



# **SCHOOL BOARD ACTION REPORT**

**DATE:** December 6, 2016  
**FROM:** School Board Directors Rick Burke and Scott Pinkham

## **1. TITLE**

Amendment 2 to the Student Assignment Plan for 2017-18: Adjust elementary feeder school patterns to move Greenwood Elementary and Broadview Thompson K-8 into the Whitman Middle School service area.

**For Introduction:** December 7, 2016  
**For Action:** January 4, 2017

## **2. PURPOSE**

The proposed Student Assignment Plan directs students from Greenwood Elementary and Broadview Thompson K-8 to attend Robert Eagle Staff Middle School. As a consequence of the opening of Robert Eagle Staff, Whitman Middle School enrollment will be significantly reduced, significantly lowering school funding and resulting in staff loss and possible reduction in student services. By leaving Greenwood and Broadview-Thompson in the Whitman service area, student enrollment will be better balanced between Whitman and Robert Eagle Staff.

District staff have not had time to review this amendment before posting on December 7, 2016.

## **3. RECOMMENDED MOTION**

I move that the School Board amend the proposed Student Assignment Plan for 2017-18 to designate Greenwood elementary and Broadview Thompson K-8 as feeder schools for Whitman Middle School, editing language in the Assignment Plan as shown in the amendment attached to this Board Action Report [to be added subsequent to the Dec. 7 meeting].

## **4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **a. Background**

The proposed Student Assignment Plan contains provisions to support opening of the new Robert Eagle Staff middle school, including creation of a new middle school service area and identifying elementary schools contained within that service area which will feed Robert Eagle Staff. Robert Eagle Staff attendance is projected consist of ~360 attendance area students from 5 attendance area schools, ~300 Highly Capable Cohort (HCC) Students, and ~150 students in Licton Springs for a total of 810 students. Whitman is projected to have 485 students in 2017, growing to 690 by 2020.

Under the prior Student Assignment Plan, students in Greenwood and Broadview Thompson fed Whitman Middle School and the geographical proximity of these two school make them good candidates to remain at Whitman. A significant portion of the Greenwood attendance area falls within the Whitman walk zone, so transportation costs would be expected to remain neutral or slightly reduced. Many Greenwood families are already embedded in the Whitman community, and have expressed a desire to remain at Whitman.

During the community engagement for Growth Boundaries and Student Assignment Plan, concerns were identified about the potential for the Robert Eagle Staff building to become overenrolled. Licton Springs and HCC has been previously promised to be located at the Robert Eagle Staff building. Since attendance area students and HCC students are both guaranteed assignments, this puts Licton Springs at the greatest risk if the building reaches capacity.

b. **Alternatives**

Approve the existing Student Assignment Plan. This is not recommended as it would significantly reduce student enrollment at Whitman, and potentially overenroll Robert Eagle Staff, creating challenges at both building sites.

c. **Research**

N/A

5. **FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE**

Fiscal impact to this action has ~~not~~ been analyzed and is anticipated to require one additional bus for student transportation at a cost of \$77,450. in detail, but is anticipated to be fiscally neutral, plus it will reduce the likelihood that Whitman will require mitigation funding in future years.

The revenue source for this motion is N/A

Expenditure:  One-time  Annual  Multi-Year  N/A

Revenue:  One-time  Annual  Multi-Year  N/A

6. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

With guidance from the District's Community Engagement tool, this action was determined to merit the following tier of community engagement:

Not applicable

Tier 1: Inform

Tier 2: Consult/Involve

Tier 3: Collaborate

Based on the community engagement tool (2.4 external, 2.3 internal), this action lies between the Inform and Consult/Involve tiers. Community engagement prior to introduction of Amendment has been focused on the original Student Assignment Plan, and has included a consistent level of concern for under-enrollment at Whitman and potential over-enrollment at Robert Eagle Staff.

~~Additional community engagement is planned between introduction and approval of this amendment. Language will be updated to reflect results of this consultation/involvement.~~ Since

Introduction, community engagement on this amendment has included conversations at director community meetings and review of community feedback sent via email to the Board.

**7. EQUITY ANALYSIS**

The racial equity tool was not applied for this amendment, as the demographics of Whitman Middle School and Robert Eagle Staff Middle School are anticipated to be similar.

**8. STUDENT BENEFIT**

This action will help maintain a strong building community and educational cohort at Whitman for 2017-18 and years following, and will reduce the risk that students at Robert Eagle Staff will become overcrowded in future years.

**9. WHY BOARD ACTION IS NECESSARY**

- Amount of contract initial value or contract amendment exceeds \$250,000 (Policy No. 6220)
- Amount of grant exceeds \$250,000 in a single fiscal year (Policy No. 6114)
- Adopting, amending, or repealing a Board policy
- Formally accepting the completion of a public works project and closing out the contract
- Legal requirement for the School Board to take action on this matter
- Board Policy No. \_\_\_\_\_, [TITLE], provides the Board shall approve this item
- Other: Board action is necessary for any formal amendments to another proposed Board action

**10. 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.

**11. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

This motion was not discussed by a Board Committee

**12. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Upon approval of this motion, the underlying Board Action Report for the Student Assignment Plan for 2017-18 would be amended.

**13. ATTACHMENTS**

- Amendment Language to Student Assignment Plan – for approval (~~under development~~)