From "Robbyn Fernandez <robbyn.fernandez@bvsd.org>" <robbyn.fernandez@bvsd.org>
Subject **Cuts to Fireside school budget**
To Julep Tile <ksharp@juleptile.com>
Cc "bill.sutter@bvsd.org" <bill.sutter@bvsd.org>, "lora.delacruz@bvsd.org" <lora.delacruz@bvsd.org>, "randy.barber@bvsd.org" <randy.barber@bvsd.org>, "rob.price@bvsd.org" <rob.price@bvsd.org>, "frankie.elmore@bvsd.org" <frankie.elmore@bvsd.org>, "neil.anderson@bvsd.org" <neil.anderson@bvsd.org>, "nicole.rajpal@bvsd.org" <nicole.rajpal@bvsd.org>, "beth.niznik@bvsd.org" <beth.niznik@bvsd.org>, "alex.medler@bvsd.org" <alex.medler@bvsd.org>, "jason.unger@bvsd.org" <jason.unger@bvsd.org>, "lalenia.quinlanaweida@bvsd.org" <lalenia.quinlanaweida@bvsd.org>, "kitty.sargent@bvsd.org" <kitty.sargent@bvsd.org>, "jorge.chavez@bvsd.org" <jorge.chavez@bvsd.org>, Pete Sharp <psharp@juleptile.com>
Date May 13, 2025 12:41:34 PM MDT

Hello Julep,

Thank you for your email, your advocacy for the students at Fireside and sharing your concerns about class size and composition.

You are correct that a number of factors have contributed to funding concerns and spending decreases both at the district office and in schools. Declining enrollment and state funding are having significant impacts on districts across Colorado, including here in the Boulder Valley School District, where it is limiting resources to address a variety of issues, rcesincluding class sizes.

In the past, we often had funding available to soften changes in enrollment and to bring in additional resources. Unfortunately, we don't have that luxury now. As a result, we follow the protocols set in our negotiated agreement with the Boulder Valley Educational Association, including the suggested class size limits.

As we look at Fireside, all grades are well under the suggested class size limit, with the exception of 4th grade. As of today, the 4th grade classes have 32 students enrolled in each class. This is one student above the suggested limit of 31 students.

Knowing that enrollment fluctuates throughout the spring and summer (with students enrolling and disenrolling) and then stabilizes as the new school year approaches – the protocol that we have used for many years across the district is to wait until closer to the new term to determine where any available resources might be allocated. Over the summer we closely monitor class sizes that are right at or slightly above the suggested limit and in the weeks leading up to the new school year we make adjustments to provide additional support, where necessary.

I hope that this clarifies our process and confirms that we are aware of and monitoring class sizes.

In order to provide all families who have reached out with a clear and consistent message, I will send this email to others who have also sent emails concerned about this issue.

Thank you,

Robbyn

On Fri, May 9, 2025 at 10:19 AM Julep Tile <ksharp@juleptile.com> wrote:

> Please see below our emails with regards to the increased classroom sizes at Fireside. Thank you for your consideration, and for doing everything in your power to do what's best for Fireside kids and teachers.
>
> -Kirsten & Peter Sharp
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ---------
> From: **Julep Tile** <ksharp@juleptile.com>
> Date: Fri, May 9, 2025 at 10:08 AM
> Subject: Re: Cuts to Fireside school budget
> To: Peter Sharp <psharp@juleptile.com>
> Cc: kristen.smetzer@bvsd.org <kristen.smetzer@bvsd.org>, rob.anderson@bvsd.org <rob.anderson@bvsd.org>
>
> Dear Kristen and Rob,
>
> I am also very concerned about the plans for classroom sizes for next year. As Pete mentioned, despite the best efforts of the teachers to cope with that many kids in the 5th grade classrooms in the 2023-2024 school year, our experience with our daughter in a classroom with 30+ kids was not great. Our daughter mentioned how chaotic it was, and how the kids and teachers were often tripping over each other. I know kids in the other 5th grade classroom struggled as well. The classroom was constantly loud which made it hard to concentrate - How can we expect our kids to learn and our teachers to teach in that kind of environment?
>
> I'm also curious why Fireside is pouring money into replacing a playground that doesn't need to be replaced when we're obviously struggling to fund enough teachers for our kids? Isn't our kids' education more important than a new playground?
>
> With few exceptions, Fireside has always held a standard of excellence that is quite frankly unheard of - From the way you handled the pandemic to the way you supported families after the Marshall Fire, Fireside has always been one of the core pillars that holds this community together. It would be a real shame to allow that legacy to start dwindling now.

As Pete said in his email, PLEASE do whatever you can to avoid these larger class sizes and give our amazing Fireside teachers the opportunity to teach our kids properly.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Sharp
Mother of Sophie & Daniel Sharp

On Fri, May 9, 2025 at 6:29 AM Peter Sharp <psharp@juleptile.com> wrote:

> Rob/Kristen,
>
> I have heard that 4th grade in the 2025-2026 academic year might be reduced to two classrooms resulting in over 30 children per class. When this happened to 5th grade in the 2023-2024 academic year there were a number of children who suffered, my daughter included. My son is due to be in 4th grade in the 2025-2026 academic year and it is disappointing to hear that he may be in a class of the same size.
>
> I request that you do EVERYTHING in your control to not allow this to happen. We love Fireside and the teachers/staff, and want the school to carry on in as strong and effective manner as possible.
>
> Regards,
>
> Peter Sharp
> Father of Sophie and Daniel Sharp

--

Robbyn Fernandez
Assistant Superintendent of Schools
720-561-5086

Confidentiality Notice: This e-mail message, including all attachments, may contain information that is confidential, proprietary, privileged or otherwise protected by law. It is to be viewed only by the intended recipient(s). If you are not the intended recipient(s), please notify the sender of this message and delete your copy immediately. Thank you for your cooperation.