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SATO ELEMENTARY BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

POLICY ISSUE / SITUATION:

Pursuant to Board Policy JC, the Superintendent proposed, and the Board adopted, two Objectives to guide the study and recommendation of a boundary adjustment for Sato and Springville elementary schools. The Superintendent presents a boundary adjustment proposal for the Board's consideration.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Sato Elementary School has experienced a steady increase in enrollment as new residential development has become available. Sato's capacity is at its maximum and enrollment growth is forecasted to continue. Sato requires an attendance boundary adjustment to help relieve potential student overcrowding.

In June 2021, the Board approved the following Objectives for the boundary adjustment between Sato and Springville elementary schools.

Objective 1: Create an attendance boundary amendment that will provide overcrowding relief for Sato Elementary School for the SY 2022-23 school year.

Objective 2: To the degree feasible, balance future enrollment with each affected school's capacity.

The Board considered the proposed boundary adjustment at the December 13, 2021 Business Meeting. The Superintendent has revised the recommendation to provide bus transportation for one year to students electing to remain at Sato ES under the legacy program. No other adjustments have been made to the recommendation since it was reviewed in December.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Board consider the attached decision report. If the Board finds that the Objectives were met, and the factors outlined in Policy JC were considered, staff recommends the Board approve the boundary adjustment proposal for Sato and Springville elementary schools.

District Goal: WE empower all students to achieve post-high school success.

The District prohibits discrimination and harassment based on any basis protected by law, including but not limited to, an individual's actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national or ethnic origin, marital status, age, mental or physical disability, pregnancy, familial status, economic status, veteran status, or because of a perceived or actual association with any other persons within these protected classes.

Sato ES / Springville ES Boundary Adjustment
Superintendent's Decision
(January 6, 2022)

A. Introduction

The Sato Elementary School and Springville Elementary School Boundary Adjustment began on June 21, 2021 with the School Board adopting Objectives for the boundary adjustment project. The Board's Objectives are as follows:

- Objective 1: Create an attendance boundary amendment that will provide overcrowding relief for Sato Elementary School for the SY 2022-23 school year.
- Objective 2: To the degree feasible, balance future enrollment with each affected school's capacity.

Public notice of the attendance boundary adjustment was mailed to the approximately 70 property owners and residents of the area to be affected by the adjustment. The notice directed recipients to a boundary adjustment web page which included a public comment form. Approximately 10 comments were submitted through the District's web page. On Tuesday, October 26, 2021, District staff conducted a virtual community meeting at which time approximately 15 persons provided testimony to District staff on the boundary adjustment.

While several issues were raised in the public's written and oral testimony, the most frequently raised issues were the following:

1. Allowing currently enrolled students to remain at Sato ES.
2. Providing transportation to students to both Sato ES and Springville ES.

I have reviewed the public record and understand the range of concerns expressed by the neighborhood affected by the boundary adjustment. I have consulted with District staff on the potential impacts of the attendance boundary adjustment and the issues raised in public testimony. I find that the attendance boundary adjustment, as illustrated herein, will meet the Board Objectives and will satisfy the factors contained in Policy JC. The following is a brief description of the Board Objectives, the Policy JC factors, and my determination on how the attendance boundary adjustment map meets the objectives and factors.

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B. Board Objectives

The School Board considered draft objectives at its May 17, 2021 regular meeting and adopted its objectives at the June 21, 2021 regular meeting. The Board's Objectives are as follows:

1. *Create an attendance boundary amendment that will provide overcrowding relief for Sato Elementary School for the SY 2022-23 school year.*
2. *To the degree feasible, balance future enrollment with each affected school's capacity.*

Findings

The new attendance boundary for Sato and Springville elementary schools will help with the enrollment at both schools over time. Because the limited number of students impacted by the boundary adjustment, I have decided that a legacy program will be established to allow students currently enrolled at Sato ES to finish their elementary school career at Sato ES, should their family choose to do so. The legacy program is optional; it does not apply to younger siblings or other children not currently enrolled in Sato ES.

Sato ES will continue to see enrollment growth from neighborhoods east of NW Kaiser Road. Moving the attendance boundary in the area identified will create some capacity at Sato ES and allow the entire contiguous neighborhood in this area to attend Springville ES. The Springville attendance area is largely built out with residential development. The enrollment numbers at of Springville ES will begin to stabilize and adding the subject area to Springville ES's attendance area will not adversely impact Springville ES's enrollment capacity.

I find that the attendance boundary map meets the Board's adopted objectives.

C. Board Policy JC Factors

Board Policy JC has been adopted to address any attendance boundary adjustments. Contained within the Board Policy are four (4) factors for evaluating boundary adjustments. The factors are of equal priority and are as follows:

- *Student body composition;*
- *Current and future availability of space at a school;*
- *Feeder patterns from elementary, middle to high school; and*
- *Neighborhood proximity and accessibility.*

Findings

1. *Student body composition.*

Student body composition consists of socio-economic indicators such as Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) eligibility numbers and other demographic indicators such as racial & ethnic

identity. The attendance boundary adjustment affects approximately 24 students. This number of students does not alter the demographic composition of either Sato ES or Springville ES. Therefore, I conclude that student body composition will not be adversely affected by the boundary adjustment.

2. *Current and future availability of space at a school.*

The Sato ES community is continuing to experience new residential development and is seeing an increase in enrollment. The school is currently using support spaces such as the library as additional classrooms to accommodate the growing enrollment. Any decrease in enrollment will help address future capacity concerns at the school.

Springville ES has new capacity coming on-line as its former Grades 6-8 classrooms are becoming available for K-5 classroom use. Moreover, the residential growth in the Springville ES neighborhood is almost complete. As a result, the annual increase in enrollment at Springville ES will begin to stabilize.

The boundary adjustment will result in a minor decrease in enrollment at Sato ES over time and Springville ES has the capacity to accommodate the minor increase in enrollment.

3. *Feeder patterns from elementary, middle to high school.*

The feeder patterns for the subject area will not be affected by the boundary adjustment. All students in the area will continue to feed to Stoller Middle School and Westview High School. The students in the area will also continue to be able to apply for enrollment in any of the District's options programs such as ACMA, BASE, ISB, FLEX, and Rachel Carson.

4. *Neighborhood proximity and accessibility.*

The public record clearly states that neighborhood proximity is an important point for the families of the students being moved to the Springville ES attendance area. The area proposed to be moved from Sato ES is essentially part of an existing Springville ES neighborhood. The subject area is near Springville ES and is easily accessible via NW Brugger Road. Springville students who reside in the area north of NW Shackelford Road are bused to and from Springville ES. The students in the subject area being added to Springville ES will also be bused to Springville ES.

Currently, due to construction and accessibility limitations, students in the subject area are bused to Sato ES. Footpaths paths travelling east-west are planned from the subject area to Sato ES, however, no time frame for their construction has been provided by Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District.

D. Decision – Legacy Student Option

To ease the transition of returning to in-person learning for the students currently enrolled at Sato ES, I have decided to create a legacy enrollment program at Sato ES. The legacy program will be as follows:

1. The legacy program is an optional program. Families will need to apply to participate.
2. Under the legacy program a student may remain at Sato ES through their 5th grade year, provided they are enrolled continuously.
3. Only students enrolled at Sato ES on or before February 3rd, 2022 will be eligible for the legacy program.
4. Non-enrolled siblings of students who remain at Sato ES under the legacy program will not be permitted to attend Sato ES under this legacy program.
5. Students who choose to remain at Sato ES under the legacy program will continue to be provided bus transportation to Sato ES for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year.
6. Consistent with past practice, incoming 5th graders (this year's 4th graders) will be eligible for one year of bus transportation to Sato ES in 2022-23. Given the small area and number of students, this bus transportation will be offered to all students attending Sato under the legacy program. No bus transportation will be provided for legacy program students after the 2022-23 school year.

District staff will develop and publish materials for families to apply for the legacy program in January 2022. The materials will be published on the District's web page.

F. Boundary Adjustment Map

