

School Board Action Report

“Every student achieving, everyone accountable”



DATE: November 16, 2009

FROM: The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors

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**STRATEGIC THEME/
FOCUS AREA:** Building an Infrastructure that Works Well – Student Assignment

TITLE AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Executive Committee’s Proposed Amendments to the Recommended *New Student Assignment Plan Attendance Area Boundaries*. For Introduction and Action: November 18, 2009

AMENDMENT OF MOTION

I move to amend the main motion as follows:

I move that the School Board approve the *New Student Assignment Plan Attendance Area Boundaries*, with the following changes:

- (1) Move the northern boundary for the McDonald attendance area from North 57th Street to North 60th Street¹, and from Ravenna Place Northeast to Northeast 61st Street²;
- (2) Extend the southern boundary of the Whittier attendance area from Northwest 67th Street to Northwest 65th Street, with the north side of Northwest 65th Street being in the Whittier attendance area and the south side of Northwest 65th Street being in the West Woodlands attendance area;
- (3) Move the southern boundary for the Loyal Heights attendance area from Northwest 75th Street to Northwest 73rd Street starting at 32nd Avenue Northwest running east to 24th Avenue Northwest, following the jog south in Northwest 73rd Ave at 28th Avenue Northwest to 24th Ave Northwest, with the north side of Northwest 73rd being in the Loyal Heights attendance area and the south side of Northwest 73rd being in the Adams attendance area; and
- (4) Make the boundary between the Alki and Lafayette attendance areas be a straight line on 47th Avenue Southwest from Southwest Admiral Way to Southwest Stevens Street, where the boundary line would then follow the Alki walk zone west and south to Southwest Hanford Street, with both sides of 47th Avenue Southwest being in the Lafayette attendance area.

¹ Because streets do not run in a grid formation in this neighborhood, the boundary will follow North 60th Street to Meridian Avenue North, then follow Meridian Avenue North to Green Lake, then follow North 60th Street again running east to 4th Avenue Northeast and then south to Northeast 59th Street and east Northeast 59th Street extended to I-5.

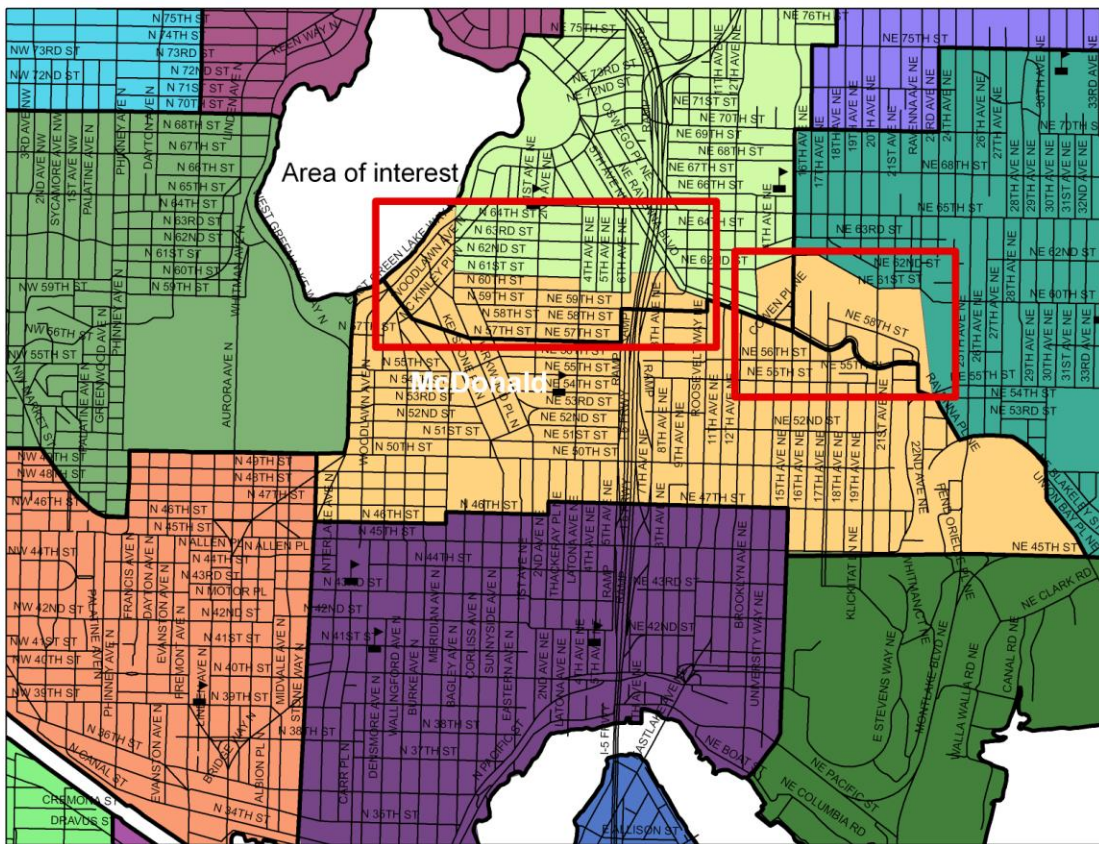
² Northeast 61st Street is immediately adjacent to Cowen Park, with housing only being on the north side of Northeast 61st Street. Students living on the north side of Northeast 61st Street east of 16th Avenue Northeast will be in the Bryant attendance area;

I further move that the Superintendent be directed to: (1) develop a transition plan to begin implementation of the NSAP and these attendance area boundaries in the 2010-2011 school year, and (2) review existing policies to identify those which need to be eliminated, revised, or put on hold pending revision to bring them into alignment with the New Student Assignment Plan.

ISSUE

The proposed amendments address concerns raised regarding capacity, walkability, and continuity.

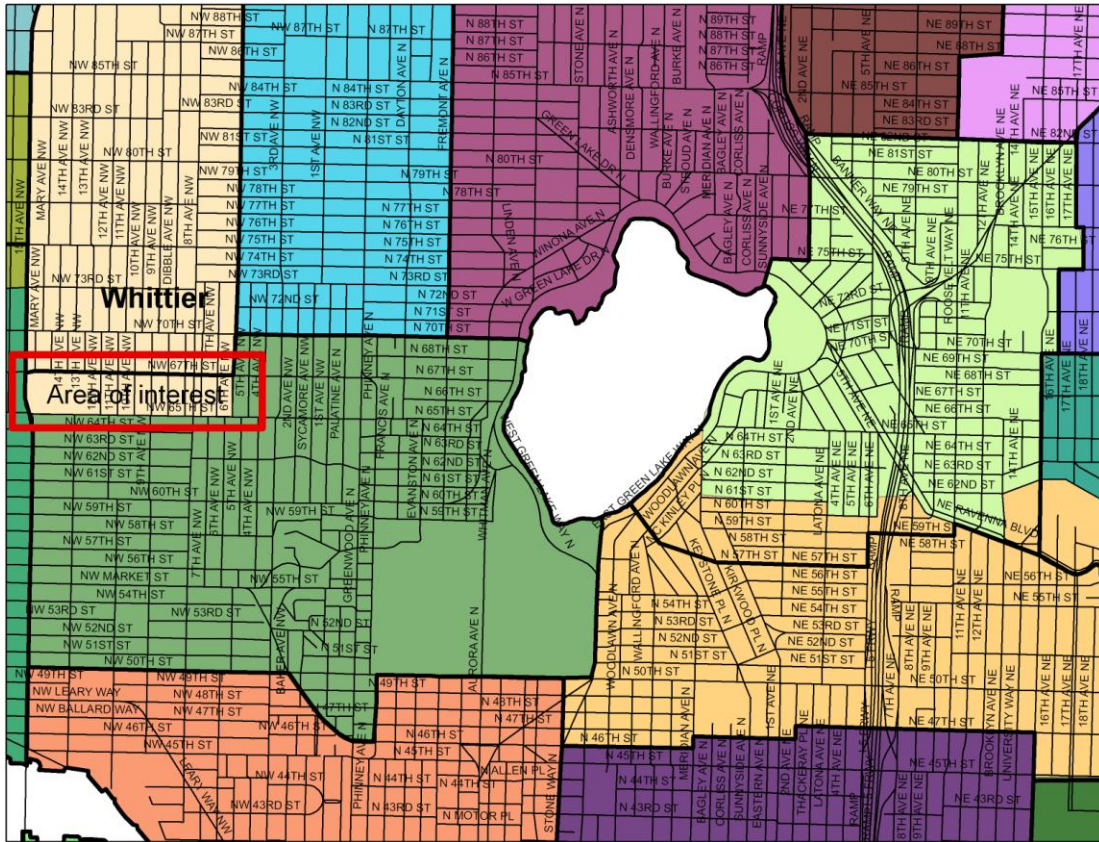
McDonald



(Dark black lines illustrate the initial proposed boundaries, while the shading illustrates what the boundaries would become if the amendment passes, with tan shading representing the McDonald attendance area, teal shading representing the Bryant attendance area, and light green shading representing the Green Lake attendance area).

Based upon current data, it is believed that moving the northern boundary for the McDonald attendance area in the manner proposed results in 38 students from the Green Lake attendance area and 12 from the Bryant attendance area shifting into the McDonald attendance area. This change will take Bryant from being projected to be at functional capacity to 14 seats under projected functional capacity, and will reduce the projected enrollment at Eckstein Middle School from 50 students above functional capacity to 25. It also places the Cowan Park and University Heights neighborhoods in the McDonald attendance area.

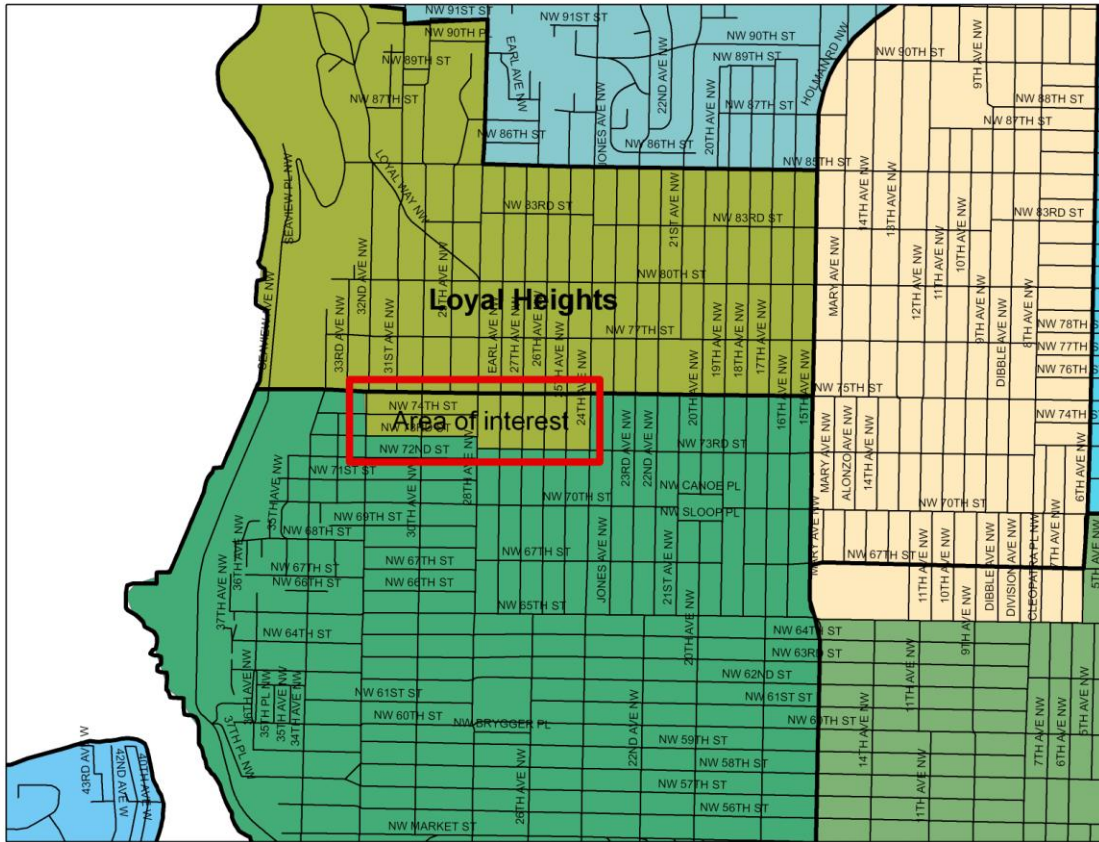
Whittier



(Dark black lines illustrate the initial proposed boundary, while the shading illustrates what the boundary would become if the amendment passes, with tan shading representing the Whittier attendance and green shading representing the West Woodlands attendance area).

Based upon current data, it is believed that extending the southern boundary of the Whittier attendance area from Northwest 67th Street to Northwest 65th Street will result in 24 students shifting from West Woodland to Whittier. This results in a projection of 18 additional seats at West Woodland, and can be done without Whittier’s enrollment becoming at or above projected functional capacity.

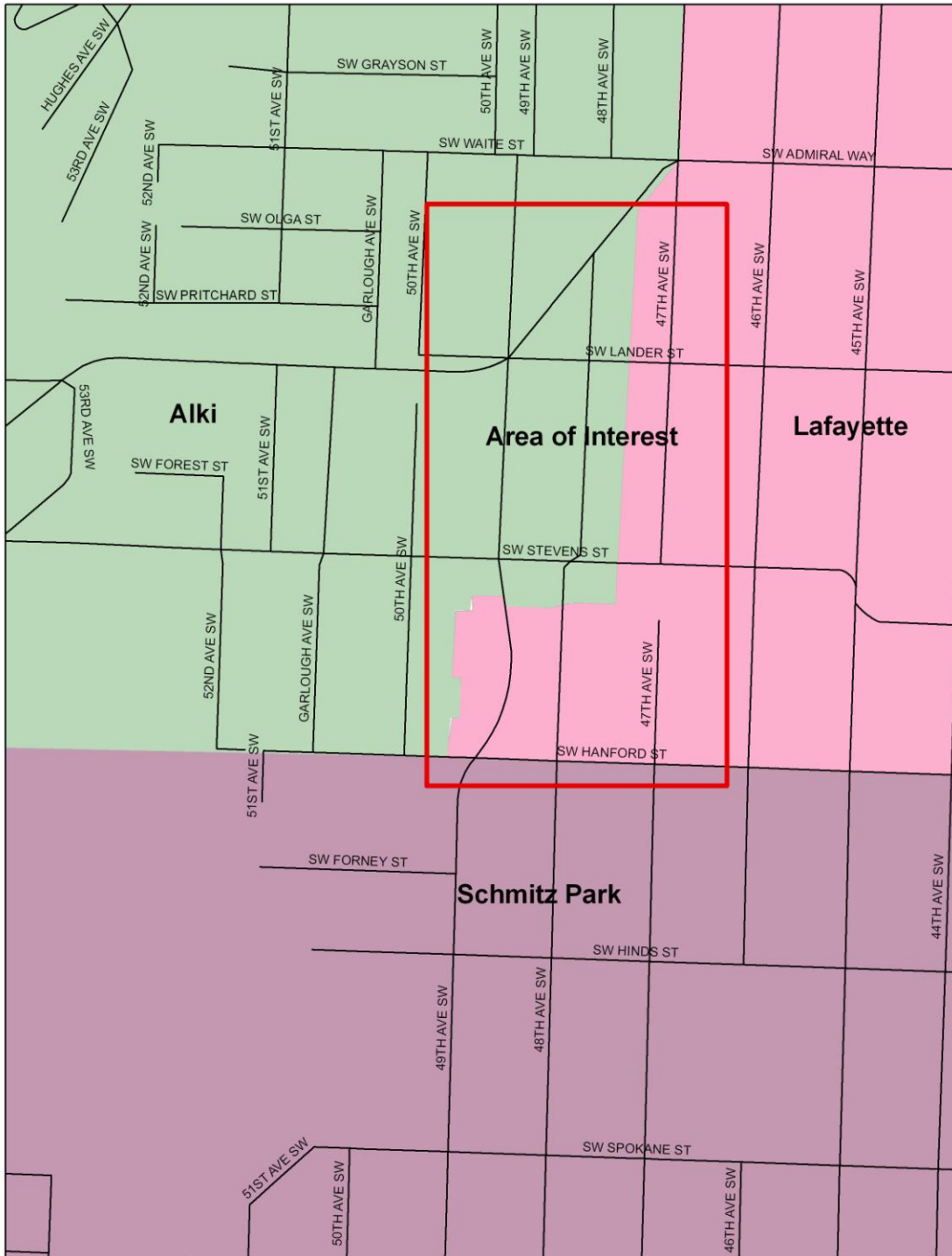
Loyal Heights



(Dark black lines illustrate the initial proposed boundary, while the shading illustrates what the boundary would become if the amendment passes, with olive shading representing the Loyal Heights attendance area and green shading representing the Adams attendance area).

Based upon current data, it is believed that moving the southern boundary for the Loyal Heights attendance area from Northwest 75th Street to Northwest 73rd Street starting at 32nd Avenue Northwest running east to 24th Avenue Northwest, following the jog south in Northwest 73rd Ave at 28th Avenue Northwest to 24th Ave Northwest will result in a projections of 19 students shifting from Adams to Loyal Heights. This results in the projected enrollment at Adams moving from 13 in excess of functional capacity to 20 under functional capacity. Following the streets in this manner also ensures that the students who move into the Loyal Heights attendance area are within the Loyal Heights walk zone.

Alki/Lafayette



(The shading illustrates what the boundary would become if the amendment passes, with green shading representing the Alki attendance area, pink shading representing the Lafayette attendance area, and purple shading representing the Schmitz Park attendance area).

Based upon current data, making the boundary between the Alki and Lafayette attendance areas a straight line on 47th Avenue Southwest from Southwest Admiral Way to Southwest **Stevens** Street shifts a small number of projected students among the Alki and Lafayette attendance areas without either school's projected enrollment exceeding functional capacity or any students being removed from a walk zone.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

A number of community meetings were held leading up to the June 17, 2009 approval of the *New Student Assignment Plan*.

- Community meetings on October 23, October 27, and November 1, 2008
- Consultative meetings on November 6, 7, 14, 15, 18 and 20, and on December 2
- Quarterly community meetings about *Excellence for All* on January 12, 13, and 24; March 21, 24 and 26; and May 5, 7, and 9, and
- Meetings with various stakeholder and advocacy groups (Advanced Learning, Bilingual, Special Education, Parent Advisory Committee) during May 2009.

A complete list of meetings, and the handouts from those meetings, can be found on-line at: <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/newassign/index.html>.

After development of proposed boundaries, eleven community meetings were held throughout the city, as well as a public hearing prior to Board action. Specifically:

- October 10, 2009 Eckstein Middle School
- October 10, 2009 Washington Middle School
- October 12, 2009 McClure Middle School
- October 13, 2009 Aki Kurose Middle School
- October 14, 2009 Ballard High School
- October 15, 2009 West Seattle High School
- October 16, 2009 Denny Middle School
- October 17, 2009 Mercer Middle School (2 sessions – a.m. and p.m.)
- November 5, 2009 Roosevelt High School
- November 7, 2009 Rainier Beach High School
- November 9, 2009 Public Hearing, John Stanford Center

In addition to these meetings, individual School Board Directors engaged in numerous community meetings and school-based meetings in their own districts and throughout the city. Extensive information was provided on the District web site so stakeholders could review information, assumptions and data related to the proposed boundaries. This is available at <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/newassign/index.html>. Families and other stakeholders could submit comment cards electronically, at community meetings, or to schools. Literally thousands

of emails were received and reviewed, and the address lookup tool was accessed more than 13592 times.

In conjunction with the attendance area boundaries recommended by the Superintendent, staff has made a series of preliminary recommendations to the Superintendent about program placement options. Preliminary program placement recommendations are not typically made public. This year, however, because of the interest in programs because of the new student assignment plan, preliminary recommendations were made public. This provided the opportunity for community members and other stakeholders to see and comment on preliminary program placement recommendations.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Executive Committee's amendments to the recommended *New Student Assignment Plan Attendance Area Boundaries*.