



Downers Grove Grade School District 58
We Envision. We Seek. We Believe.

Kari Cremascoli, Ph.D.
Superintendent

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 7, 2017
TO: Board of Education
FROM: Kari Cremascoli, Ph.D
SUBJECT: Enrollment

Background

In October 2016, the District conducted a demographic study of the population and forecasted enrollment in its schools and district. That study yielded forecasted enrollment at each of the District's 13 schools. Highland School's enrollment was forecasted to grow significantly over the next several years, with the projection that enrollment will grow beyond the facility capacity. The Board directed the administration to develop options for addressing the forecasted enrollment growth to ensure that all students enrolled have comparable access to educational programming. The district administration developed and analyzed a variety of options to address the forecasted enrollment growth, and presented the Board with four possible options for consideration during its regular meeting on October 10, 2017.

Administrative Considerations

The administration has carefully considered a variety of factors associated with the forecasted enrollment at Highland and Belle Aire Schools and options for addressing the forecasted enrollment changes. During its meeting on October 10, 2017, the Board of Education reviewed and discussed the four options presented, ruled out two of those options, and directed the administration to conduct additional analyses into the remaining two options. Specifically, the Board was interested in exploring Option 2 (ie. adjust the boundary for the school attendance areas of Belle Aire and Highland Schools) and Option 4 (ie. develop enrollment procedures to address enrollment at Highland School on a case-by-case basis through Board Policy 5102).

After careful consideration, these two options were refined to be the following.

Option 2: A boundary adjustment affecting the enrollment of new students at Highland and Belle Aire Schools, and grandfathering in all current students and their younger siblings. The adjusted boundary establishes a new attendance area for Belle Aire School that includes all homes North of Ogden Avenue and West of Main Street/Highland Avenue into the Belle Aire School attendance area.

Option 4: Close enrollment into the 1st, 3rd and 4th grade cohorts of the 2018-19 school year at Highland School and cap kindergarten enrollment at 56 students. New students moving into these grade levels beyond the identified cap will be administratively transferred to Belle Aire School with district provided transportation available.

In addition, an alternate option was modeled, and included a combination of a boundary adjustment affecting new students enrolling at Highland and Belle Aire as well as a cap placed on enrollment into specified grade levels at Highland School. This option was refined to be the following.

Option 2b: A boundary adjustment as described in Option 2 AND closed enrollment at Highland School as described in Option 4. This option combines the boundary adjustment of Option 2 affecting kindergarten and new student enrollment with the grade level caps of Option 4.

These options have been carefully reviewed, analyzed and discussed in detail over the last several months, including each option's forecasted impact on student enrollment at Belle Aire and Highland Schools.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board approve the implementation of Option 4 through Board Policy 5102 (ie. maintain current school attendance areas and cap enrollment into the identified grade cohorts) at Highland and Belle Aire Schools for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years.