



School Board Briefing/Proposed Action Report

Informational (no action required by Board) **Action Report** (Board will be required to take action)

DATE: October 28, 2016

FROM: School Board Directors Rick Burke, Scott Pinkham, Jill Geary

Directors Burke, Pinkham and Geary are putting forward two separate options regarding Cedar Park for public input and Director consideration. Please review this with corresponding Amendment 5.A.

I. TITLE

Amendment 5.B to Growth Boundaries: Open Cedar Park as a Kindergarten Roll-up and Plan with Community Input for a future Option School

For Introduction: November 2, 2016

For Action: November 2, 2016

II. WHY BOARD ACTION IS NECESSARY

Board action is necessary for any formal amendments to another proposed Board action.

III. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

If the new Cedar Park Option School opens under-enrolled in its first year, as is likely, there may be a need for additional mitigation funds to provide services at the school. There would also be potential capacity impacts at John Rogers and Olympic Hills.

If the result of this action is larger class sizes at some schools, the District faces some risk of losing state funding for smaller class sizes depending on class size averages at other schools.

The revenue source for this motion is N/A.

Expenditure: One-time Annual Other Source

IV. POLICY IMPLICATION

Board Policy No. 3130, Student Assignment, states that students shall have the opportunity to attend an elementary, middle, or high school in a designated attendance area based upon home address, unless the school designated by a student's home address does not have the appropriate services for the student's needs, as determined by the District.

Any changes to boundaries, geographic zones, or assignment rules subsequent to implementation of the Student Assignment Plan require Board action.

V. RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the School Board amend the proposed 2017-2018 Implementation Amendments to the 2013-2020 Growth Boundaries Plan to:

- 1) Open the new Cedar Park Elementary site as a Kindergarten Roll-up attendance area school, allowing current students at John Rogers and Olympic Hills to remain at those schools; and

- 2) Direct staff to initiate a community planning process to determine a curricular focus for an option school at Cedar Park Elementary starting in the 2018-2019 school year and provide the Board recommendations by September 2017 for this transition.

VI. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This motion was not discussed by a Board Committee.

VII. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Under the 2013-2020 Growth Boundaries Plan, Cedar Park Elementary is scheduled to open for the 2017-2018 school year as an attendance area school. Over the last year, District staff, Northeast school leaders, and community members have examined multiple scenarios for balancing enrollment between Olympic Hills, John Rogers, and Cedar Park. The Racial Equity Analysis tool was used to identify mitigations needed under each scenario and no clear consensus arose from this process as to a most preferred option. The options considered are included as an appendix to the Growth Boundaries Plan Board Action Report.

Directors have concerns about opening an attendance area school serving a higher concentration of low-income children (69% of students in this area in 2014-15 were identified as low-income) in an older school building. Some members of the community have also expressed similar concerns and also concerns about disrupting families with current students in John Rogers and Olympic Hills.

Staff have expressed concerns about the feasibility of creating a viable option school program in the few months remaining before this coming February's open enrollment. This motion would allow for an additional year of planning to determine the community's interest when it comes to a curricular focus for the school.

At a kindergarten roll-up, incoming kindergarteners in the attendance area would be assigned to Cedar Park and the older grades would be filled by any new students living in the area and during the school choice process. If the transition was made to an option school for the 2018-19 school year, these students would be given a choice to stay at Cedar Park or transition to Olympic Hills or John Rogers.

VIII. STATEMENT OF ISSUE

Whether to amend the current Growth Boundaries Plan to open Cedar Park as a kindergarten roll-up attendance area school and direct staff to start planning for an option school at this location in 2018.

IX. ALTERNATIVES

1. Open Cedar Park as an attendance area school as originally proposed. This is not recommended due to the resulting disruption of current John Rogers and Olympic Hills families and the creation of a high concentration of disadvantaged students in a smaller and older building.

2. Open Cedar Park as an option school for the 2017-18 year. This option leaves little time for District staff to plan and program a new option school before February open enrollment.
3. Leave Cedar Park vacant as a potential interim site to support the much-needed renovation of the John Rogers building. This is less desirable because a funding source has not yet been identified for John Rogers renovation. Leaving a functioning educational space vacant while other schools in the region are enrolled beyond building capacity is not an equitable use of infrastructure.

X. RESEARCH AND DATA SOURCES / BENCHMARKS

The Board has received many communications from community members with concerns about the proposal as introduced. Two such letters are included in the attachments.

The demographic breakdown of Cedar Park GeoZone would match the breakdown provided for Cedar Park in Scenario F of the Racial Equity Analysis appendix to the underlying Board Action Report:

- 2015-16 ELL: 43.8%
- 2014-15 Free Reduced Lunch: 69%
- 2015-16 Historically Underserved: 76.2%
- 2015-2016 Special Education: 11%

The following tables show the race/ethnicity breakdown for the current two option schools in NE Seattle, comparing demographics in the GeoZone to demographics at the school:

GeoZone Race/Ethnicity October 2016							
GeoZone	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Native American	White	Multi Racial	Pacific Island
Hazel Wolf K-8	15%	15%	15%	1%	40%	13%	1%
Thornton Creek	13%	1%	8%	0%	62%	15%	0%

School Race/Ethnicity October 2016							
School	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Native American	White	Multi Racial	Pacific Island
Hazel Wolf K-8	6%	6%	9%	0%	68%	10%	1%
Thornton Creek	5%	1%	7%	0%	73%	14%	0%

XI. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION / COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Upon approval of this motion, the underlying Board Action Report for the 2017-2018 Implementation Amendments to 2013-2020 Growth Boundaries Plan would be amended.

XII. ATTACHMENTS

- 2013 Board guiding principles for boundary decisions:
http://www.seattleschools.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_543/File/District/Departments/Enrollment%20Planning/Growth%20Boundaries/GB_guiding-principles-050813.pdf
- Letters from organizations:
 - Olympic Hills PTA Statement
 - North District Council Letter

Guiding Principles

- Ground decisions in data.
- Create boundaries that reflect equitable access to services and programs.
- Maximize walkability.
- Enable cost-effective transportation standards.
- Maintain key features of New Student Assignment Plan (e.g. opportunities for creating diversity within boundaries, choice, option schools, feeder patterns)
- Minimize disruptions by aligning new boundaries with current attendance area boundaries when feasible.
- Be mindful of fiscal impact (costs and savings).
- Be responsive to family input to the extent feasible.



NORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Representing the North Seattle Neighborhoods of
Lake City • Northgate • Meadowbrook • Pinehurst • Maple Leaf • Cedar Park
• Victory Heights • Olympic Hills • Jackson Park • North Matthews Beach

October 5, 2016

Seattle School District
ATTN: Board of Directors
MS 11-010
PO Box 34165
Seattle, WA 98124-1165

RE: Proposed Cedar Park Growth Boundaries

Dear Directors:

The North District Council, with representatives from 14 community groups across far northeast Seattle, wishes to express its strong concerns about the proposed Growth Boundaries Plan for 2017-18, which would impact at least five of the elementary schools in our part of the City and have ripple effects on Jane Addams Middle School and Nathan Hale High School.

We believe the plan is insensitive to the needs of the high-poverty communities it would affect north of and within the Lake City Urban Village, which include some of the poorest census tracts in Seattle. A thoughtful solution may require that Cedar Park Elementary be treated as an option school. This would lead to minimal boundary revisions for the other schools in the area and would also take full advantage of the new Olympic Hills Elementary School building that will open next year with a design specifically intended to serve a high-poverty student body.

Three issues are of particular concern to us:

- The recommended boundaries for Cedar Park Elementary would create a very high-poverty school (69% Free and Reduced Lunch), with a high concentration of English Language Learners (43.8%) and a high percentage of historically-underserved students (76.2%). Given the concentration of poverty in the area near Cedar Park, ANY attendance area boundaries for it would automatically make it the highest Free and Reduced Lunch school in North Seattle. This would create enormous challenges for any new school, but particularly so for a building with no library, eight unplumbed portables and insufficient space for programming especially important for a high-poverty student population (e.g., before and after-school care, Head Start preschool, etc.). The landmarked site also lacks flexibility to expand, while its attendance area has hundreds of multi-family units in the permitting pipeline.

Cedar Park Neighborhood Council
Douglas Park Cooperative
Lake City Community Council
Lake City Greenways
Lake City Townhouses
Lake City Farmers Market
Lake City North Emergency
Communication HUB
Maple Leaf Community Council
Meadowbrook Community
Council
North Cedar park Good Neighbor
Association
North Seattle Chamber of
Commerce
North End Health & Human
Services Co-op
Olympic Hills Neighborhood
Council
Pinehurst Community Council
South Cedar Park Good
Neighbors Association
Thornton Creek Alliance
Victory Heights Community
Council

Seattle School Board

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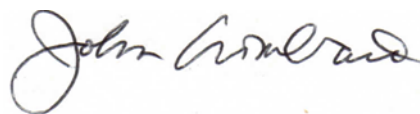
- The recommended boundaries would divert a large high-poverty population away from Olympic Hills Elementary School, which is uniquely well-prepared to support it. Olympic Hills, which earlier this year was named one of the Most Distinguished Schools in Washington State for being in the top 5% of all schools for raising academic achievement over the last five years, has historically had over 70% of its student body qualify for Free and Reduced Lunches. The new Olympic Hills building was specifically designed to serve the school's low-income students and English language learners. The building design includes small group work areas for English language, reading, and math instruction, a Health Center, and spaces specifically set aside for before and after school care, preschool, and special education. Olympic Hills now has four kindergarten classes and would naturally grow into its new facility, which is designed to house four classrooms per grade.
- The recommended boundaries would dramatically reduce diversity at other North District elementary schools. John Rogers, Sacajawea and Olympic View elementary schools would all see their racial and socioeconomic diversity drop significantly, while the new growth boundaries would concentrate poverty at Cedar Park and Olympic Hills. From a societal standpoint—considering the inherent educational value of a diverse student body and the extra challenges for both staff and students of concentrating high-poverty populations in certain schools—this makes no sense when there are alternatives.

Please take these concerns into account and revise plans for Cedar Park Elementary as well as the overall growth boundaries for far northeast Seattle schools in your final Growth Boundaries Plan.

Sincerely,



Mark Mendez
Co-Chair



John Lombard
Co-Chair

cc: Larry Nyland, Superintendent, Seattle Public Schools
Growth Boundaries Program, Seattle Public Schools
Honorable Debora Juarez, Seattle City Councilmember, District Five

Olympic Hills PTA Letter

From: maggie cheung <maggiacheung@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2016 2:46 PM
To: SchoolBoard; Pinkham, Scott S; Burke, Richard A; Geary, Jill L; Peters, Susan M; Blanford, Stephan; Harris, Leslie S; Patu, Betty
Cc: Legchair@scptsa.org; board@olympichillspta.org
Subject: Statement on 2017 Boundaries from the Olympic Hills Elementary PTA

Dear Seattle School Board Directors:

The Olympic Hills Elementary Parent Teacher Association stands together to express its grave concern regarding the 2017-2018 growth boundary adjustments for Olympic Hills and the future Cedar Park. The plan creates a high poverty school with a large historically underserved population within a substandard and too-small building.

We stand with our fellow North Seattle school communities in recommending a stop to growth boundary changes for the next year. The boundary changes were drawn in response to projected growth that never materialized and continuing with the plan as is will drastically decrease diversity across the north end, concentrating the majority of our historically underserved population at Olympic Hills and Cedar Park. Moving forward with needless changes will also disrupt the education and established communities of more than 800 students throughout North Seattle.

In addition we request a reevaluation of Cedar Park as a neighborhood assignment school. Our 400 students are currently housed in this building while the new Olympic Hills is being built. A makeshift library in a single classroom, a computer lab on the stage, no plumbing in the eight portables, pull out spaces set up in the hallway, and teachers working in glorified broom closets may be workable for an interim school, but is not acceptable for opening a neighborhood school with some of the largest projected FRL and ELL percentages in the district.

The new Olympic Hills is designed to serve these families. With a health clinic, designated pull-out spaces, preschool, and before and after school childcare spaces, the new building will provide educational supports and programs to specifically address the needs of our community. Should Cedar Park open as a neighborhood attendance school in 2017, the boundary change will remove our highest needs population from the school designed with them in mind.

During the summer, several of our parents participated in the Cedar Park Race and Equity Analysis Team. The final scenario was one that kept Cedar Park as a neighborhood attendance area school and **increased** the percentages of FRL, ELL, and historically underserved students from even the original proposed scenario. The parent representatives agree that in this instance, the application of the Race and Equity Toolkit failed.

In light of the increased inequity and unnecessary splitting of communities across North Seattle, the Olympic Hills PTA respectfully requests the board reevaluate the 2017 growth boundary plan, and specifically reconsider opening Cedar Park as a neighborhood school.

Sincerely,

The Olympic Hills PTA Board and Membership

Approved at our 10/25/2016 membership meeting