

SCHOOL BOARD ACTION REPORT



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

1. TITLE

Amendment 4 to the Student Assignment Plan for 2017-18: Establish Decatur school site as an optional, rather than geo-split, pathway for north-end elementary HCC students

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

2. PURPOSE

This would establish Decatur as an optional Highly Capable Cohort (HCC) pathway for north-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, 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."

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 difficult to determine because it is difficult to predict 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

7. EQUITY ANALYSIS

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) (under development)