

**SCHOOL:** WHITWORTH ELEMENTARY

**RECOMMENDATION:** Repurpose as Orca K-8 alternative school

## **SECTION 1: SCHOOL PROFILE**

### **A. Educational Profile**

**Grades:** K-5

**Programs:**

- **Kindergarten:** Full day and half day kindergarten (no fee)
- **Advanced Learning :** No
- **Special Education:** Severe/Profound; Self-Contained Low Incidence
- **Transitional Bilingual Education:** Yes
- **Head Start:** No
- **Before/After School Program(s):** We Care Day Care

### **B. Facility**

- **Location:** 5215 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue S, 98118
- **Site size:** 3.77 acres
- **Year constructed:** 1989
- **Building type and size:** K-5 Elementary School (59,955 square feet)
- **Portables:** No
- **Handicap accessibility:** Rated good
- **Planning capacity:** 436 students
- **Adjacent park:** No
- **Child care:** Dedicated child care space available on site
- **Study and survey building condition score (out of 100 possible points): 83.0**
- **Discussion:** Whitworth was evaluated by Meng Analysis for the 2002 Study and Survey and was rated as poor or unsatisfactory in the following area – cooling system.
- **Most recent capital work:** The school received technology upgrades in 2000 and HVAC system upgrades in 2004.
- **Planned capital work:** Under the BTA II levy plan, the school is scheduled to received \$300,000 of improvements in 2008. Planned work includes interior finishes, mechanical system, and technology upgrades.
- **Self-help projects of note:**
  - Replaced play equipment with City funding
  - Grant in hand to develop a design to renovate kindergarten playground
- **Comments:** Whitworth was constructed under the Capital Improvement Program, a levy passed in 1984.

### **C. Enrollment/Demographics**

#### **Enrollment**

<b>Year:</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Total Students:</b>	420	370	330	293	253	227

#### **Current Student Demographics**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Ethnic Group:</b>		
<b>White</b>	16	6.3
<b>Non-White</b>	238	93.7
<b>Asian</b>	65	25.7
<b>Black</b>	135	53.4
<b>Latino</b>	31	12.3
<b>Native American</b>	6	2.4
<b>Free and Reduced Lunch eligible</b>	195	76.8
<b>Bilingual served</b>	52	20.5
<b>Special Education served</b>	31	12.2

## **SECTION 2: RECOMMENDATION AND IMPACTS**

**A. Recommendation:** Repurpose Whitworth as Orca alternative school; add grades 6-8 to make Orca a K-8 alternative school; reassign Whitworth students to neighborhood schools.

### **B. Financial Effects**

- Initial Savings: Relocate staff and add middle school administrative staff (\$130,851)
- On-going Savings: Middle school administrative staff (\$54,896)

### **C. Educational Impact**

Because the Orca program is moving intact to Whitworth, we do not anticipate program changes other than expanding Orca to include grades 6-8. However, the Whitworth facility will better accommodate this K-8 alternative school.

### **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 Whitworth reference area have smaller proportions of non-white, free and reduced lunch, and bilingual students than the population currently attending Whitworth. Returning Whitworth resident students to their neighborhood school would therefore reduce the proportion of non-white, free and reduced lunch, and bilingual students at Whitworth.

However, with the proposed movement of the Orca program into the Whitworth building, students currently living in the Whitworth reference area will likely be assigned to one of the following neighboring reference area schools (depending on the location of the new attendance area boundaries): Hawthorne, Dearborn Park, Brighton, or Graham Hill. The Hawthorne, Dearborn Park, Brighton, and Graham Hill reference areas all have higher proportions of non-white, free and reduced lunch, and bilingual students than the Whitworth reference area.

Assuming Whitworth resident students would be evenly distributed among these neighboring schools, changing the assignment plan and repurposing the Whitworth building could result in decreasing the proportions of non-white, free and reduced lunch, and bilingual students at Hawthorne, Dearborn Park, Brighton, and Graham Hill.

**Affected Reference Area Demographics**

Reference Area	Non-White		Free and Reduced Lunch		Bilingual	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Whitworth	334	77.0	256	59.0	78	18.0
Hawthorne	329	82.9	273	68.8	95	23.9
Dearborn Park	334	94.9	212	60.2	123	34.9
Brighton	345	95.0	237	65.3	137	37.7
Graham Hill	355	88.1	266	66.0	139	34.5

**E. Facility Effects**

- **Impacts to community use:** Additional planning is necessary to determine before and after school programming.
- **Proposed site classification of the building:** No change (essential)

