

RESOLUTION No. 5566

Change Rigler Elementary School to a Neighborhood-based Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program Only School

RECITALS

- A. Dual Language Immersion (DLI) is a proven strategy for increasing academic outcomes for emergent bilingual students as well as English speakers (Thomas & Collier 2002; Steele, et al 2015). Expanding DLI programs to meet the need and improving equity of access for historically underserved students is a priority.
- B. The Rigler Spanish DLI program began in 2005 and was expanded to include all interested neighborhood families in 2012.
- C. The popularity and growth of Spanish DLI at Rigler has coincided with declining enrollment in the school's Neighborhood-based English program. Currently only one of six grade levels has 25 or more students enrolled in the Neighborhood-based English program and only 29 students at K-2.
- D. Low enrollment in the Neighborhood-based English program, and a corresponding size imbalance between the English and Spanish Dual Language program, have resulted in the following challenges:
 - i. Blended grade classes in English program
 - ii. Lack of common instructional program focus to professionally collaborate with grade level teams
 - iii. Providing a more robust set educational services for students with high needs
- E. In 2016, the Dual Language Expansion committee prioritized addressing the low program enrollment in the Rigler neighborhood-based English program. Updates on this issue were provided to the Board's Teaching and Learning Committee in spring and fall 2017.
- F. In fall 2017, District staff collected feedback from teachers and parents at Rigler and Scott schools regarding a proposal to convert Rigler into a Spanish DLI only school and combine the Rigler and Scott neighborhood-based English programs into a single program located at Scott School.
 - i. Students currently enrolled in the Rigler neighborhood-based English program would move to Scott School beginning in fall 2018.
 - ii. Starting next year, new students from the Rigler neighborhood would select enrollment in Rigler Spanish DLI or Rigler/Scott Combined English program at Scott. Newly enrolling students in grades 1-5 would have to show Spanish language proficiency in order to participate in the Spanish DLI program. Students whose native language is Spanish would not need to be assessed, as per department policy.
 - iii. Transportation would be provided to either school, following standard PPS guidelines.
 - iv. Students enrolled in Rigler Spanish DLI would continue to matriculate to Beaumont Middle School. Students enrolled in the Rigler/Scott Combined English program at Scott would matriculate to Roseway Heights Middle School. All Rigler and Scott students matriculate to Madison High School.

Based on feedback received from community members, an option was considered to allow the current cohort of 4th grade students in the Rigler Neighborhood-based English program to remain at Rigler next year, and then move on to Beaumont the following year. However, a major reason for making this change in program is to create a more balanced co-located program at Scott to meet the needs of the English program students from both schools with two classrooms at each grade level. The forecasted numbers for Scott 5th grade with the addition of Rigler students

would have potentially set up one large 5th grade class at Scott (30-34) and one small and isolated 5th grade class at Rigler (11-15). The opportunities to serve high needs students in either site would have been diminished and Rigler's ability to focus the anticipated reduced resources, as a result of the smaller enrollment overall, on one instructional program would also be negatively impacted.

- G. As a result of the program move, most grade levels of the combined Rigler-Scott English program will be able to offer two sections per grade level beginning in 2018. In so doing, Scott would be able to offer:
 - i. Opportunities for learner peers to be mixed and matched to better meet their academic and social needs
 - ii. More on site services and supports such as SPED, ESL, etc. to meet the needs of students
 - iii. Provide more professional collaboration for grade level teachers to improve instruction and curriculum for students
- H. In monitoring the enrollment and continuing to provide balanced co-located programs at Scott, it may be important for PPS to recommend boundary changes in future years as PPS continues to balance enrollment across the Eastside to ensure right sized schools that offer a solid core instructional program.
- I. On January 16, 2018, the Board's Enrollment & Forecasting Committee unanimously agreed with the recommendation to convert Rigler to a Spanish DLI only school and relocate the Rigler Neighborhood-based English program to Scott School.
 - i. The committee did not endorse a specific transition plan, but offered feedback on the pros and cons of phasing out the program, versus moving all grade levels at once.
 - ii. The committee requested additional information on the impact of the program change on staff at Rigler.

RESOLUTION

1. The Board of Education endorses the conversion of Rigler to a Spanish DLI only school and relocate the Rigler Neighborhood-based English program to Scott School, beginning in the 2018-19 school year.
2. The Board directs the Superintendent to initiate staffing and facility changes, transportation routing and other operational adjustments to support effective implementation of this plan.
3. The Board directs the Superintendent to present a transition plan developed by a committee represented by parents and staff from both communities to help ensure a positive and inclusive integration of the two English neighborhood based programs at Scott.
4. The Board acknowledges and appreciates the participation of Rigler and Scott community members in this process.

Y. Curtis