

## **SCHOOL: DEARBORN PARK**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Relocate The New School to Dearborn Park

### **SECTION 1: SCHOOL PROFILE**

#### **A. Educational Profile**

**Grades:** K-5

**Programs:**

- **Kindergarten:** Full day and half day kindergarten (no fee)
- **Advanced Learning:** Advanced Learning Opportunities (ALO) program (grades 1-5)
- **Special Education:** Intermediate Generic Self-Contained
- **Transitional Bilingual Education:** Yes
- **Head Start:** No
- **Before/After School Program(s):** Jefferson Community Center

#### **B. Facility**

- **Location:** 2820 S Orcas Street, 98108
- **Site size:** 10.3 acres
- **Year Constructed:** 1972
- **Building type and size:** K-5 Elementary School (35,169 square feet)
- **Portables:** 5
- **Handicap Accessibility:** Rated poor
- **Planning Capacity:** 355 students
- **Adjacent park:** Dearborn Park (five acres)
- **Child care:** No dedicated child care space on site
- **Study and survey building condition score (out of 100 possible points): 61.7**
- **Discussion:** Dearborn Park was evaluated by Meng Analysis for the 2002 Study and Survey in May of 2002 and was rated as poor or unsatisfactory in the following areas –
  - exterior walls, plumbing, fire alarm system and emergency lighting, means of exit, and fire resistance
- **Most recent capital work:** Dearborn Park received a new roof and earthquake retrofit in 1991 and technology upgrades in 2001.
- **Planned capital work:** Under current BEX II levy plan, portables at Dearborn Park will be replaced by a new addition with five classrooms, a cafetorium, gymnasium and a dedicated child care facility in 2006. The school is also scheduled to have approximately \$600,000 of improvements in the BTA II levy plan for work in 2009. Those planned improvements include ADA/life safety, mechanical system, playground, and technology upgrades.
- **Self-Help projects of note:**
  - Play equipment.
  - PTA sponsored master site plan.
  - Landscaping, small garden and forest trail renovation
  - Alder wetland environmental classroom
- **Comments:** Dearborn Park opened in 1972 as an elementary school with an open floor plan. The site contains a large urban forest and wetlands area which provide

unique opportunities for environmental stewardship and science education programs. The building is currently not fully utilized.

### C. Enrollment/Demographics

#### Enrollment

Year:	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Total Students:</b>	356	329	308	288	247	218

#### Current Student Demographics

	Number	Percent
<b>Ethnic Group:</b>		
<b>White</b>	10	4.1
<b>Non-White</b>	237	96.0
<b>Asian</b>	143	57.9
<b>Black</b>	63	25.5
<b>Latino</b>	30	12.2
<b>Native American</b>	1	0.4
<b>Free and Reduced Lunch eligible</b>	184	74.5
<b>Bilingual served</b>	112	45.3
<b>Special Education served</b>	24	9.7

## SECTION 2: RECOMMENDATION AND IMPACTS

**A. Recommendation:** Relocate The New School to Dearborn Park and incorporate The New School methodology at Dearborn Park; Reconfigure The New School program to a neighborhood K-5 program.

### B. Financial Effects

- Initial Savings: Relocate staff (\$39,409)
- On-going Savings: No additional costs or savings

### C. Educational Impact

The New School at South Shore is currently a preschool through second grade program that is expected to grow into a preschool through grade eight program. The program is located in the South Shore building, along with the South Lake alternative high school and re-entry programs.

The New School program is endowed by the New School Foundation, and the dollars provided by that endowment provide additional services not found in traditional schools, such as an extended school calendar (200 days of school) and a smaller class size (17:1 student/teacher ratio). The recommendation to relocate The New School to the Dearborn Park building comes from two main rationales: first, The New School's philosophy fits well with the established philosophy and program at Dearborn Park; and second, the South region of the city needs a neighborhood middle school, and the

South Shore building, currently housing The New School, fits that need. Additionally, the recommendation to make the program K-5, not K-8, fits with the original program development, as the school was developed as a K-5.

Philosophically, The New School and Dearborn Park are a good match. Dearborn Park has a concentration of Bilingual/English Language Learners (ELL), and The New School curriculum is thought to be a good match for Bilingual/ELL students, especially when coupled with the 'Guided Language Acquisition Design' (GLAD) program and trained teachers that currently exist at Dearborn Park. The Dearborn Park building is located on land that includes a forest and wetlands, which offers students the opportunity to participate in an established environmental program, and Dearborn Park's established project-based program will blend well with The New School's program. Last, combining The New School and Dearborn Park allows the continuation of Dearborn Park's certified Advanced Learning Opportunities (ALO) program, which The New School does not currently have. It is anticipated that these two programs, which complement each other well, will quickly develop into one cohesive program that embraces the best of the original programs.

From a capacity standpoint, The New School needs to move from the South Shore building. There are two neighborhood middle schools in the South region (Aki Kurose and Mercer), but additional seats are needed to accommodate all the students who live in the region. South Shore was originally built as a middle school, and the recommendation to move The New School to Dearborn Park (and a concurrent recommendation to temporarily relocate South Lake) frees up the South Shore building for renovation back to a neighborhood middle school.

Relocating The New School to Dearborn Park allows the students to be educated in an elementary building, which is also important given the concomitant recommendation to return The New School to its original program as a K-5, rather than asking for expansion to a K-8. The program was developed as a K-5, and although the school was willing to expand to a K-8, maintaining the K-5 grade span allows the program to continue as originally developed.

#### **D. Demographic and Integration Effects**

Under the proposed assignment plan changes, students will be assigned to their neighborhood schools. The elementary school students living in the current Dearborn Park reference area have smaller proportions of non-white, free and reduced lunch, and bilingual students than the population currently attending Dearborn Park. Returning Dearborn Park resident students to their neighborhood school would therefore reduce the proportion of non-white, free and reduced lunch, and bilingual students at Dearborn Park.

The proposed adoption of The New School methodology by Dearborn Park will not affect the demographics of Dearborn Park.

#### **Reference Area Demographics**

Reference Area	Non-White		Free and Reduced Lunch		Bilingual	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Dearborn Park	334	94.9	212	60.2	123	34.9

**E. Facility Effects**

- **Impacts to community use:** The District has a 40-year lease with the Seattle Parks Department for a Parks facility that is on District property. Additional planning is necessary to determine before/after school program use of the building.
- **Proposed site classification of the building:** No change (essential)