

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 14, 2020
FROM: Steven A. Sparks, AICP
Robert McCracken
TO: Middle School Boundary Adjustment Advisory Committee
SUBJECT: October 15, 2020 Committee Meeting

Legacy of Students to Current Boundary School

The District is using the term “legacy students” when referring to students remaining at their original school of attendance, rather than “grandfathered students”. The latter term has its roots in usage in southern states during the Reconstruction era to disenfranchise former African American slaves from their rights as American citizens. Because of this historical use and definition, the District will not use this term and prefers the term “legacy”.

The committee has received public testimony concerning the possibility of recommending a legacy option for students to remain in the middle school in which they are currently enrolled and not be required to move to a new middle school.

If the committee were to consider recommending to the Superintendent a legacy opportunity for students to remain at the middle school they are currently attending, staff recommend the following as a legacy parameters:

- Students entering the 8th grade in SY 2021-22 may opt in to remain at their original boundary school as legacy students (the default will be for all students to go to their new boundary school).
- Legacy status is not offered to students entering the 6th and 7th grade in SY 2021-22.
- Legacy status is not offered to students that are siblings of those students who opt in to remain at their original MS.

The enrollment projections for each middle school that the committee has been reviewing does not assume a legacy program. A precise projection of students who would take a legacy option is not feasible at this point in time.

A preliminary estimate of Legacy students based on the MSBA Preliminary Map (October 8th, 2020) indicates that Conestoga, Highland Park, Mountain View and Whitford will each have a small number of students in the incoming 8th grade who would be eligible for a legacy option – the impact to these school from a utilization of capacity perspective would be minor.

Cedar Park, Five Oaks, Meadow Park and Stoller would have a larger pool of incoming 8th graders eligible for a legacy option, in the 100 to 160 student range, depending on the school. Not all of these students would likely take the legacy option, but if most did, there could be utilization of capacity impacts – particularly at Stoller.

Granting at two-grade legacy option (for incoming 7th and 8th graders) would likely have minor impact at Conestoga, Highland Park, Mountain View or Whitford, but would double the potential impact at Cedar Park, Five Oaks, Meadow Park and Stoller in SY 2021-22, with an additional year of impact in SY 2022-23. The requirement to transport students for an additional year would also be extended.

It is not feasible at this point to estimate the number of students who have younger siblings who would remain under a student + sibling legacy plan. It may have additional impacts on utilization of capacity, but the likelihood of additional transportation costs would be a primary concern.

Any legacy program that would be approved by the District would have an enrollment period of 4-6 weeks in early 2021. This would allow Teaching and Learning staff to understand the sizes of 8th grade classes at each of the middle schools and plan staffing resources accordingly for SY 2021-22.

The location of SUMMA and Rachel Carson would also affect utilization of capacity, in combination with any legacy plan. These decisions will be made by the Teaching & Learning department following the MSBA's recommendation. The eventual location of SUMMA programs will consider location, available capacity, and SUMMA cohort sizing to best deliver curriculum (e.g. math class sizes).