making sure parents have choice around education, and noted that students have been engaged in classes that she visited at AXL throughout the years. She shared that the Gates Family Foundation had committed funding to support AXL's early childhood education program and building expansion prior to the start of the school year. She discussed the importance of ensuring that the 18 month plan for AXL is workable as well as future recruitment efforts, repayment structures for existing loans, and negotiations related to the long-term building lease.

Munn noted that AXL's proposal to the Board was built around an understanding that the Gates Family Foundation would commit \$150,000, payable as part of the contract extension. Flores clarified that the Gates foundation board would have to approve funding for AXL. She is willing to make the funding recommendation to the foundation board if the APS Board can reach an agreement. Guerra feels that AXL has a solid financial plan in place and is currently working to restructure the building lease and renegotiate terms of the existing loan. He shared the staff is also working with the district's nutrition services department for food services next year. He noted that AXL has an anticipated year-end deficit of \$170,000 and shared that the goal is to work with the Gates Family Foundation to raise funds and continue to reduce the deficit.

The Board voiced concerns related to AXL ongoing fiscal challenges and the potential impact to the district and all APS students. The Board was supportive of AXL's academic and instructional model, and encouraged by all of the families and community supporters who were present at the meeting.

Munn recommended that the APS Board of Education extend the AXL Academy charter contract for an additional 18 months. Eyre clarified that AXL's current contract extends through June 30 and noted that it would be a 12 month extension, but an 18 month plan. Munn will provide the Board with a more

detailed transition plan for possible consideration and approval on January 6.

Shepherd thanked all of the families and community supporters who were in the audience. Lewis thanked AXL staff for providing letters of support from parents and staff, and hopes that AXL staff will consider working with the district's expeditionary learning schools.

Yamrick moved and Wildman seconded to direct the Superintendent and district Leadership Team to work with AXL to finalize a transition plan to redevelop its governance and financial structures. This plan would cover the remainder of the current school year and would include the 2015-16 school year.

Roll Call: Drevon, Jorgensen, Lewis, Nelson, Shepherd, Wildman, Yamrick #8329

Approved on a vote of 7-0

Use of a Portion of the Beginning Fund Balance as Authorized by Colorado Statutes

David Trautenberg, chief financial officer; Adrienne Bradshaw, controller; and Stanley Rodriguez, budget manager, provided an overview of the beginning fund balance. The district is required to notify the Board when interfund borrowing occurs, stating the amount to be used, the purpose of the expenditure, and the district's plan to ensure that the use of the beginning fund balance will not require an ongoing deficit.

The beginning fund balance presentation is appended to the December 16 Board minutes.

This item will be included on the January 6 consent agenda for action.

The Board will be provided with additional information related to funding allocations for exceptional student services.

Re-Adoption of the 2014-15 Budget and Appropriation Resolution

David Trautenberg, chief financial officer; Adrienne Bradshaw, controller; and Stanley Rodriguez, budget manager, provided an overview of the revised district budget with changes that have been incorporated since the original budget adoption in June. Local boards of education are allowed to readopt budgets prior to January 31 of the current budget year.

The Board requested additional information related to employee salary schedules and cost analysis and effectiveness of district programs. Trautenberg suggested that a future workshop be held with the Board to provide additional information around district programs and finance.

The 2014-15 readopted budget presentation is appended to the December 16 Board minutes.

This item will be included on the January 6 consent agenda for action.

III. BOARD WORKSHOP

Legislative Priorities and Policy JICH

Munn shared that the Board was provided with general statements around legislative priorities and policies for the 2015 general session in advance of the meeting. He requested that the Board review the draft and provide additional input and feedback for possible adoption on January 6. District Liaison Mary Kay Hogan will provide the Board with information regarding the upcoming legislative session in January.

Shepherd shared that the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) will be encouraging boards to focus on education funding and assessments when meeting or speaking with state legislators during the upcoming session. Wildman added that education funding and assessments were two discussion topics at the advocacy session held at the recent CASB convention.

Escárcega is the past president of the Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE) and highlighted legislative priorities, including recommendations to reduce assessments to minimum requirements, provide districts with more options in terms of the use of assessments, develop legislation around data privacy, and recording of discipline infractions. Munn added that other expected legislative topics include the school funding formula and choice options.

Munn shared that the annual briefing with the legislative delegation will be held on Thursday, 8:30 a.m., at the PLCC. Lewis requested that the Board be invited to future legislative briefings. Jorgensen suggested inviting the legislative delegation to an upcoming Board meeting. Shepherd and Wildman will schedule time for the Board to meet with legislators during an upcoming meeting. Munn also suggested that Board members consider meeting with the legislative delegation during the upcoming Recognize Aurora Day.

Lewis noted that local boards were being encouraged to plan school site tours with state legislators. She will work with the communication department to schedule.

Stuart and Lavinder highlighted a presentation related to Policy JICH, Drug and Alcohol Use by Students, and the impact that the passage of Amendment 64 has had on district schools. Under the safe schools policy, marijuana is not listed as a controlled substance infraction. Controlled substance infractions include the sale, purchase, possession, paraphernalia, and alcohol possession/sale. The three infraction categories include referrals, suspensions and expulsion. District-wide referral data for controlled substance offenses reflected an 81 percent increase in the past five years; district-wide suspension data for controlled substance offenses reflected a 75 percent increase in the past five years; and district-wide expulsion data for controlled substance offenses reflected a 28 percent decrease in the past five years.

Jorgensen asked about the reduction of expulsions in the district. Munn shared that either he or Deputy Superintendent Stuart will meet with students and families to review expulsions and explore alternative approaches to re-engage students. Stuart indicated that the oversight related to the expulsion process has improved and noted that principals are also meeting with their staffs to discuss

alternative options and approaches to expulsion recommendations. Eyre also implemented a process in which follow up calls are initiated to ensure parents are aware of their rights when a student is recommended for expulsion.

Stuart acknowledged that marijuana related offenses have increased across the district since the passage of Amendment 64 and highlighted the overrepresentation of controlled substances among high school males.

Lewis asked about the alternative to suspension program for controlled substances. Lavinder shared that students are given an option to participate in a six-week program that was piloted last year and expanded this year. The program's curriculum is designed to help students cope and make better decisions around drug usage. If students complete the six-week program the suspension is reduced from eight days to one day.

Lewis asked about the life skills program curriculum for students. Lavinder shared that the life skills curriculum helps teach students decision making skills and coping skills in identified areas that can lead kids to substance abuse. She shared that the Aurora Mental Health Center has been provided funding to target students in sixth through ninth grade about substance abuse. The goal is to start the program in February. Lewis asked how the program would be developed for freshmen. Lavinder replied that the program format and details are still being refined.

Lewis asked about the status of the DARE program. Lavinder was unsure of the status of the DARE program, but will provide additional information to the Board.

Jorgensen asked if the district still generated reports related to over and under representation data related to controlled substances. Escárcega will provide information to the Board.

Shepherd thanked Stuart and Lavinder for providing information to the Board. She noted that the Board will continue to monitor data.

The Policy JICH, Drug and Alcohol Use by Students, presentation is appended to the December 16 Board minutes.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Yamrick requested that item IV-D-1, Instructional Material Adoption, be removed from the consent agenda for separate discussion and vote.

Drevon requested that the unified improvement plan for Aurora Central be removed from item IV-C-2, Priority Improvement or Turnaround Unified Improvement Plan Schools, for separate discussion and vote.

Nelson moved and Yamrick seconded to approve the following items on the amended consent agenda as presented:

- Aurora Academy and Global Village Contract Renewal Applications
- Priority Improvement of Turnaround Unified Improvement Plan Schools (minus the UIP for Aurora Central)
- Vista PEAK Innovation Renewal
- Policy GBEC, Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace

Roll Call: Drevon, Jorgensen, Lewis, Nelson, Shepherd, Wildman, Yamrick #8330

Approved on a vote of 7-0

V. ACTION ITEMS

Instructional Materials Adoption

Jorgensen moved and Lewis seconded to adopt the instructional materials as presented.

Roll Call: Drevon, Jorgensen, Lewis, Nelson, Shepherd, Wildman, Yamrick #8331

Approved on a vote of 6-1

Board Director Barbara Yamrick voted against adoption of instructional materials.

Unified Improvement Plan – Aurora Central

Nelson moved and Wildman seconded to approve the unified improvement plan for Aurora Central as presented.

Drevon respects the time and effort put forth to develop a unified improvement plan, but does not feel that Aurora Central's unified improvement plan has enough information to support a yes vote.

Jorgensen has concerns related to the analysis and inability to identify root causes in Aurora Central's unified improvement plan. He would like the plan revisited and strengthened to better assist Aurora Central students.

Shepherd noted the importance of teachers being included in the development of the unified improvement plan.

Wildman attended a staff meeting at Aurora Central and shared that teachers worked on the unified improvement plan and were involved in the process. She noted that changes were made to the plan, but was unsure why revisions were not included in the plan.

Munn shared that staff will continue to work on Aurora Central's unified improvement plan. He added that Aurora Central's staff is fully engaged in the process.

Roll Call: Drevon, Jorgensen, Lewis, Nelson, Shepherd, Wildman, Yamrick #8332

Approved on a vote of 4-3

Board members Drevon, Jorgensen, and Yamrick voted against Aurora's Central unified improvement plan as presented.

VI. BOARD WORK

Ends Conversation

Open Dialogue

Standing Committee Item

Lewis shared that the kickoff celebration for the 2015 calendar celebration was amazing and enjoyed by all.

Shepherd announced that the Council of Urban Boards of Education, Urban Advocate publication, will be incorporated into the America School Board Journal publication as part of cost saving measures by the National School Boards Association.

Jorgensen attended a recent Long-Range Facilities Advisory Committee meeting and noted that committee members are already reviewing future long-range facility needs throughout the district.

Colorado Association of School Boards

The Board provided an overview of sessions that they attended during the annual Colorado Association of School Boards convention. Discussions centered on the importance of community outreach efforts with parents and community members, possible development of a philanthropy class for students, scheduling school tours with legislators, purpose and expectation of assessments, blended learning and technology, session with Jim Collins, urban and rural education, and implementation of BoardDocs. Board members have included additional details on individual sessions they attended at CASB in the Board newsletter.

Shepherd shared that the Board hopes to take action on its proposed achievement policy in January.

Policy Perception Checklist

Did the Board receive information at tonight's meeting that requires a policy change?

The Board did not receive information that required a policy change.

Did the Board receive information at tonight's meeting that requires additional information or monitoring?

Additional information will be provided to the Board.

Board Self-Monitoring

Lewis shared that there was good participation and questions at tonight's meeting.

December 16, 2014

VII. CONCLUDING ITEMS

Next meeting date

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on January 6, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. in the Dr. Edward and Mrs. Patricia Lord Boardroom of Educational Services Center 4.

Adjournment

The regular meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

President

ATTEST _____
Secretary

Beginning Fund Balance 2014-15 Re-adopted Budget



Fund	Amount
General	\$39,961,370
Athletics	\$183,551
Bond	\$27,026,348
Building	\$25,528,534
Capital Reserve Fund	\$29,238,650
Colorado Preschool Program	\$873,418
Grants	\$534,693
Internal Service - Print Services	\$94,816
Nutrition Services	\$731,279
Pickens Technical College	\$3,730,320
Pupil Activity/Agency	\$1,205,435
Risk-Related Activity	\$422,204
School Health Services	\$4,921,458
Special Programs	\$3,696,424



2014-15

RE-ADOPTED BUDGET

December 16, 2014

Re-Adopted Budgets

All Funds



Fund	2014-15 Adopted	2014-15 Re-adopted	Difference
General	\$ 339,394,751	\$ 350,761,254	\$ 11,366,503
Charter Schools	36,172,495	35,880,896	(291,599)
Athletic	786,125	794,676	8,551
Bond Redemption	63,102,350	62,851,373	(250,977)
Building	22,334,734	25,628,534	3,293,800
Capital Reserve	28,720,000	29,238,650	518,650
Colorado Preschool Program	7,219,787	7,528,336	308,549
Grants	36,527,707	41,620,866	5,093,159
Internal Service - Print	644,000	9,544	(634,456)
Nutrition Services	19,064,016	19,531,870	467,854
Pickens Post Secondary	7,562,500	8,292,820	730,320
Pupil Activity/Agency	3,200,000	3,405,435	205,435
Risk-Related Activity	4,829,787	5,051,991	222,204
School Health Services	4,000,000	5,921,458	1,921,458
Special Programs	10,007,083	9,900,903	(106,180)
Total	\$ 583,565,335	\$ 606,418,606	\$ 22,853,271

General Fund Re-Adopted Budget



Four main factors affected budget development:

- Increase in funded pupil count
 - + 493 funded pupils, + \$3.6 million over projections
 - 1.5% over projections
- Increase in state per pupil funding
 - + \$38 per pupil, from \$7,304 to \$7,342 per pupil
 - + \$1.3 million, based on 34,443 FPC
- Increase in READ Act funds
 - \$3.2 million, \$1.8 million more than 2013-14
 - \$0.4 million transferred to charter schools
- Reclassifying Print Services Fund to General Fund
 - \$0.8 million

General Fund Re-Adopted Budget



Additional Expenditures

Carry forward unspent 2013-14 allocations:

READ Act and school-based PPA	\$ 252,668
Capital projects	1,937,128
Budget realignment	863,296
Increase in Tabor reserves	138,852
Increase operating reserve	5,342,138
Add 2014-15 READ Act budget, less charter school allocation of \$0.4 M	<u>2,832,421</u>
Total Additional Expenditures	\$ 11,366,503



Board of Education Workshop

December 16, 2014

Policy JICH: Drug and Alcohol Use by Students

Picking up the PACE!



Controlled Substance Offenses



Include:

- Sale
- Purchase
- Possession
- Paraphernalia
- Alcohol possession/sale

Referrals

District wide referrals increased 81% in last 5 years.

High school referrals increased 108%.

Middle school referrals increased 28%.



Controlled Substance Offenses



Suspensions

District wide suspensions increased 75% in last 5 years.

High school suspensions increased 97%.

Middle school suspensions increased 37%.

Expulsions

District wide expulsions decreased by 28% in the last 5 years.

High school expulsions decreased by 36%.

Middle school expulsions decreased by 23%.



Controlled Substance Offenses



Referrals for Possession of Controlled Substances

District wide referrals increased by 97% (234 to 462) over past 5 years.

APS Response

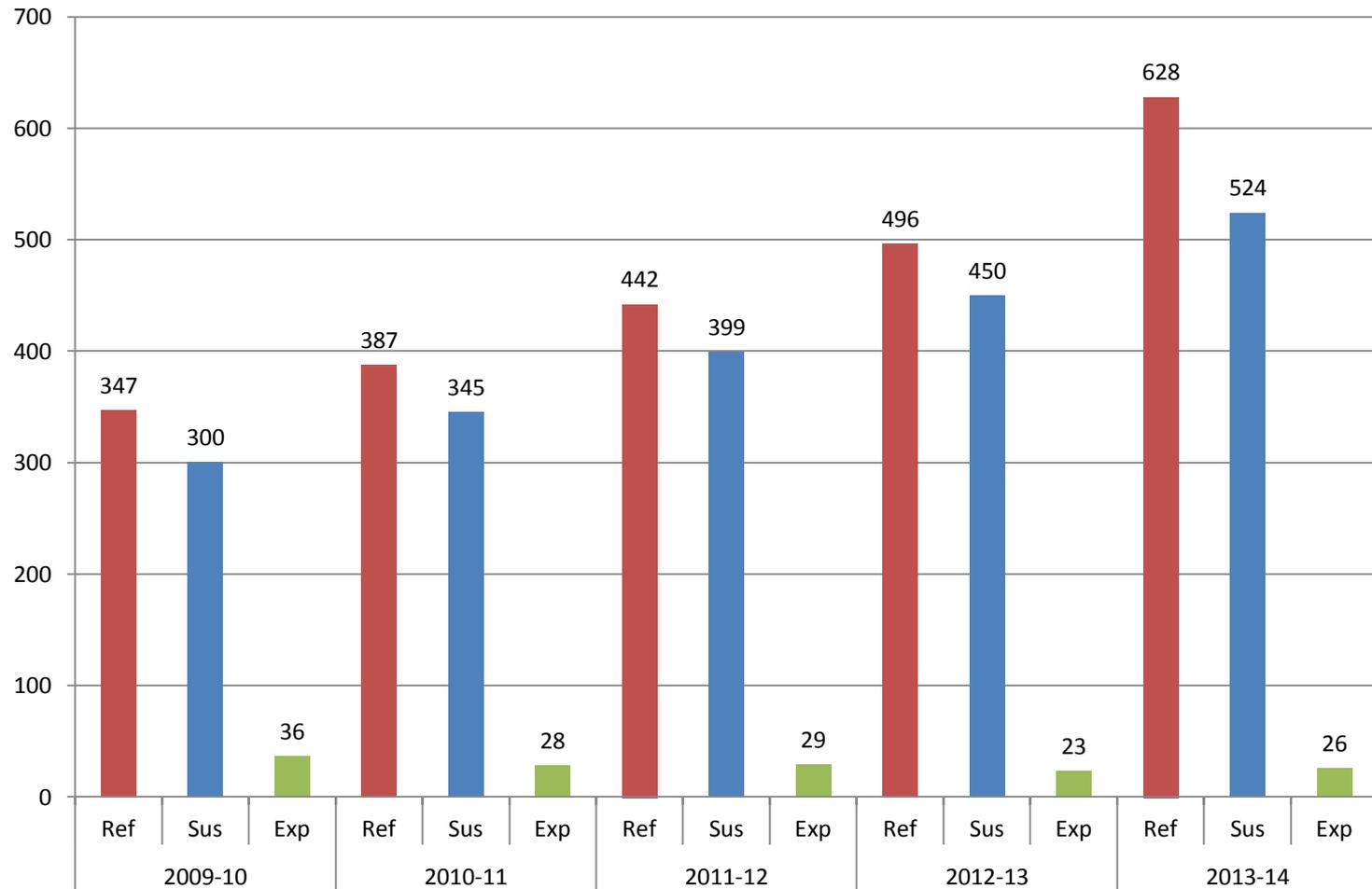
Alternative to Suspension Program

School Culture and Behavior Response Seminars

Picking up the PACE!



Controlled Substance Offenses* - All Categories

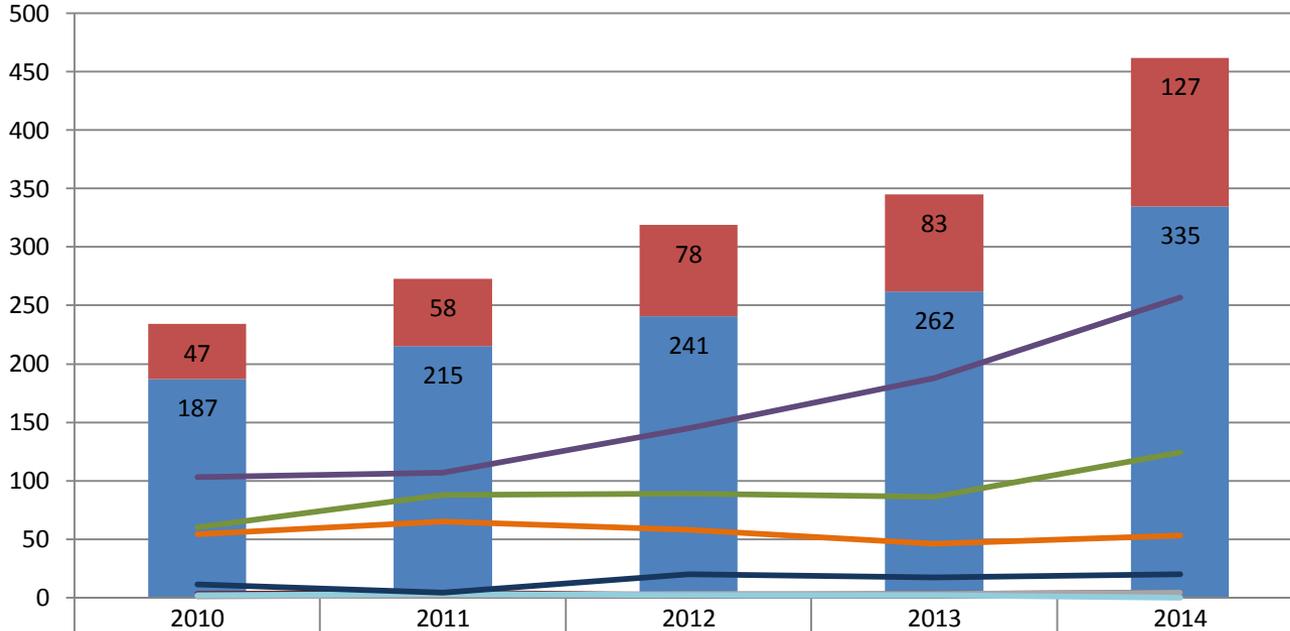


* Marijuana related offenses constitute the majority of all controlled substance offenses

Picking up the PACE!



District Controlled Substance- Possession Referrals

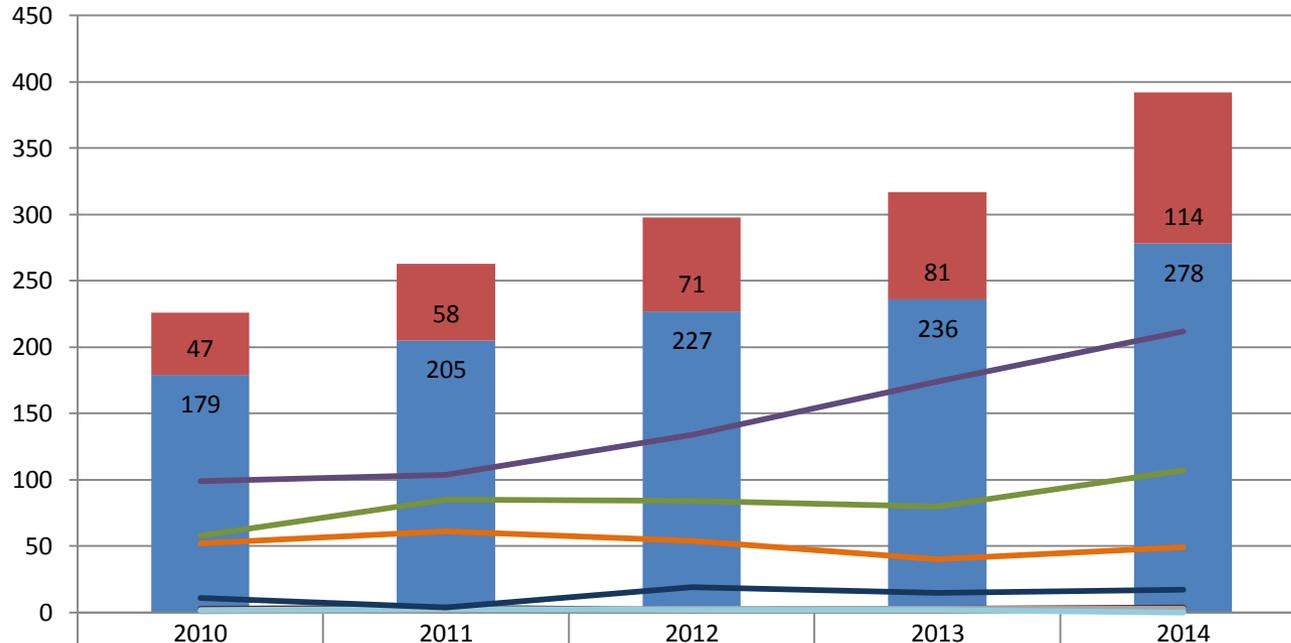


	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
F	47	58	78	83	127
M	187	215	241	262	335
Asian	3	4	2	3	4
Black	60	88	89	86	124
Hispanic	103	107	145	188	257
Nat American	1	2	3	3	4
Nat Hawaiian	2	3	2	2	0
Two or More	11	4	20	17	20
White	54	65	58	46	53

Picking up the PACE!



District Controlled Substance - Possession Suspensions

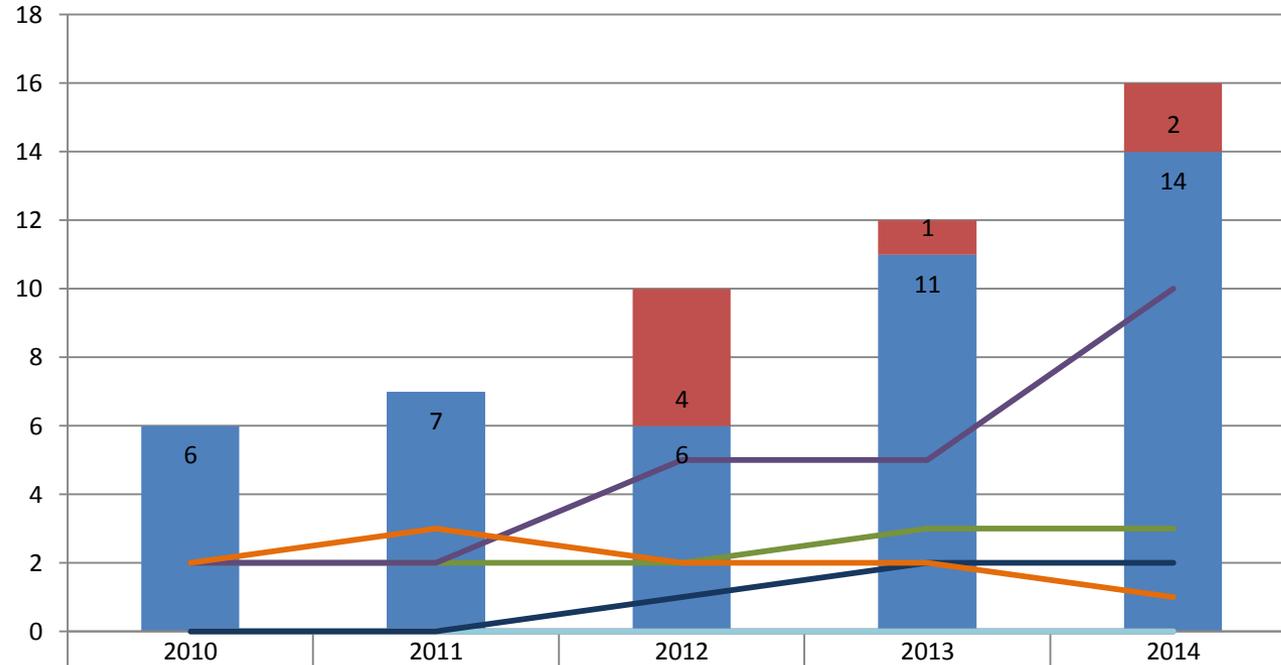


	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
F	47	58	71	81	114
M	179	205	227	236	278
Asian	3	4	2	3	4
Black	58	85	84	80	107
Hispanic	99	104	134	174	212
Nat American	1	2	3	3	3
Nat Hawaiian	2	3	2	2	0
Two or More	11	4	19	15	17
White	52	61	54	40	49

Picking up the PACE!



District Controlled Substance - Possession Expulsions



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
F	0	0	4	1	2
M	6	7	6	11	14
Asian	0	0	0	0	0
Black	2	2	2	3	3
Hispanic	2	2	5	5	10
Nat American	0	0	0	0	0
Nat Hawaiian	0	0	0	0	0
Two or More	0	0	1	2	2
White	2	3	2	2	1

Picking up the PACE!