



Board of Directors
Thursday, April 20, 2017
AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

Agenda Item	Proposal to add a third kindergarten class for 2017-18
Time Allotted	15 minutes
Summary	Principal Park is recommending that Yu Ming add a third kindergarten classroom for the 2017-18 school year.
Type	Discussion and vote
Background	Principal Park has provided the attached document that describes the rationale for this proposal before the Board. Key considerations are the impact of this proposal on the Yu Ming budget, facilities, and educational program.
Key Questions	Does the Board approve Principal Park's proposal to add a third kindergarten class for the 2017-18 school year?
Attachments	Proposal Document for the Board from Principal Park



Proposal to Add a Third Kindergarten Section in 2017-2018

Background

Yu Ming Charter School is committed to providing the highest quality Mandarin Immersion academic program possible for the students it serves. Continuing to grow a high quality program will require an enrollment strategy that enables financial sustainability, talent recruitment and retention, and adequate resource investments. Adding a third Kindergarten section in the upcoming 2017-2018 academic year will enable Yu Ming to advance these goals.

Yu Ming’s approved Charter Renewal Petition states that “[t]he school may also enroll additional sections, starting with a 3rd class in a transitional grade (i.e. kindergarten or 6th) when sufficient facilities, staffing, and funds are available.” (Charter Renewal Petition, September 2015)

The Proposal

	2016-2017			2017-2018		
Grade	# sections per grade	# students per class	students per grade	# sections per grade	# students per class	students per grade
K	2	26/27	53	3	24/24/24	72
1	2	26/27	53	2	26/27	53
2	2	26/27	53	2	26/27	53
3	2	26/27	53	2	26/27	53
4	2	25/26	51	2	26/26	52
5	2	26/26	52	2	24/25	49
6	2	20/20	40	2	24/25	49
7	--	--	--	2	16/17	33



Questions/Responses When Considering the Proposal

- 1) What was the process that led to the recommendation for a third Kinder section?** The Head of School consulted with various stakeholder groups to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal and the potential impact on various school interests such as school climate and culture, teacher recruitment and retention, facilities, enrollment, and academic program. Stakeholder groups included:
- Kindergarten Teaching Team
 - Teacher Compensation and Development Committee - a Kindergarten Chinese Teacher, Grade K-1 English Teacher, Grade 2 Teacher, Upper School Teacher
 - Leadership Team - Assistant Principal of Academics and Upper School, Chinese Program Coordinator, Special Education Coordinator
 - Family Support Organization Council
 - Compensation Committee
 - Enrollment and Diversity Committee
 - Facilities Committee
- 2) What is the impact on 2017-2018 facilities?** Currently the 11 classrooms at the Alcatraz campus are occupied by 10 classes of students (2 K, 2 G1, 2 G2, 2 G3, 2 G4) and the 11th classroom is used as an Art Room. In 2017-2018 the Art Room would be used as the third Kinder classroom and Art would be taught in the lunchroom during non lunch hours. In addition, we will reduce crowding in the lunch and playground spaces by continuing to have 3 lunch periods but not overlapping lunch/play times between the lunch periods.

	2016-2017	2017-2018
2 grades	11:30-12:00	11:15-11:45
2 grades	11:45-12:15	11:45-12:15
1 grade	12:00-12:30	12:15-12:45

- 3) What is the impact on the future facilities search?** The Head of School has requested that the Facilities Committee begin to include in its search, options that can accommodate at full enrollment: 450 students (2 sections of 9 grades) and 600 students (3 sections of 9 grades).
- 4) How does the proposal impact enrollment projections and financial sustainability?** Over the next several years, Yu Ming expects some attrition in the upper grades and as students matriculate into middle school - a typical pattern with K-8 language immersion



schools. When students depart from an immersion program in the upper grades, it is difficult for schools to replace the lost enrollment as there are very few students that meet the target language academic language and literacy levels needed to access the immersion program.

Yu Ming's Charter Renewal Petition outlined three potential enrollment models including a scenario that assumes three K-5th grade sections and two 6th-8th grade sections. The additional enrollment will help to sustain Yu Ming's program costs despite the predicted student attrition in the upper grades.

- 5) How will the additional students admitted in the third Kinder section impact enrollment and diversity goals and the numbers of students that identify as Chinese language speakers?** To fill the third Kinder class, Kindergarten applicants would be assigned open slots according to the procedure outlined in Yu Ming's School Enrollment and Public Random Drawing Policy. Twenty percent of total number of open slots will be assigned to our preference category of children who meet the requirements of the California Free and Reduced Lunch Program. In addition, a review of the next 20-26 students on the waitlist indicated that the group would have a similar percentage of students that self-identified as Chinese language speakers as the proportion that identified as Chinese language speakers among the current 53 Kindergarten students that accepted enrollment offers from Yu Ming (about 30-40%).
- 6) How will the proposal contribute to teacher recruitment and retention?** A major priority of the Yu Ming Teacher Compensation and Development Committee was to find a pathway to a teacher salary increase in order to make Yu Ming competitive with the salary ranges of area districts and attract and retain the best talent. A 5% salary increase for teachers in 2017-2018 can be accommodated in great part due to the additional revenue generated from opening a third Kinder classroom.