



SCHOOL BOARD ACTION REPORT

DATE: January 19, 2019
FROM: Directors Eden Mack and Rick Burke
LEAD STAFF: N/A

For Introduction: January 23, 2019
For Action: January 23, 2019

1. TITLE

Amendment 1 to the BAR for 2019-20 Transportation Service Standards

2. PURPOSE

This Board Action Report amends the Transportation Service Standards introduced on December 19, 2018 to provide equitable access to Catharine Blaine K-8, as follows:

- Provide transportation to students grandfathered at Catharine Blaine K-8 in the School Board Action Report “Approval of Attendance Area Boundary Changes to create an attendance area for the new Magnolia Elementary School” approved on January 9, 2019, and
- Provide transportation for students in the Magnolia Elementary and Lawton Elementary attendance areas who apply for and are assigned to Catharine Blaine in grades 6-8.

3. RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the BAR for 2019-20 Transportation Service Standards shall be amended to add the following language in Appendix A as Item #4 under Other Exceptions:

“Catharine Blaine K-8 and Lawton Elementary students that are enrolled during the 2019-20 school year through grandfathering assignments that reside in the Magnolia Elementary attendance area and outside of the respective walk zones will receive district provided transportation until the 2022-23 school year.”

And, Item #9 under Transportation Outside of Basic Eligibility:

“Catharine Blaine students in grades 6-8 that reside in the Magnolia Elementary or Lawton Elementary attendance areas *will* be provided ORCA cards if they reside more than 1 mile from the school, as an exception to normal Attendance Area Elementary / Attendance Area K-8 Schools.”

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- a. **Background:** In 2016, the BTA IV levy was approved with funds for a new Magnolia Elementary School to relieve capacity pressures. Magnolia Elementary is scheduled to open in Fall 2019. New boundaries for Catharine Blaine K-8, Magnolia Elementary and Lawton Elementary were approved by the School Board on January 9, 2019.

With the new boundaries, the number of K-5 seats at Catharine Blaine are expected to be decreasing, and the number of available 6-8 seats will be increasing, with Catharine Blaine expected to move closer to the “right sized” capacity. The increase of seats available in 6-8 at Catharine Blaine is intended to assist in providing capacity relief to both Hamilton and McClure middle schools.

Students in grades 6-8 from the Magnolia neighborhood currently attend three different schools: Catharine Blaine, Hamilton Middle School and McClure Middle School. Students that are assigned to Hamilton or McClure middle schools from the Magnolia neighborhood are provided district arranged, yellow bus, transportation to those schools. Students within the Catharine Blaine K-8 new attendance area and outside of the walk zone are provided district arranged, yellow bus, transportation.

This amendment proposes equitably providing access to transportation for Catharine Blaine 6-8 seats by providing ORCA cards to students assigned through choice to Catharine Blaine 6-8, AND yellow bus transportation to students continuing at Catharine Blaine and Lawton students through grandfathered assignment within the Magnolia neighborhood.

The following elaborates on the justifications for this proposal:

Promoting Equity of access to Catharine Blaine’s 6-8 seats for students in the Magnolia neighborhood: Transportation Standards for Attendance Area K-8’s already state that “ORCA cards may be provided for attendance area K-8 school sixth through eighth-grade students who live within the boundaries of Seattle Public School District choosing a school outside of their attendance area if they live farther than 2 miles of the school.” This amendment clarifies that the cards *will* be provided for Catharine Blaine students in grades 6-8 that are assigned to Catharine Blaine via optional assignment, and live between 1 and 2 miles from Catharine Blaine. This provision will include families that reside in the Magnolia Elementary or Lawton Elementary attendance areas to enable more students to have access to transportation to attend their closer school. The boundary changes approved by the Board included analysis on the projected demographics for elementary schools in the Magnolia neighborhood. Catharine Blaine’s new attendance area is projected to have 21% non-white students whereas Magnolia and Lawton are projected to have 38% and 28% respectively. As students rise up through elementary, and move on to 6th grade, the optional assignment to Catharine Blaine 6-8 with transportation provided with an ORCA card, consistent with other middle schools in the district, will enable more non-white students to access Catharine Blaine 6-8 seats with transportation provided, and could assist in increasing racial balance at Catharine Blaine.

Grandfathered students: The Board has consistently, in the transition to the New Student Assignment Plan, and for the past several years of boundary changes, approved the provision of district arranged transportation to students that are grandfathered when a boundary change occurs. Not providing transportation to these students would be inconsistent with the provision of transportation for grandfathered students across the district, and inequitable, in particular, for any students of color who have been re-zoned for Magnolia Elementary, but are eligible for grandfathering at Catharine Blaine.

Transportation efficiency and facility capacity balancing: The boundaries approved by the Board are projected to increase the availability of approximately 70 6-8th grade seats in Catharine Blaine, in part to assist in providing capacity relief to both Hamilton and McClure middle schools. Students who choose Catharine Blaine 6-8 seats that would otherwise be assigned to McClure or Hamilton will assist in balancing capacity between the 3 schools. Presently in the 2018-19 school year, Hamilton Middle School is enrolled at 105% of the “right sized” capacity, and projected to decrease slightly. McClure Middle School is 87% of capacity and projected to decrease. Providing transportation for students is likely to assist families in choosing these seats to assist in balancing facility capacity across the middle schools in the region. Additionally, these students would be taking Metro to a closer school, and reduce route demands for the schools that are farther away.

- b. **Alternatives** Do not amend the Transportation Service Standards. This is not recommended as it could result in increased racial imbalance and under-enrollment at Catharine Blaine K-8, as well as increased facility capacity challenges at Hamilton and McClure Middle Schools.

5. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

Fiscal impact to this action is an estimate that cannot be accurately quantified until after students are enrolled. The reduction of the Catharine Blaine K-8 attendance area and students moving to the Magnolia Elementary will result in a reduction of the number of students taking the bus to Catharine Blaine, and grandfathered students may be able to be accommodated on the existing routes. However, an additional route may be required, with a cost of \$68,000. There will also be a possible additional cost of providing ORCA cards to more students, and a potential for decreased costs of bussing students to schools further away. Additional ORCA card cost is estimated to be approximately \$9,605.75 [\$274.45 per student X 35 students (i.e. ½ of the 70 Options seats). The cost reduction for students not being bussed to a further school has not been estimated.

The revenue source for this motion is unscheduled levy 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 is proposed in response to community requests consistently made to provide transportation for grandfathered students, as well as community requests made during the Magnolia boundary engagement process to increase the availability of 6-8 seats at Catharine Blaine to students in the Magnolia neighborhood. “Families expressed preference for a dedicated 6-8 middle school in the Magnolia neighborhood or for Magnolia Elementary School or Catharine Blaine K-8 to transition to a 6-8 middle school.”¹

7. **EQUITY ANALYSIS**

The Racial Equity Toolkit questions were applied to this Amendment to guide data collection and identify desired intended and unintended outcomes. The desired racially equitable outcomes include:

- 1) Not displacing any current families of color from Blaine K-8
- 2) Providing current and future students of color with no-cost transportation to the neighborhood 6-8.

Possible unintended consequences include increased access to transportation for all students, including students with means.

8. **STUDENT BENEFIT**

Students will benefit by having transportation to get to school, and more equitable access to attend their closer 6-8 school.

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: Amending an existing Board Action Report.

¹ Attachment F from BAR “Approval of Attendance Area Boundary Changes to create an attendance area for the new Magnolia Elementary School” approved January 9, 2019

10. POLICY IMPLICATION

Transportation Service Standards are approved annually by the School Board.

11. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This motion was not discussed in any committee.

12. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation will be as-described in original Transportation Service Standards adding the amended language.

13. ATTACHMENTS

(None)