

Easton Long Range Planning Committee

Initial Exploration Presentation

5/12/15

Charge of Committee/Objective of Phase I

Initiate a long term conversation to explore and identify possible options that will address the projected enrollment decline in Easton schools over the next 5 to 10 years that will:

- Preserve or enhance regional educational quality at an acceptable cost.
- Be flexible/reversible in response to a prospective enrollment rebound.

Tonight's Discussion

- Educational Mission
- Enrollment History
- Overview of Exploration/Phase I
- Options to be Explored
- Recommendations for Next Steps

Introduction of LRP Committee

- Regina Bobroske, Easton BOE member, Chair LRPC
- Bettina Grob, PTA President and community member
- Adam Horowitz, Easton BOE member
- Dr. Bernard Josefsberg, Superintendent
- Susan Kaplan, Principal, HKMS
- Dr. Thomas McMorran, Head of Joel Barlow High School/Future Superintendent
- Dr. Vida Peskay, Easton BOE member
- Dr. Stephanie Pierson-Ugol, Assistant Superintendent
- Gabriel Rossi, Easton BOF member and community member

An Opportunity

“Enrollment decline provides Easton with an opportunity to adapt the system to the challenges at hand within the existing resource base.”

- B. Josefsberg, January, 2013

“A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.”

-Winston Churchill

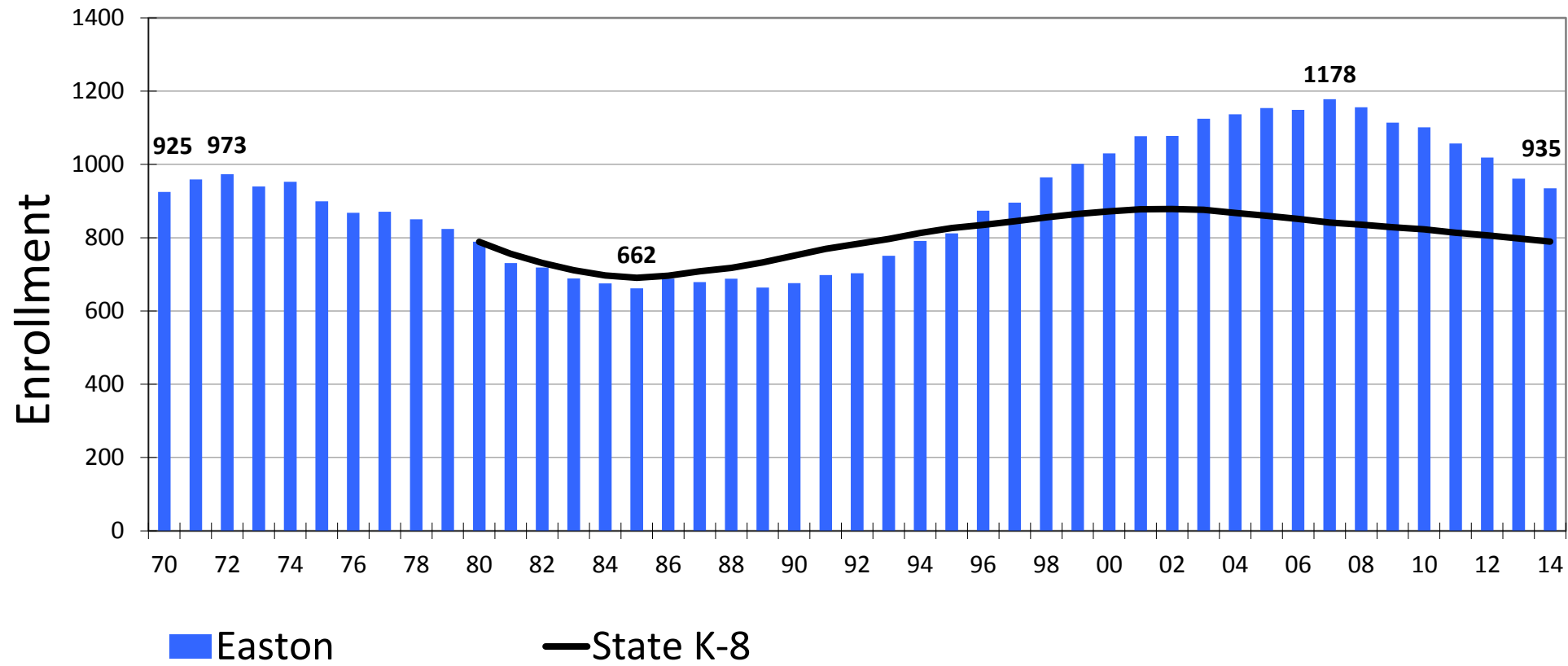
Educational Mission

The mission of the E/R/9 school community is to inspire, nurture, and educate all students to attain their highest level of academic excellence with personal and social integrity through a committed partnership of two towns and five schools that provides a rigorous, dynamic, caring, and creative learning environment.

Enrollment Data

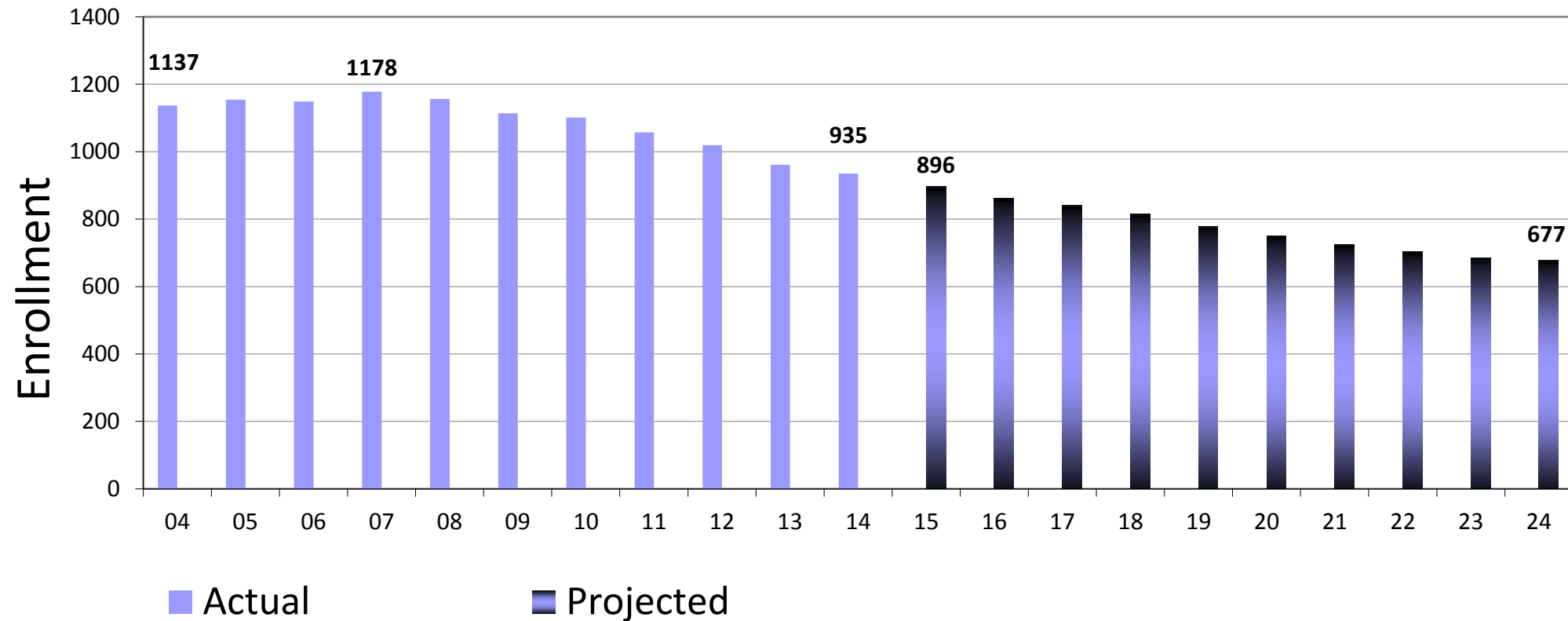
Historical Perspective

K-8 Enrollment: 1970 to Date

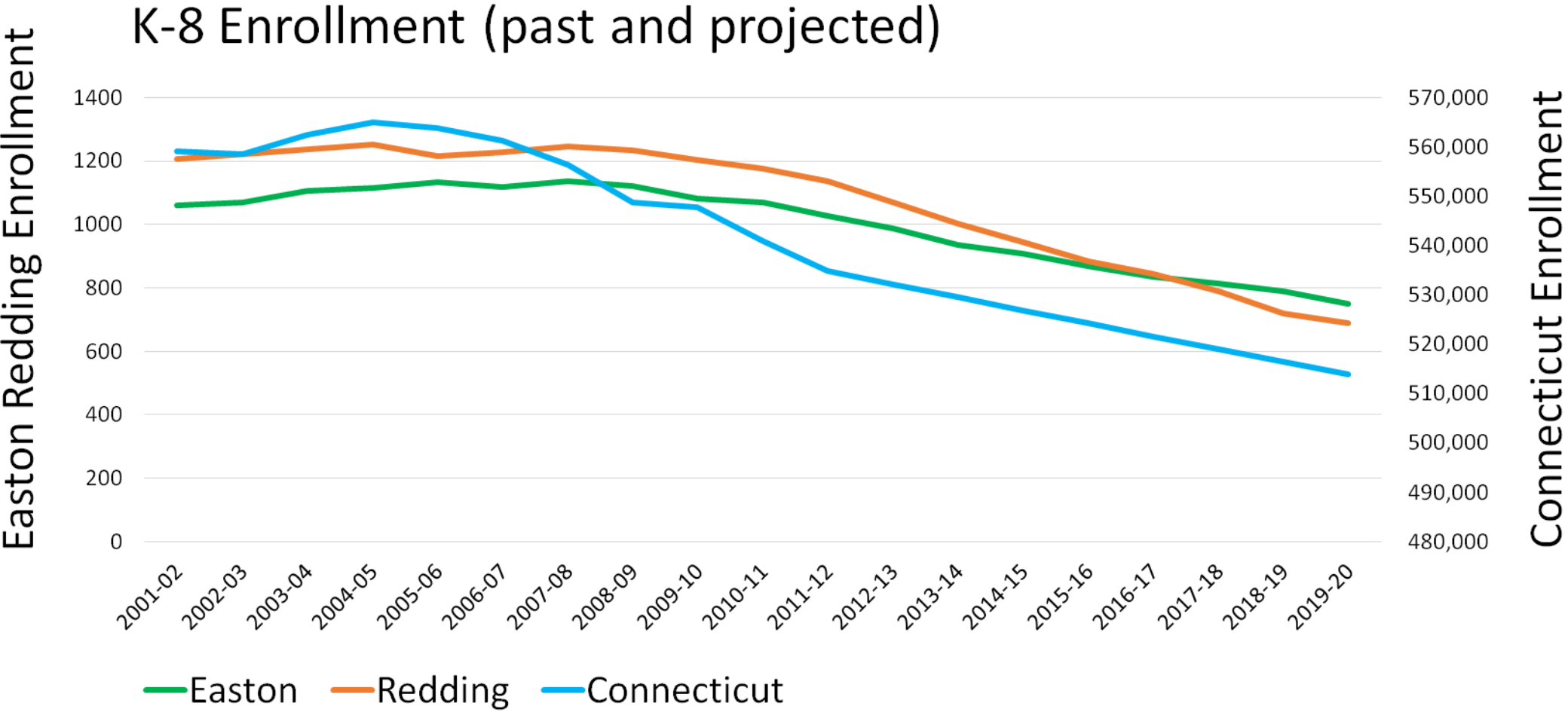


Current Enrollment Trends

K-8 Enrollment (past and projected)

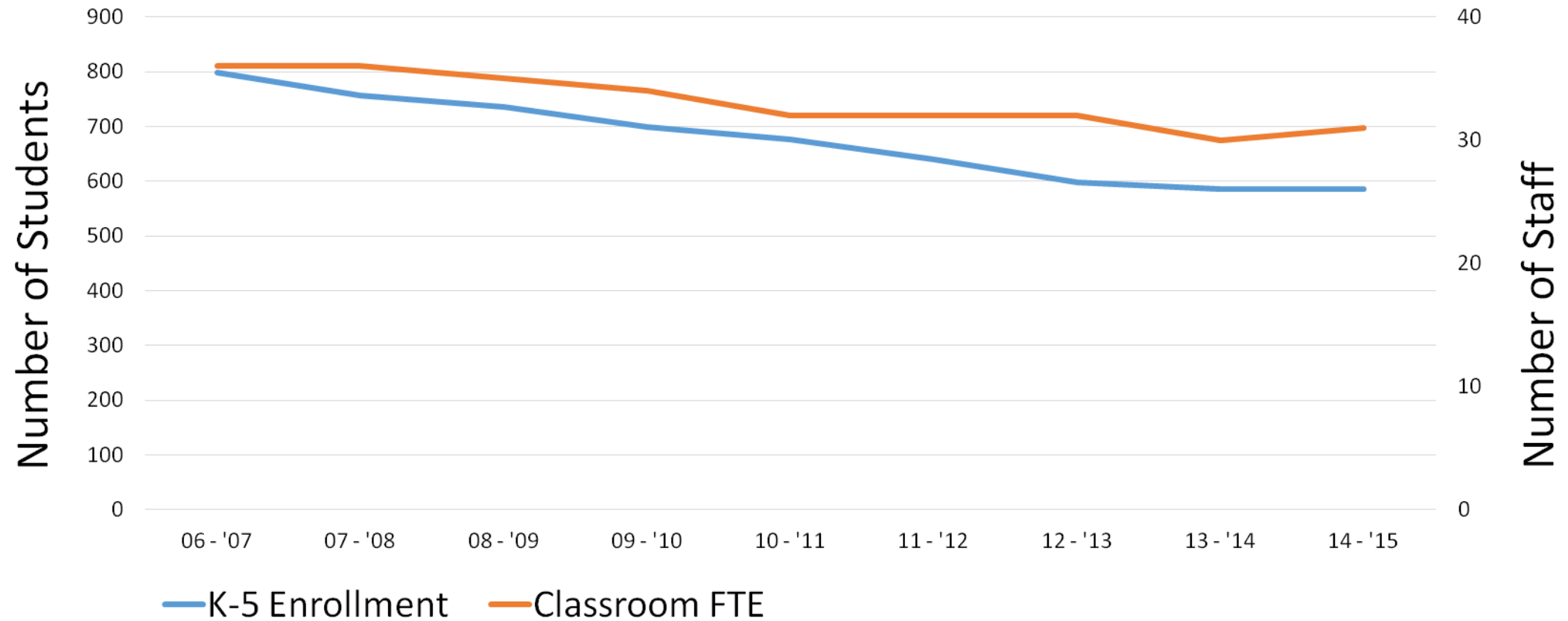


Enrollment Trend Comparison



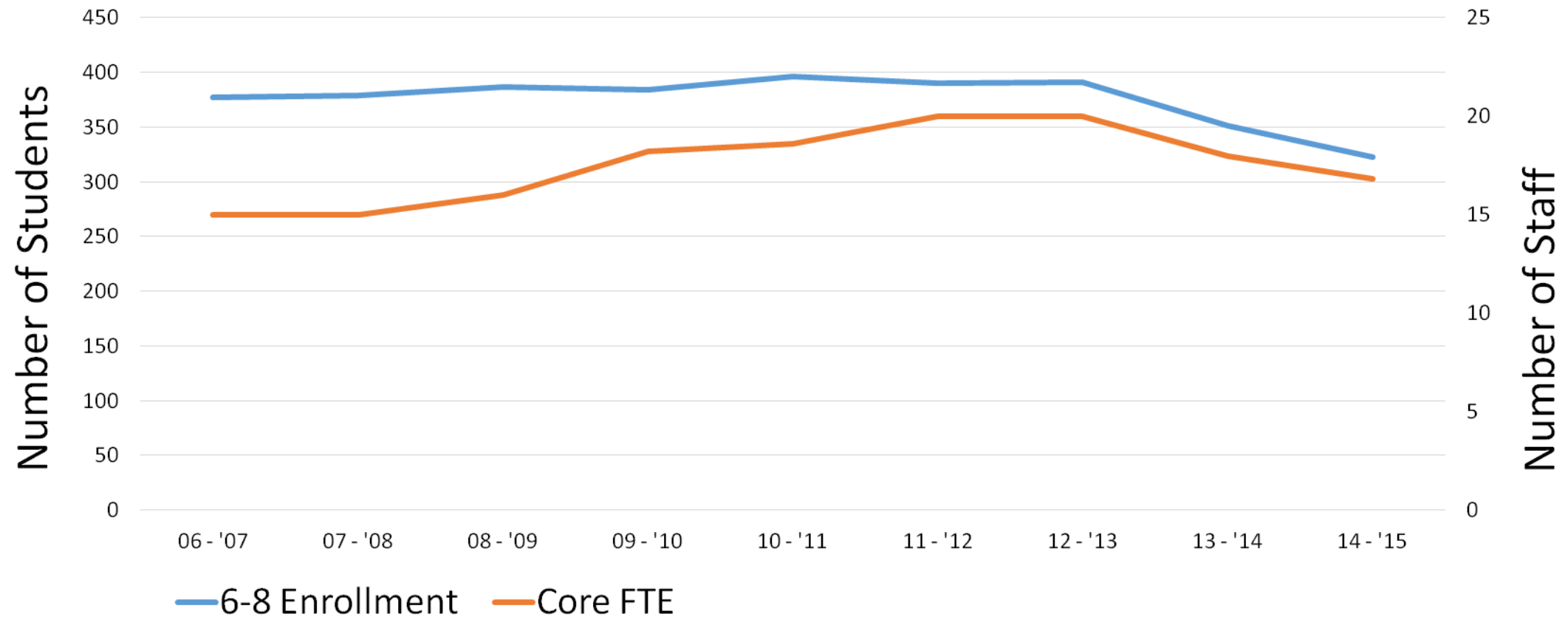
Adjustments to Enrollment

SSES Enrollment and Staffing



Adjustments to Enrollment

HKMS Enrollment and Staffing



Overview of Phase I Work to Date

- Discovery Process:
 - Discussed objectives of phase one and possible scope of work.
 - Defined assumptions/criteria for considering any options.
 - Researched Declining enrollment via numerous resources including:
 - ER9 Administrative team
 - Redding LRPC work to date
 - Jonathan Costa, Education Connection
 - Prowda enrollment projections and population trends
 - Education articles on best practices and on declining enrollment.
 - Brainstormed possible options and future work associated with them.
 - Identified need for community conversations and involvement of key stakeholders

Criteria for Consideration of Options

- District educational quality will be preserved or enhanced
- Cost effective – will be managed within budget constraints and/or offer cost savings.
- Implementation Complexity - Executable within necessary time frames with minimal disruption for students. Consider human as well as financial resources required, and required coordination with other groups.
- Flexible in response to possible shifts in enrollment.

About the Options

- Ideas only – **nothing** has been decided or pursued.
- **Much** more exploring to do.
- Some options might be possible as individual initiatives or in conjunction with others.
- Time frames for execution vary greatly.

Options to Explore

- Existing Strategies/Structure (Current to Short Term)
 - Staff reductions correlated to enrollment decline
 - Resource sharing
 - Instructional Technology
- Modifications within Easton
 - Redeployment of existing resources (Short To Mid-Term)
 - Example: Use of space:
 - Reconfigured for innovative instructional models/learning environments
 - Lease unused space
 - Vertical Consolidation- some form of reconfiguration of HKMS and SSES (Long- Term)
- Cross District Cooperation/Consolidation (Long Term)
 - Cooperation between and/or consolidation with Redding/Region 9 in some form.

Recommended Next Steps

- Meeting with Jonathan Costa and Redding on process for evaluating options and working cooperatively with Redding/Region 9.
- Establish joint committee with Redding.
- Define work process and establish time line.
- Initiate an ongoing community conversation for input from key stakeholders
 - Stakeholders include
 - all taxpayers, including seniors, parents and families without Easton school students
 - Students
 - Teachers and staff
 - Town Governance
 - Sister Districts – Redding and Region 9
 - Joint meeting with representatives from all stakeholder groups, Outreach conversations with individual stakeholder groups, broader community conversations.
 - Ongoing communication on progress
 - Emails, section on district website, etc.
- Phase II of Committee work

LRP Committee – Phase II

- Stakeholder and professional input
- Community conversations
- Deeper exploration and analysis of options
- Refinement of Options

Time Frame:

Goal for Completion of Phase II – before end of 2015-16 school year

- Key checkpoint in January

Questions and Answers

Closing Remarks

Dr. Bernard Josefsberg, Superintendent

Appendices

- Working list of options with criteria
- Future work list