

Many of our Eastlake patrons have asked for an explanation of why the board decided against making changes to the Eastlake boundary and schedule in our recent board meetings. There are many factors that went into this decision.

As most of you know, the enrollment projections for Eastlake Elementary for the 2017-18 school year were considerably off, resulting in a school with more students than expected. Efforts by the district administrators and Eastlake staff were made last spring and over the summer to accommodate the unexpected students and keep class sizes at or below district standards.

Eastlake's School Community Council was concerned about the crowded situation and conducted a survey this fall which showed that a majority of the respondents favored a boundary change as a solution to the crowding problem. The survey results were presented to the Board of Education who directed staff to look at boundary change options including Golden Fields, Welby, and Daybreak Elementaries. Staff presented four possible boundary change options and surveyed patrons for feedback.

The Board received the results of the boundary change survey, along with over 400 comments--all of which were read by each board member. In addition, we received many phone calls and emails from patrons and public comment at our board meetings. The survey results and feedback showed that the majority did not like the boundary change options presented. It also showed that the neighborhoods affected by potential boundary changes were overwhelmingly in favor of remaining at Eastlake. The Board's conclusion from all of the feedback was that most people did not think the situation at Eastlake was so bad that they would welcome the idea of going to a different school with more room. Many commented that the staff and teachers have done a great job managing this year, and class sizes have been able to remain smaller than other district schools.

During this process, the Board also became concerned about a need for more longitudinal district capacity numbers and enrollment projections. Many patrons expressed a desire for a stable boundary, and the board can't ensure that with the current data that is available to us. The District is also planning a large boundary realignment next year with the opening of a high school, 2 middle schools and 2 elementary schools. Because of the broad impact on boundaries by opening so many schools at once, the district Student Services office is focusing on identifying and correcting the problems with enrollment projections and generating data which is as accurate as possible before making further boundary change decisions.

As an interim option, a change back to the year-round schedule was also considered for next year. Survey results for that possible schedule change showed that 76% of Eastlake patrons prefer the traditional schedule. Even with the current situation, 67% of patrons and 65% of school employees would like to stay on the traditional schedule for next year. Boundary and

schedule changes are disruptive to schools and families, and the Board feels there are other good options to accommodate the increase of students. We will continue to monitor the situation and may consider a boundary or schedule change again next year.

If a family whose students attend Eastlake feel it is too crowded for their students to have a positive learning experience, families are welcome to request a permit to one of the neighboring schools. The process is simple: fill out an *Open Enrollment Application* in the office of the school the family desires their students to attend. Applications are due by Feb.16, 2018, and families will be notified by March 31, if their applications are accepted.

Growth has been and will continue to be a constant challenge in our district. The Board is very aware of the crowded situation at Eastlake and many of our schools across the district. We are looking at both short-term and long-term options to ease that growth. The detailed feedback you have provided the Board has been very helpful to us for developing solutions and making decisions which are in the best interest of the majority of our students. Thank you for helping to make Eastlake a great school!

Jordan Board of Education