



# **SCHOOL BOARD ACTION REPORT**

**DATE:** December 2, 2016  
**FROM:** School Board Director Sue Peters

## **1. TITLE**

Amendment to the Student Assignment Plan for 2017-18: **For Introduction:** December 7, 2016  
Establish Decatur school site as an optional, rather than **For Action:** January 4, 2017  
geo-split, pathway for ~~northeast-end~~ elementary HCC students.

## **2. PURPOSE**

This would establish Decatur as an optional HCC pathway for ~~northeast-end~~ elementary Highly Capable students, rather than a mandatory assignment, and provide potential capacity relief for Cascadia Elementary.

## **3. RECOMMENDED MOTION**

I move that the School Board amend the proposed Student Assignment Plan for 2017-18 to permit and implement Decatur as an optional HCC pathway for students in the Eckstein and Jane Addams service areas, adding language to the Student Assignment Plan as shown in the amendment attached to this Board Action Report.

## **4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The current proposal in the Student Assignment Plan is to geo-split Cascadia Elementary and other HCC students from Cascadia to Decatur Elementary, which currently has space available.

Historically, the HCC program, schools and students have been relocated or divided numerous times. Some of the same students have been required to move from their existing school multiple times, throughout elementary and middle school. Directors have heard concerns about the amount of disruption these changes cause to families and school communities. This is not in the best interest of student stability.

This amendment would address capacity challenges in a manner that does not force removal of students from their existing school. Instead, it would follow the successful models of Ingraham High School and Fairmount Park Elementary by establishing optional pathways for HCC students. This will serve to alleviate capacity challenges in over-enrolled schools, offer easier access to programming and services to families throughout the District, and better align with the commitment to students outlined in the District's Strategic Plan, which states: "Our Students Come First: We believe it is essential to place the interests of students above all others."

The amendment language also highlights that Fairmount Park is an optional HCC site for students in the Denny and Madison Middle School areas. This is currently the case and has been

noted to date in the Linked Schools Chart. This amendment makes it clear to anyone reading the Student Assignment Plan.

**Alternatives**

Proceed with previously approved Student Assignment Plan adjustments for the 2017-18 school year, geo-splitting north-end Cascadia and other HCC students between Cascadia Elementary and Decatur Elementary. This is not recommended as a mandatory division of a school population is disruptive to students and families.

**Research**

N/A

**5. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE**

The fiscal impact of this amendment is anticipated to require four additional school buses at a cost of \$77,450 each as well as potentially additional teaching staff if low enrollment (typical for option schools) of at least two more teachers at an estimated cost of \$108,000 each for a total general fund cost estimated at \$525,800. ~~difficult to determine because it is difficult to predict~~ Costs may vary based on how many students would choose to opt into the potential alternative site. ~~Should that site be under-enrolled and Cascadia Elementary over-enrolled, there could be potential cost impacts in the form of mitigation funding for the under-enrolled site and cost impacts to address capacity and transportation issues at Cascadia.~~

The revenue source for this motion is general funds.

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

This amendment was first introduced as an amendment to the Growth Boundaries plan in November, but Director Peters delayed action on this amendment and reintroduced it as an amendment to the Student Assignment Plan in order to allow for more public input. Over the last 7-8 weeks, this idea has been available for public review and members of the community have sent comments directly to the Board about it.

This proposal would afford all Highly Capable (HCC) students in the northeast geo-zone an option to attend school at a closer location.

**8. STUDENT BENEFIT**

This action would lesson mandatory disruption of students.

**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**

- Student Assignment Plan Amendment Language (for approval)