DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Interdepartmental Communication

To: Board of Education
From: David Suppes, Chief Operating Officer
Through: Liz Mendez, Director Operations Support Services
Date: November 13, 2017
Subject: Recommendation to finalize placement of Rocky Mountain Prep Southwest at Kepner Campus

Purpose: Director of Operations requests the Denver Public Schools (“DPS”) Board of Education to approve a recommendation to make final Rocky Mountain Prep Southwest’s placement at Kepner Campus along with Kepner Beacon Middle School and STRIVE Prep - Kepner.

Background/Related Facts: In the 2015-16 school year, Rocky Mountain Prep Southwest was approved to be temporarily located in the Kepner Campus for a year along with Kepner Legacy Middle School and Compass Academy. The temporary placement was extended for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years. The schools in the building today are Kepner Beacon Middle School, STRIVE Prep - Kepner, and Kepner Legacy Middle School (closing in June 2019).

During these years, the DPS Operations staff continued to explore possible facility options, but was unable to locate an alternate facility option in the region.

The capacity of the Kepner Campus today is between 1100 – 1500 students. Once all three schools reach full size, the total number of students on the campus will be approximately 1250. DPS facilities staff are currently working with all three schools to create a long-term vision for the campus including facility improvements that ensure all three schools have what they need to continue to excel. This planning process will ensure a shared campus is created that is welcoming, safe, and age appropriate for all of the students on the campus.

Facility Allocation Policy: Rocky Mountain Prep Southwest was authorized prior to the passage of the Facility Allocation Policy in February of 2015. This facility placement recommendation is therefore “grandfathered” into the Facility Allocation Policy.

Community Engagement: A letter was sent home to all Kepner Campus families 11/9-11/13 informing them of this recommendation and the opportunity to attend public comment. In addition, DPS leadership will attend Kepner Beacon’s Coffee with the Principal on Tuesday 11/14 to inform parents of the recommendation and decision, answer questions, listen to parent ideas to help inform facility improvement planning, and to share public comment opportunity.

Recommendation: At the Board of Education’s meeting on November 16, 2017, the Board of Education is asked to approve the facility placement for Rocky Mountain Prep Southwest at Kepner Campus. See motion below.

MOTION TO APPROVE CONTINUED PLACEMENT OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN PREP SOUTHWEST AT KEPRNER CAMPUS

The Board of Education will be asked to approve finalizing the location of Rocky Mountain Prep Southwest at Kepner Campus which is located at 911 S Hazel Ct, Denver, CO 80219. In approving this placement, it is understood that Rocky Mountain Prep Southwest will share the campus with Kepner Beacon Middle School and STRIVE Prep - Kepner. District staff shall be authorized to take any reasonable action(s) necessary to facilitate said placement and have the authority to execute all required shared campus agreements.