



SCHOOL BOARD ACTION REPORT

DATE: October 27, 2017
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For Introduction: October 18, 2017
For Action: November 1, 2017

1. TITLE

2018-19 Implementation Amendment to 2013-20 Growth Boundaries Plan for Student Assignment

2. PURPOSE

This Board Action Report updates the 2013-20 Growth Boundaries Plan for Student Assignment, in order to prevent misalignment of the Whittier Elementary School and Loyal Heights Elementary School boundaries.

3. RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the School Board amend the 2013-20 Growth Boundaries Plan for Student Assignment so that Change Area 128 (as defined in Attachment A) is included in the Loyal Heights Elementary School attendance area beginning in the 2018-19 school year, and direct the Superintendent to take any appropriate actions to implement this decision.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- a. **Background** The School Board Action on November 16, 2016 led to a misalignment of the Whittier Elementary School attendance area, beginning in the 2018-19 school year. In the previous action, the School Board directed staff to retain Change Area 128 in the attendance area for Whittier Elementary School, resulting in discontinuous attendance area boundaries with Loyal Heights – the above motion corrects the boundary misalignment. Attachment B maps the currently approved 2018-19 attendance area boundaries. As shown in Attachment B, as part of the 2013-20 Growth Boundaries Plan for Student Assignment approved in November of 2013, the School Board approved changes to the Whittier, Adams, and Loyal Heights boundaries to go into effect in fall of 2018. Staff recommends that students in these areas (Change area 2 and 127) be grandfathered. Transportation is not provided for grandfathered students. A review of the maximum potential cost of transportation for all grandfathered students would be \$150,813.34 for two buses per year (\$75,406.67 per bus). Providing transportation for grandfathered students would potentially require additional transportation each year until all grandfather students articulate out of Adams and Whittier.

- b. **Alternatives** If the School Board does not take action, Whittier Elementary School students residing in Change Area 128 will continue to attend Whittier. However, this would be the only boundary “island” in the Seattle School District, which is not recommended. Furthermore, the capacity of Loyal Heights is sufficient to accommodate current and future students in Change Area 128, instead of Viewlands Elementary School, which does not have additional capacity.
- c. **Research** As of September 11, 2017 there were 12 Whittier students (in grades K-4) residing in Change Area 128. Impacted students will be grandfathered to remain at Whittier through the highest grade served, but may also attend their new attendance area school, Loyal Heights, if they so desire.

5. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

Fiscal impact to this action will be negligible.

The revenue source for this motion is not applicable.

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

District staff reviewed enrollment and capacity data with school leaders. Two community meetings were scheduled (in June and September 2017) to inform families of the proposed boundary change and timeline for implementation. At these meetings, and in emails to the District, community members have requested grandfathered assignments for current students in Change Area 128, which district staff have decided to implement.

7. EQUITY ANALYSIS

The Racial Equity Analysis Tool was reviewed and the recommended motion does not disparately impact historically underserved students. Whittier students residing in Change Area 128 will be grandfathered to remain at Whittier through the highest grade served, but may also attend their new attendance area school, Loyal Heights, if they so desire.

8. STUDENT BENEFIT

This action will provide current students with assignment continuity through grandfathering; better balance future enrollment in the region with the BEX IV levy-funded capacity addition; and maintain the integrity of continuous attendance area boundaries, promoting predictability in assignment for our students and their families.

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. 3130, Student Assignment, provides the Board shall approve this item
- Other: _____

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

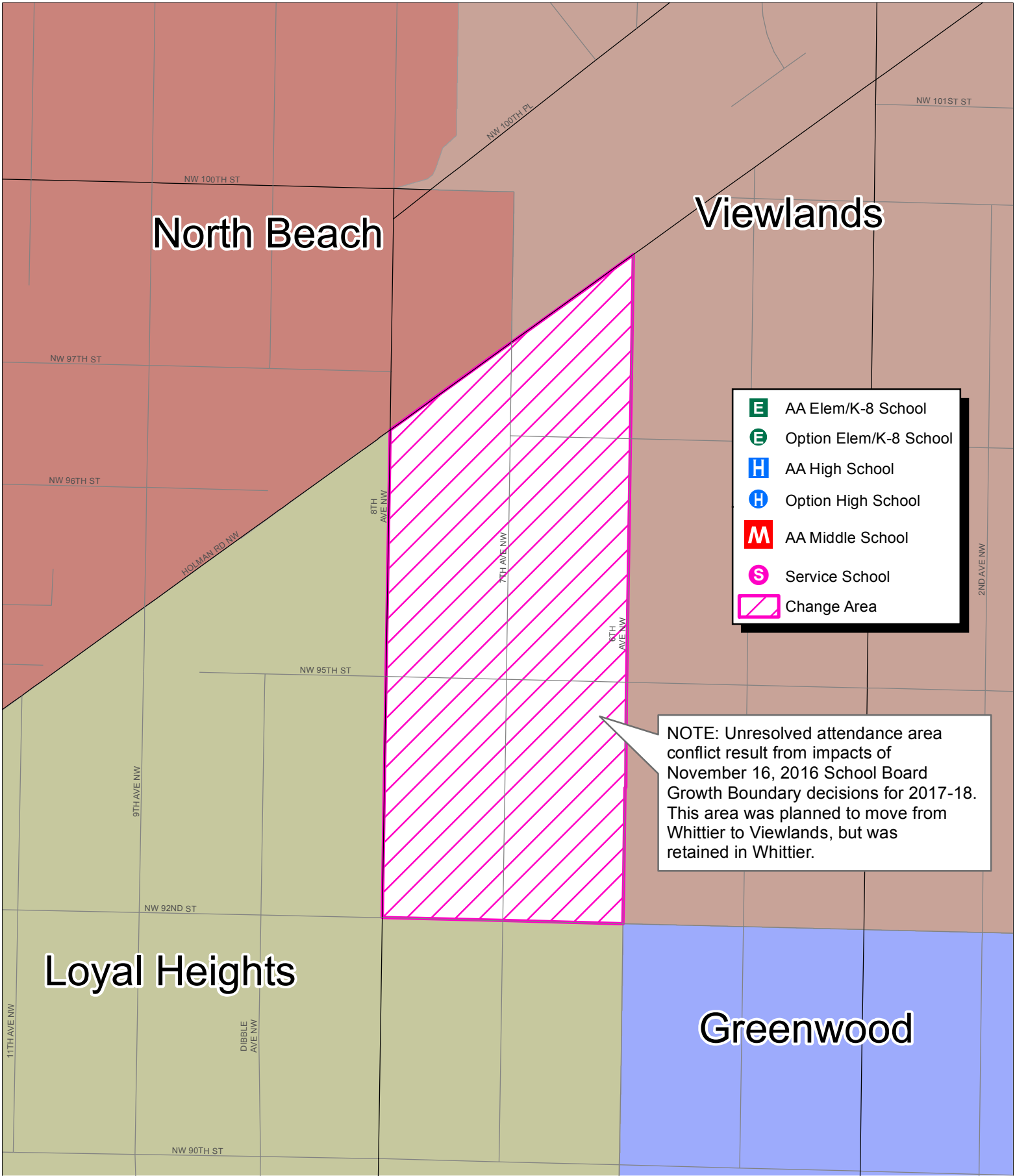
This motion was discussed at the Operations Committee meeting on October 5, 2017. The Committee reviewed this item and moved it forward to the full Board with a recommendation for approval.

12. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Upon approval of this motion, this amendment will be implemented beginning in 2018-19.

13. ATTACHMENTS

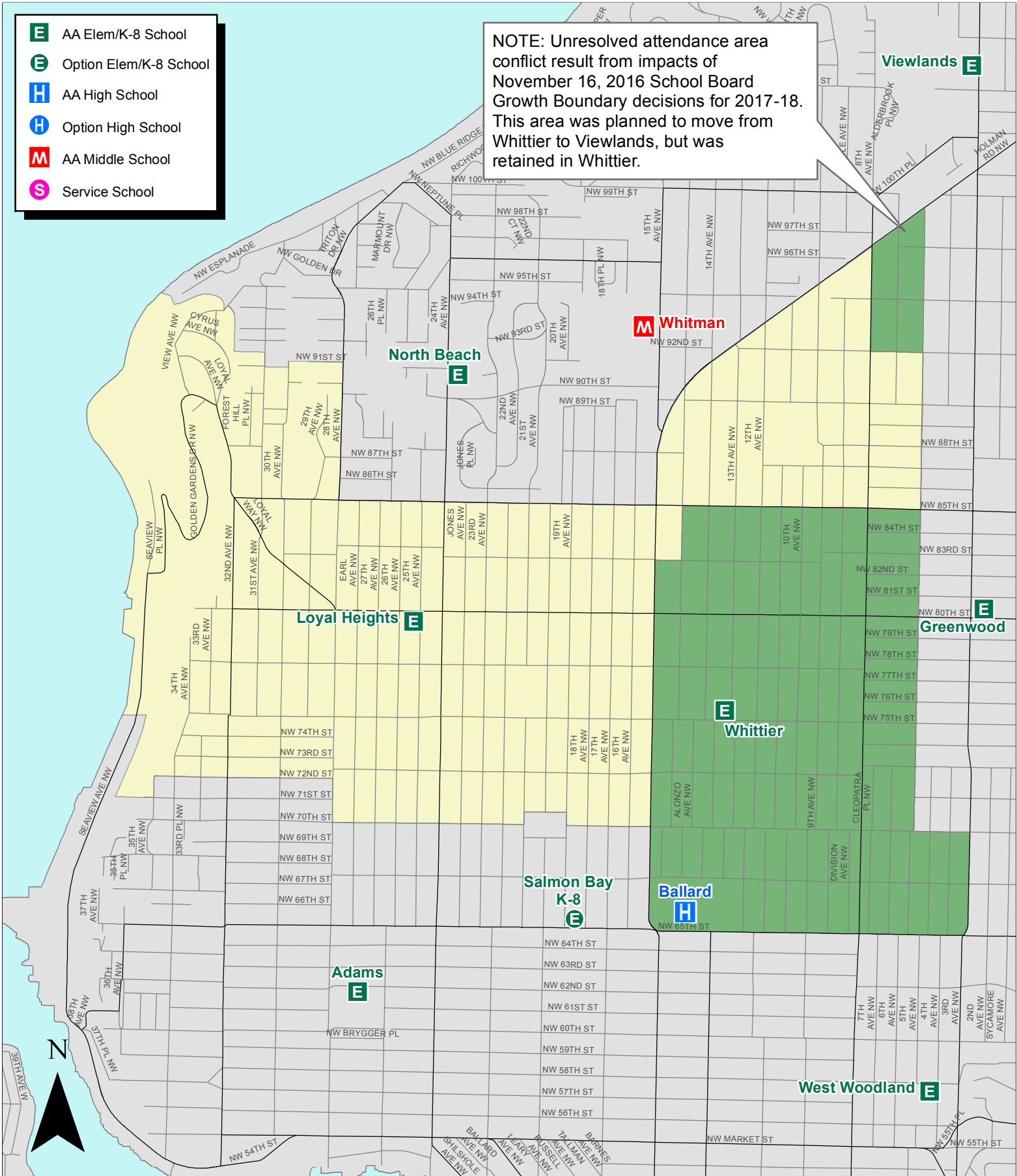
- Attachment A: Map of Change Area 128
- Attachment B: Map of Approved 2018-19 Loyal Heights and Whittier Attendance Areas
- Attachment C: Community Feedback



The names on this map are not intended to reflect the official name of any school building. They are instead intended to ensure better public understanding based upon familiar reference, particularly in situations where program and school building names differ. This information has been compiled by SPS staff from a variety of sources and is subject to change without notice. SPS makes no representations or warranties, expressed or implied, as to accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or rights to the use of such information. SPS shall not be liable for any general, special, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages including, but not limited to, lost revenues or lost profits resulting from the use or misuse of the information contained on this map. Any sale of this map or information on this map is prohibited. MapFile: 18_19_ES_individual_CA128_noWZ

- E AA Elem/K-8 School
- E Option Elem/K-8 School
- H AA High School
- H Option High School
- M AA Middle School
- S Service School

NOTE: Unresolved attendance area conflict result from impacts of November 16, 2016 School Board Growth Boundary decisions for 2017-18. This area was planned to move from Whittier to Viewlands, but was retained in Whittier.



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2018-19 Growth Boundaries Community Comments and Emails: Loyal Heights, Adams, Whittier
 Feb. 1, 2017 through Sept. 25, 2017

Date	Category	Area if specific	Comment/Question
2/9/17	Adams to Loyal Heights	2	<p>I have reason to believe that my child's assigned public school will change in 2018 due to redistricting. Can you give me some definite data on that?</p> <p>My belief is that my child's elementary school will change from Adams Elementary (in south Ballard) to Loyal Heights Elementary (in north Ballard). We actually live closer to Loyal Heights currently, and we'd love for our child to go there. It's more walkable, and we feel it would be a better academic fit.</p>
2/10/17	Adams to Loyal Heights	2	<p>My name is XXX, and I am trying to get information about the growth boundary map for the 2018-2019 school year. My child is entering into kindergarten for the 2017-2018 school year, and we are currently in the Adams Elementary school boundary. However, it looks like the boundaries are changing for the 2018-2019 school year, and she would be attending Loyal Heights Elementary, but we don't have hard evidence confirming this. We are trying to figure out if we should complete a choice form for her attending Loyal Heights during the 2017-2018 school year since she will be attending Loyal Heights starting 1st grade. Can you confirm if our address will be in the Loyal Heights Elementary boundary starting 2018-2019 school-year.?</p>
5/23/17	Grandfathering	2	<p>Regarding the 18-19 boundary changes for elementary assignments to Loyal Heights or Adams: is there a plan in place to grandfather children at the school they are enrolled in currently? My son attends Adams and our home is one affected by the pending boundary change. We will likely wish to keep him at Adams.</p>

Date	Category	Area if specific	Comment/Question
5/23/17	Grandfathering/siblings	2	<p>What is my best resource for getting a question answered about attendance area changes related to Loyal Heights/Adams Elementary schools?</p> <p>I have a son who will start kindergarten at Adams this fall (2017). My daughter will start kindergarten the following fall (2018). We live on the south side of 72nd St between 30th and 32nd streets.</p> <p>I'm sure the school board's intention is not to have my son change schools after his first year (especially since we are not moving), nor would they intend for my children to attend two separate schools. Will it be possible for my daughter to attend Adams (again...since we are not the ones changing our residence)?</p>
6/5/17	Grandfathering	2	<p>Who can I share my concerns with regarding this change. I'm quite saddened by this news. I have a son who has social anxieties and changing a school after 2 years of attending Adams would not be beneficial to him.</p> <p>I really hope exceptions can be made with situations like these.</p>
6/14/17	Advanced learning	127/128	<p>There is Spectrum at Whittier and one of my twins has tested in. I wouldn't want to keep one at Whittier to remain in Spectrum while the other goes to Loyal Heights. I would like grandfathering so they don't have the possibility of being split.</p>
6/14/17	After school care		<p>After school care is a reality and a big issue in Seattle, so knowing as far in advance as possible is important. We need to know where to apply. Most after-school care programs have long lists and it's hard to get in.</p>
6/14/17	Boundaries		<p>How often do you change boundaries?</p>
6/14/17	Choice assignment		<p>Not knowing where your student is assigned until April is ridiculous, and August is unworkable.</p>

Date	Category	Area if specific	Comment/Question
6/14/17	Choice assignment, after school care		For a choice assignment, is it true that you don't know where your child will attend until just before school starts? That makes it very hard to plan, especially for childcare.
6/14/17	Future changes		Any other changes planned for adding schools or capacity in the Adams/ Loyal Heights/ Whittier area?
6/14/17	Grandfathering		If we are grandfathered, would it be continued, or do you reexamine it each year?
6/14/17	Grandfathering		Right now, is the possibility of grandfathering in existence, or is it still up in the air?
6/14/17	Grandfathering		At what point in your timeline will you survey family interest in grandfathering?
6/14/17	Grandfathering		Is the major thing before you make a decision on grandfathering the fall enrollment count?
6/14/17	Grandfathering		I want to go on record as vocally supporting grandfathering as a parent of a second grader and an incoming kindergartener.
6/14/17	Grandfathering		If you are still waiting for enrollment numbers versus projections, what are you looking for as specific numbers? Is there a number we can watch to see if you are going to offer grandfathering?
6/14/17	Grandfathering		I'm issuing a plea for grandfathering for Adams. If you allow grandfathering, I think you will find more people amenable to the change.
6/14/17	Grandfathering		Will we know by Nov. 1 if you will allow grandfathering?

Date	Category	Area if specific	Comment/Question
6/14/17	Grandfathering		Asked for a show of hands of those who support grandfathering.
6/14/17	Grandfathering		Please recommend grandfathering
6/14/17	Grandfathering		Thank you for prioritizing grandfathering. I believe that an arbitrary disruption in a student's school experience is detrimental to their ability to learn at the highest possible level.
6/14/17	Grandfathering	2	<p>We have a kindergartner with serious anxiety/social anxiety concerns. I'm very concerned about having to move him. My concern is that if there is no grandfathering at his current school, Adams, and he has to start the 2nd grade at Loyal Heights, it would be a very hard adjustment for him. He has social anxieties and it takes him a long time before he's comfortable with surrounding people, etc.</p> <p>After investing 2 years at Adams, it would not be a good thing to uproot him and make him start over especially in these younger years. (Negative impact) How will you base your decision if you will grandfather or not? When do you think there will be a decision made? If no grandfathering- will there be exceptions made for situations like this? If we had Dr.'s note/teacher letter, etc.</p>
6/14/17	Grandfathering	2	Will fifth-graders be grandfathered in to remain at Adams for the 2018-19 school year? If seems unfair to move them, especially since they will have to move the next year for middle school. There must be very few affected 5 th graders.
6/14/17	Grandfathering	2	What has been decided about grandfathering existing students at Adams? If nothing has been decided yet, what are the steps/criteria/timeline for making that decision?

Date	Category	Area if specific	Comment/Question
6/14/17	Grandfathering	2	As a parent of a student who will be a fifth-grader at Adams in 2018, I'm hoping for grandfathering of students.
6/14/17	Grandfathering	2	Please grandfather! My comment or "plea" is to have grandfathering. I have 2 boys at Adams Elementary that in Fall 2018/19 will be in fourth grade and second grade. If you offer grandfathering, you'll get more support and more amenable parents to potentially switching to the new boundary school.
6/14/17	Grandfathering	2	I will have a first and third graders in Sept. 2018, and we are well established in the community at Adams. I value the support and stability this community provides for me and my children. Both kids are very sensitive and this change would significantly impact the learning of my children.
6/14/17	Grandfathering	2	Please keep grandfathering. This would be really hard for our son to leave his friends and the community for his 5 th grade year. If we could choice into Adams we would, however this is our attendance school so we do not have this option. We are in the area that was moved around to 3 schools – Whittier, Loyal Heights and then Adams within 4 weeks. We accepted our school, Adams, and have embraced and love it! Please think of the children and keep grandfathering. Thank you.
6/14/17	Grandfathering	2	As an Adams parent of 2 kids, one of whom will be a 5 th grader in 2018-19, I want to give a strong please for grandfathering.
6/14/17	Grandfathering	2	Our son is currently at Adams and we would very much like to keep him there (grandfathered!). We are happy to provide his transportation.
6/14/17	Grandfathering		Is it true that there is a projected decrease in Adams enrollment next year? I heard we might lose a K teacher. Would that impact your decision?
6/14/17	Grandfathering, timeline		I support grandfathering, and I hope you can stick to this timeline because we need decisions. I know sometimes they get pushed out.

Date	Category	Area if specific	Comment/Question
6/14/17	Grandfathering/sibling tie breaker		Once the grandfathered sibling graduates, what happens to the sibling tiebreaker?
6/14/17	Grandfathering/siblings		I'm happy to hear grandfathering is a priority. It's disconcerting to hear that siblings won't be grandfathered – have kids at more than one school makes it hard to be involved. I feel a lot of anxiety around this – and I'm an adult. I can imagine how much anxiety an elementary student feels. Changing schools because of a boundary change is a major socio-emotional disruption for children who are staying in the same house but changing schools. If you move to a new house, it's easier to adjust to a new school because there was a change. It's difficult to pull one kid out of a school to join the other if the sibling doesn't get in.
6/14/17	Grandfathering/Siblings		If grandfathering is allowed, will a younger sibling who isn't in school yet be allowed to go to the same school? Does grandfathering cover the whole family?
6/14/17	Grandfathering/siblings		Please grandfather and give younger siblings preference.
6/14/17	Loyal Heights		Is Loyal Heights on track to open on time?
6/14/17	Loyal Heights		What is the projected capacity and enrollment of Loyal Heights when it opens?
6/14/17	Loyal Heights		I have questions around the Loyal Heights community for the principal. How will you integrate the new students/families?
6/14/17	Loyal Heights		Is there Spectrum at Loyal Heights?

Date	Category	Area if specific	Comment/Question
6/14/17	Loyal Heights	127/128	Whittier has Walk-to-Math. How seamless is communication between the schools and between the teachers at different schools so we know students won't be stepping backwards?
6/14/17	New LHES boundary/North Beach		Why is no part of North Beach included in the boundary change? If you look at the map, they are closer to Loyal Heights than we are.
6/14/17	Preschool/capacity	127/128	Why does Whittier maintain a preschool if there isn't room for the school-age kids? Do the capacity numbers include preschool?
6/14/17	Proposed change	128	Will the "island" you show as change area 128 be for sure changed from Whittier? Is that approved?
6/14/17	Walkability and safety	127	I shared this in 2013, but want to share it again. This boundary change isn't great for walkability. Right now, we have to cross 85 th and 80 th to get to Whittier. It's less than a mile to school, so it is walkable, but there is no crossing guard at 85 th . With the new boundary, we have to walk about twice that to Loyal Heights and cross an additional major arterial.
6/14/17	Walkability of 127	127	Walkability for 127 at Loyal Heights is very poor.
6/14/17	Walkability of 127	127	I maintain that the walkability from area 127 to Loyal Heights is extremely poor. It would take too long and is very dangerous to cross four major arterials with elementary age students.
6/27/17	Grandfathering	127	I recently attended the meeting at Ballard High School regarding the upcoming changes for the 2018/19 school year. This fall, our son will be in second grade and our daughter will be in kindergarten. I wanted to confirm that if they decide to grandfather the children that both of our children who will be attending Whittier this fall will be grandfathered?

Date	Category	Area if specific	Comment/Question
9/5/17	Grandfathering	127	<p>I am a parent of an incoming kindergartener and fourth grader at Whittier Elementary. We live in the portion of Whittier's attendance zone that is slated to be in Loyal Heights for 18-19 school year. At that time, I will have a fifth-grader and first-grader.</p> <p>I am writing to beseech you to please allow current Whittier students to be grandfathered. I can't imagine moving my fifth grader for her last year of elementary school. She has had a lot of social issues as well as an IEP for learning disabilities and via strong supports at Whittier has been making good progress academically and socially. I have checked with her special education team and she would not be eligible to remain at Whittier solely based on the IEP. She is very closely tied to the teachers and students of Whittier and has come into her own finally after a long struggle.</p> <p>I can't imagine starting all over at a new school for just one year. It would be very damaging to her progress.</p> <p>Please grandfather current students.</p>
9/10/17	Grandfathering	127	<p>I'm a parent of a kindergartner at the Whittier and we live in the area 127 that will shift to Loyal heights. I am very interested in attending the meetings in regard to this boundary change and grandfathering process.</p> <p>Please could you give me the date, time and place where this meeting will be held?</p>
9/15/17	Webster	2	<p>I live in the Adams/Loyal Heights boundary area. I understand my boundaries might be changing, but I'm wondering how the proposed re-opening of Webster Elementary school factors into this. I don't know when that is planned for, but I heard it was for the 19-20 school year, so very soon. I'm also interested in learning more about the planning committee for that school (because it's close to my house and my kid might end up there). Can you tell me more about that?</p>

Date	Category	Area if specific	Comment/Question
9/21/17	Boundary decision	127/128	I am confused about why 127 and 128 are being moved. We will have to cross 8 th NW and 15 th NW. Why was that decision made versus expanding the Loyal Heights boundary with students who live closer to Loyal Heights? There are four schools closer to us than Loyal Heights. What is the logic of moving this large block instead of taking some students from the west boundary of Whittier and some of the others, like North Beach?
9/21/17	Choice process	127	If a parent applies for choice to have a sibling join a grandfathered student at Whittier, won't that parent have to fill out two choice applications – one for the request for the younger child to go to kindergarten at Whittier and one for his older child to go to Loyal Heights if the younger sibling doesn't get in?
9/21	Choice results		When will we know the results to school choice so we know if we have to move our older student?
9/21/17	Grandfathering		I am happy to hear grandfathering is recommended. How much public support is needed to make sure that recommendation is approved? Do we need to show support to get it approved?
9/21/17	Grandfathering	2	I'd love to see grandfathering happen for the Adams boundary re-draw.
9/21/17	Grandfathering siblings		I looked at the number of students who transferred into these schools in the past 10 years, and it looks like it was zero. Does that include siblings or do they typically get in?
9/21/17	Loyal Heights		Will there be an opportunity for parents to learn more about Loyal Heights so parents can make an informed decision on choosing to move to that school vs. grandfathering?
9/21/17	Loyal Heights		Are parents aware that the outside play space at Loyal Heights has shrunk by 30%? There is a bigger gym, but outdoor space is important. Has that been factored in?

Date	Category	Area if specific	Comment/Question
9/21/17	Projections	2	I understand the decision to modify these boundaries was made in 2013, and I assume they used projections available at that time. Now Adams is losing a kindergarten teacher because projections were off, but you are still sending students to a different school next year. Is there any reconsideration when actual numbers don't match projections?
9/21/17	Projections	127/128	When did you look at the school-wide projections? You can see on the map that we are all an island that is only connected at one small part where you drew in a connection, and this island has to cross at least one major street to get to Loyal Heights. How old were the projections you used to decide this? How were they done? Even at the highest capacity in recent years, Whittier has been only four students over. Now you are taking 100 students from the school. I'm concerned about how that will affect teacher allocation. PTA is already paying for things we see as basic education.
9/21/17	Projections		If all of the students assigned to Loyal Heights move immediately instead of grandfathering, what are the numbers at each of the three schools?
9/21/17	Projections		You said you have no concerns that Whittier will fill back in. But at the board meeting, the superintendent said he was surprised that enrollment stayed relatively the same. I'm assuming he was using your numbers.
9/21/17	Projections		Do you collect birth data from Snohomish County? It's so close and people may be giving birth there, not just within King County or Seattle.
9/21/17	Siblings and school choice		What is the easiest way to get data on who will have siblings next year so we can contact them to see if people are planning to apply for choice. I'm willing to make calls, and then we can get an idea of the likelihood of open seats for siblings.
9/21/17	Start times	127	Loyal Heights has the later start time this year. Will it stay at the later time or change to the earlier one next year?

Date	Category	Area if specific	Comment/Question
9/21/17	Start times and siblings	127	My second-grade student at Whittier will be grandfathered, but her sibling starts kindergarten next year and so will be assigned to Loyal Heights. With the early start time this year, I already put my student on the bus very early, and since it's farther away, I presume that the Loyal Heights bus would be even earlier. If the schools will have the same start times, how am I supposed to get my K and third-grader to school at the same when they are going to two different schools and have two different bus stops and pickup times?
9/21/17	Teacher allocations	127/128	You have this huge island that you are moving. That's weird, and it's going to drastically reduce enrollment at Whittier. Are you anticipating more students coming in? Teacher allocations are going to be affected and reduce the things we think are important. Whittier has had stable enrollment and has been close to right-size for years. I can see the need at Adams, which is more than 100 students over right-size, but not at Whittier.
9/21/17	Transportation	127	I want to be clear. Are you saying that if we have transportation questions or concerns, you aren't the right person to answer? Who is the right person?
9/21/17	Transportation for grandfathered students	127/128	With you pushing us into the new zone without transportation for grandfathered students, we don't have an option. The nanny can't walk my child all the way to Whittier as there are younger children at home.
9/21/17	Transportation for grandfathered students	127	We are just two blocks into the area moving to Loyal Heights. Can my grandfathered student walk two blocks to catch the bus within the Whittier transportation zone?
9/21/17	Transportation for grandfathered students	127/128	What analysis has been done to decide transportation should not be provided for grandfathered students? I would understand if there were full buses, but the bus that brings my student home is half-empty.
9/21/17	Transportation for grandfathered students		It would be nice to have a community conversation on transportation because buses are kind of wonky with Whittier now. Multiple buses pass our house, but our stop is a few blocks away. I have no idea where those buses are going but it seems weird that they all pass right in front of us.

Date	Category	Area if specific	Comment/Question
9/21/17	Transportation for grandfathered students		Transportation for grandfathered students must be considered. Can we figure this out together? Very stressful.
9/21/17	Transportation for grandfathered students		We live on XX and XX. My kindergartner is due to change to Loyal Heights next year. I am glad you are providing the grandfathering option, but am not happy that transportation is NOT provided. I have a live-in nanny that has no car or mode of transportation. So, next year why can't my daughter walk to a Whittier bus stop to catch the bus? Just the other day, she missed the bus, and her nanny had to walk her to Whittier. If she switches, walking to Loyal Heights is NOT an ok option for my family. Please let me know if special circumstances can be looked at. It's not fair to have a child in her second year of school be forced to change because there aren't transportation opportunities.
9/21/17	Transportation for grandfathered students	127/128	My comment is that my daughter is in 4 th grade and is looking forward to graduating from Whittier, but if she doesn't have transportation she cannot continue there because I am a single parent.
9/21/17	Transportation for grandfathered students and walkability	127/128	I have a live-in nanny. When my kindergartner misses the bus, she has to walk to Whittier because there is no other option, but walking to Whittier every day isn't possible, and she won't have transportation. If she misses the bus, she won't be able to walk to Loyal Heights.
9/21/17	Transportation, capacity	127/128	You are adding capacity to Loyal Heights, but is taking students from far away and busing them to the larger school a good use of resources? Why aren't closer families being moved to Loyal Heights?
9/21/17	Webster		What about the opening of Webster? Are you going to have to go through this same process in a few years when you open Webster? The district hasn't even decided yet how it's going to use Webster – as an elementary, a middle school or a high school.

Date	Category	Area if specific	Comment/Question
9/21/17	Webster		It doesn't make sense that you say you are mindful of the effect of these changes and not changing them again. If Webster opens as an elementary, it will HAVE to impact the boundaries of all the surrounding schools. It's between Loyal Heights and Adams. It has to open as an elementary school because it can't be a middle school or high school.
9/22/17	Grandfathering	2	<p>I'd like to advocate for accepting the grandfathering of existing students currently attending Adams.</p> <p>My daughter is in area 2 and has settled into Adams as a place to learn for her elementary school and has made a lot of cross grade friends.</p> <p>Please consider grandfathering for current students at Adams.</p>