

Resolution No. 5256

Attendance Area Changes for Lincoln and Wilson Cluster Schools

RECITALS

1. Portland Public Schools has experienced seven straight years of student enrollment growth. When coupled with improved state and local funding, the district has seen an annual rise in the number of schools insufficient classroom and common spaces for teachers and students.
2. At the same time, many schools continue to have insufficient enrollment to sustainably provide core program offerings to all students. This includes 18 schools reconfigured into K-8 structures in the mid-2000s.
3. In February 2013, the PPS Board of Education unanimously approved resolution 4718, the PK-8 Jefferson Enrollment Balancing Resolution, directing staff to develop and recommend a process for a comprehensive review of school boundaries district-wide and policies related to student assignment and transfer to better align with the Racial Educational Equity Policy and promote strong capture rates and academic programs at every grade level.
4. In November 2014, PPS initiated a District-wide Boundary Review Advisory Committee (D-BRAC) to provide advice to the Superintendent on resolving overcrowding, under-enrollment and related population-based issues.
5. In September 2015 the PPS Board of Education approved an Enrollment Balancing Values Framework, developed by D-BRAC, as guidance for future enrollment balancing decisions.
6. Between October 2015 and March 2016, PPS convened 22 community meetings to gather feedback on staff-generated proposals to balance enrollment across the district. Several issues emerged during this process regarding schools in the Lincoln and Wilson clusters, including the need for:
 - a. Immediate enrollment relief at Chapman Elementary School, and a long-term plan to address future expected residential growth in the Chapman boundary.
 - b. A plan to address overcrowding at Hayhurst school, including both the growing neighborhood K-5 program and the Odyssey K-8 focus option, that would not result in under-enrollment for the neighborhood program.
 - c. Enrollment relief for Lincoln High School, with a desire to avoid splitting up students who attend one middle school into two high schools, or who attend one elementary school into two middle schools.
 - d. Enrollment relief for Capitol Hill and Maplewood schools that would allow both schools to avoid overcrowding for several years.
7. D-BRAC members attended the community events, held dozens of separate meetings to consider options and provided advice on Westside Boundary changes to the Superintendent on February 9, 2016.
8. Superintendent Smith conducted additional listening sessions in March 2016 to inform her final recommendation.
9. This recommendation results in overcrowding relief for Chapman Elementary School through:

Director Kohnstamm Amendment

- a. Assignment of Chapman Kindergarten students to classrooms at the PPS Ramona campus, 1545 NW 13th Street.
 - b. Assigning portion of the Chapman attendance area to other schools as follows:
 - i. The area located south of West Burnside Road and west of Hilltop Drive to Forest Park Elementary School.
 - ii. The area located south of West Burnside Road and west of Skyline Boulevard to Bridlemile Elementary School.
 - iii. The area located south of West Burnside Road and west of Washington Park and the area located south of SW Market Street to Ainsworth Elementary School.
 - iv. All proposed changes impact grades K-5 only, with grades 6-8 remaining assigned to West Sylvan Middle School and grades 9-12 remaining assigned to Lincoln High School.
10. Lincoln High School overcrowding will be relieved through a boundary change between Lincoln and Wilson High School, which will begin with incoming 9th grade students in fall 2017.
- a. Most of Bridlemile Elementary will be assigned to Robert Gray Middle School and Wilson High School.
 - b. Due to proximity and transportation concerns, students in the areas west of Scholls Ferry Road and north of Patton Road will continue to be assigned to West Sylvan Middle School and Lincoln High School, and receive district provided transportation to these schools from this catchment, where warranted. This catchment is:
 - I. The area of the Bridlemile boundary that is west of Scholls Ferry Road and north of Scholls Ferry Court (West Slope),
 - II. The area north of Highway 26 (Sylvan Highlands), and
 - III. The area bound on the north by Hwy 26 and on the west and south by the south side of SW Hewett Blvd and adjacent dead-end streets (SW 50th Ave, SW 54th Ave, extension of SW Hewett Blvd).
 - IV. Students from these areas would have a transfer guarantee to attend Wilson, as well.
 - c. Current West Sylvan 6th and 7th graders from the Bridlemile catchment area will have guaranteed right to transfer into Lincoln, without any transfer guarantee for younger siblings.
 - d. Current Bridlemile 5th graders (high school class of 2023) will feed to West Sylvan in the fall of 2016 but have guaranteed right to transfer to Robert Gray. High school assignment for this class will be Wilson.
 - e. Students interested in attending a different neighborhood school may complete a petition transfer. The Board policy on Student Enrollment and Transfer states, "requests to transfer to a different neighborhood school will be considered through the petition process. Petitions will be considered on an individual basis based on a standard set of criteria, taking into consideration available space at the requested school." (4.10.051-P)
11. As recommended by DBRAC, Maplewood students will be assigned to Jackson Middle School.

12. Hayhurst Elementary School overcrowding will be addressed through multiple actions:
 - a. The Odyssey K-8 focus option program will move in August 2016 to East Sylvan School, which is currently empty.
 - b. To ensure that the remaining neighborhood program has sufficient enrollment to sustainably provide core programs, the following boundary changes are recommended:
 - i. The area south of Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway and west of SW 58th Avenue be assigned to Hayhurst from Bridlemile Elementary School. To provide a consistent feeder pattern, the same area will be assigned from West Sylvan Middle School to Gray Middle School, and from Lincoln High School to Wilson High School.
 - ii. The area south and west of SW Dosch Rd be assigned to Hayhurst from Rieke Elementary School.
 - iii. The area east of SW 35th Avenue and south of SW North Carolina St, and the area east of SW 31st Ave. and south of SW Nevada Ct. be assigned to Hayhurst from Maplewood Elementary School. **Current students attending Maplewood would be guaranteed transfer to Jackson Middle School.**
 - iv. **Maplewood students would have guaranteed right to transfer to Hayhurst.**
13. Additional overcrowding relief for Maplewood school would be achieved through the assignment of the area located south of SW Caldew St. and east of SW 25th Ave to Rieke Elementary School. This area is less than one mile from Rieke, allowing students who are currently bused to school to become walkers and bike-riders instead.
14. Overcrowding at Capitol Hill Elementary School will be addressed by assigning the area south of SW Maplecrest Ct/SW Terwilliger Blvd and east of SW 25th Ave to Stephenson Elementary School.
15. All boundary changes would follow the implementation practice described in policy 4.10.045-P, and would begin in August 2016, with the exception of the high school change which would begin in 2017.
16. In addition to these immediate actions, the following possibilities will be pursued to ensure adequate capacity for growing enrollment in the Lincoln and Wilson clusters
 - a. Prepare to re-open Smith School as a K-5 school, with a projected launch of fall, 2019.
 - b. Consider a possible new K-5 or middle school site to be incorporated in the Lincoln HS Master Plan.
 - c. Work with the City of Portland to allocate enough square footage in the old Post Office re-development plan to be the location of possible new K-5 or Middle School.
 - d. Consider through the educational options review process changes to the MLC campus, including shifting it from a K-12 to a K-8 focus option that prioritizes access for neighborhood children and moving MLC's K-12 program to a new site (possibly as part of the Post Office redevelopment) and repurposing the Couch Elementary building now occupied by MLC.

RESOLUTIONS

1. The Board of Education adopts the above recommendations for attendance area changes to schools in the Lincoln and Wilson Clusters.
2. The Board directs the Superintendent to initiate staffing and facility changes, transportation routing and other operational adjustments to support effective implementation of these attendance area changes
3. The Board acknowledges and appreciates the participation of D-BRAC, and of thousands of community members, throughout the District-wide enrollment balancing process.

T Magliano