
Bonny Slope – Findley Elementary Schools Boundary Adjustment
Superintendent’s Decision
(November 21, 2022)

A. Introduction

The Bonny Slope – Findley Elementary Schools Boundary Adjustment project began in June 2022 with the School Board adopting objectives for the boundary adjustment project. A public notice was mailed to all property owners in the affected grid codes of the Bonny Slope Elementary School attendance area in September 2022 with public meetings occurring on October 10 and 12, 2022. A public comment period of 18 days was provided to allow the community to provide written comments on the proposed boundary adjustment.

I want to express my appreciation to the community for their participation in this process. More than 70 community members submitted over 120 written comments to the record. All testimony has been read and considered prior to my decision.

B. Decision – Attendance Boundary Map

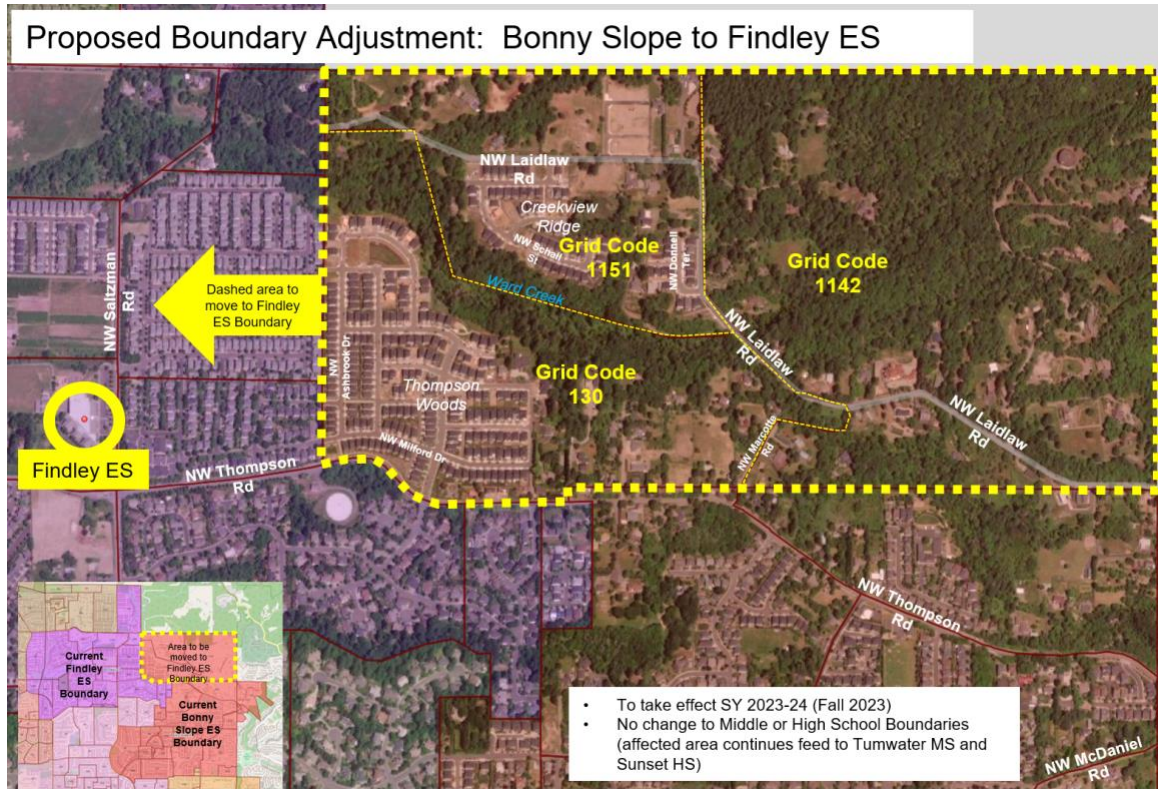
I have reviewed the record established by staff and understand the concerns and issues expressed by the community. I have consulted with district staff and have reviewed written testimony submitted to the record. I find that there are two potential options that may address the over enrollment at Bonny Slope.

Option 1 - Move three grid codes (Nos. 130, 1142, 1151) to the Findley attendance boundary as identified by staff.

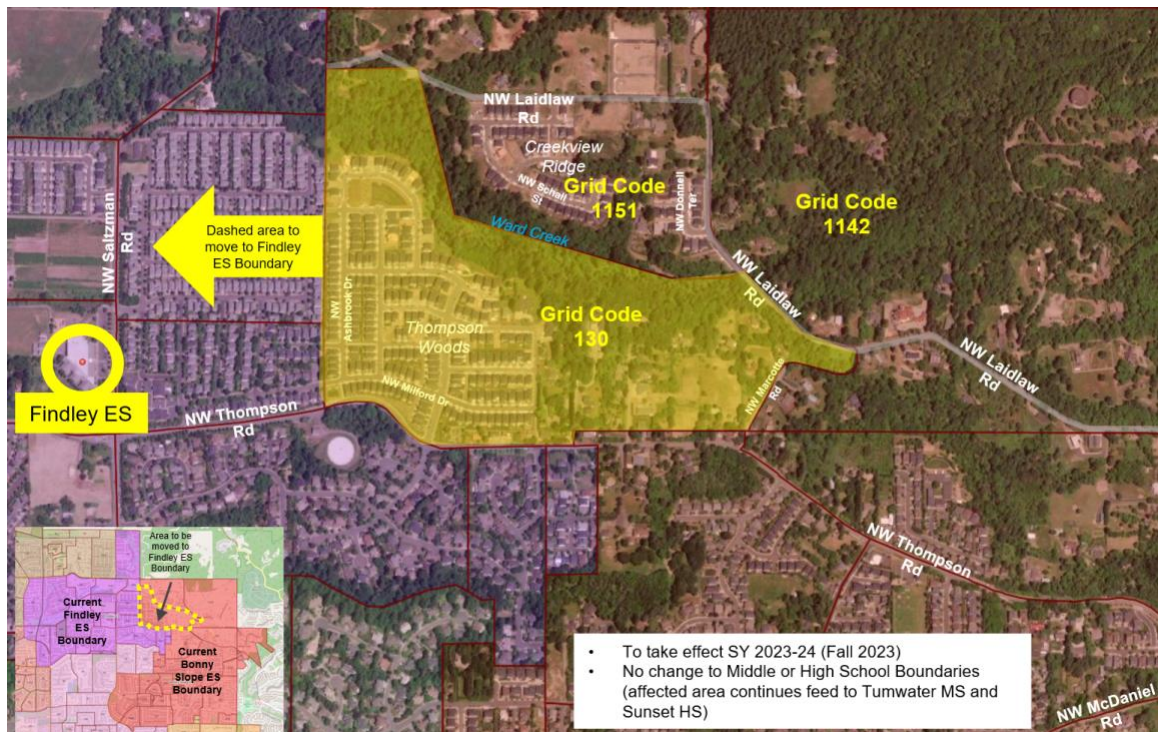
Option 2 – Move one grid code (No. 130) to the Findley attendance boundary as proposed by some members of the community

I find that the staff have provided a thorough analysis of the two options consistent with the Board’s objectives and Board Policy JC. As a result of my review of the record and staff analysis of the options, I conclude that Option 2 best meets the Board objectives and Board Policy JC. The following are my findings in determining how the Option 2 map meets the objectives and policy factors.

Map 1: Option 1 – Initial Staff Proposed Boundary Adjustment Map



Map 2: Option 2 – Superintendent's Recommended Boundary Adjustment Map



C. Board Objectives

The School Board considered draft objectives at its May 23, 2022 regular meeting and adopted its objectives at the June 21, 2022 regular meeting. The Board objectives are as follows:

1. Create an attendance boundary amendment that will provide overcrowding relief for Bonny Slope Elementary School for the 2023-2024 school year.
2. To the degree feasible, balance future enrollment with each affected school's capacity.

Findings

The key Board objective is to lower the size of the enrollment at Bonny Slope due to the capacity limitations of the school building and the inability to locate portable classrooms on the school site. Findley is a logical location for relocating Bonny Slope enrollment for several reasons as identified below in my findings for the Board Policy JC factors.

The projection for the resident student population for the Bonny Slope and Findley attendance areas for the Option 2 map may not completely address the concern with the future size of enrollment at Bonny Slope. However, the map will substantially address the concern about over enrollment at Bonny Slope and will not create a new overcrowding issue at Findley, which I believe is a potential outcome associated with the Option 1 map. The resulting capacity utilization ratios for both Bonny Slope and Findley will be substantially similar to one another in the Option 2 map.

I recommend to the School Board that the Option 2 map will meet the Board's adopted objectives.

D. Board Policy JC Factors

Board Policy JC has been adopted to address any attendance boundary adjustments. Contained within the Board Policy are four 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*
- *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 and ethnic identity. Eligibility for FRL at both Bonny Slope and Findley is lower than the district average, and the boundary adjustment will not alter the numbers for either school. With respect to the racial and ethnic makeup of both schools under the Option 2 map, the demographic changes for the resident students are estimated as follows:

Table 1: Estimated Demographic Impact of Option 2

Bonny Slope ES:	Findley ES:
White students increase from 49% to 51%	White students increase from 30% to 31%
Asian students decline from 30% to 27%	Asian students decline from 53% to 52%
Minimal shifts are seen in other race/ethnic groups	Minimal shifts are seen in other race/ethnic groups

I find that there will be minimal impact to the composition of the student bodies at both Bonny Slope and Findley as a result of the attendance boundary adjustment.

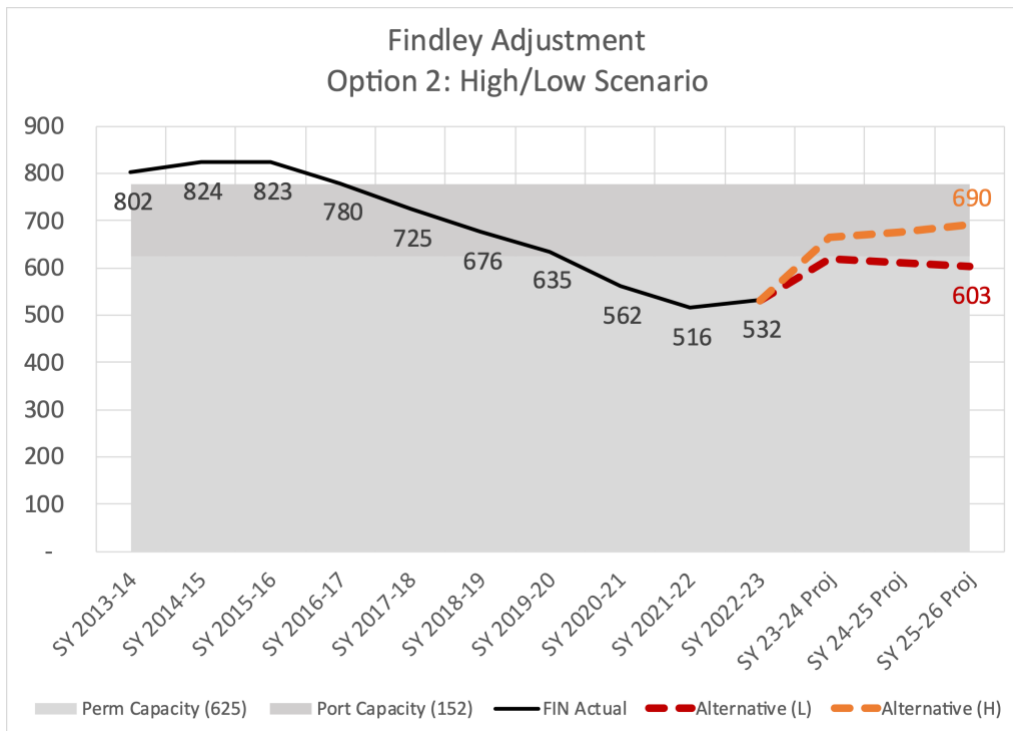
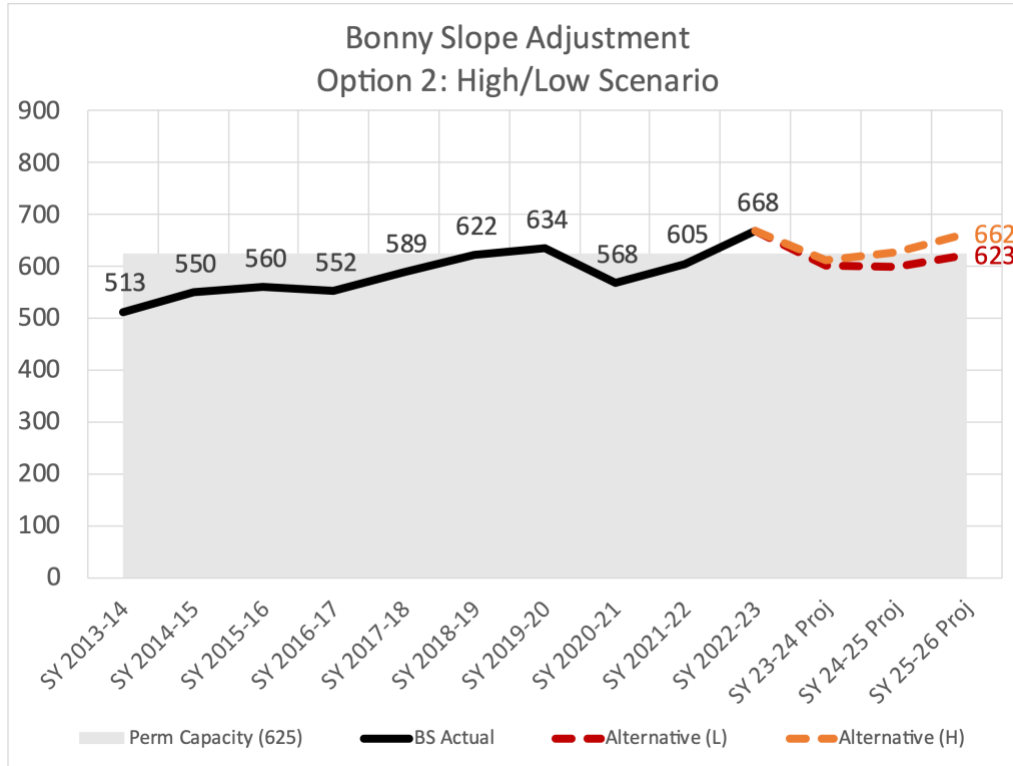
2. *Current and future availability of space at a school*

Exceeding the permanent structure capacity at Bonny Slope is a critical issue; hence, the Board's objective to reduce enrollment. I find that the new attendance boundary will reduce the current and projected overcrowding at Bonny Slope.

Graph 1 illustrates the number of resident students at Bonny Slope since SY 2013-2014. In SY 2022-2023, the number of K-5 resident students is 668. Bonny Slope has 25 general education classrooms which equates to a permanent capacity of 625 students. The resident population will be reduced to a level which will be near capacity of the building and may exceed the capacity under a high growth assumption by SY 2025-2026. However, the high growth projection can be reasonably accommodated in the building.

Graph 2 illustrates the number of resident students at Findley since SY 2013-2014. Findley has seen a rapid decline in enrollment since the high of 824 students in SY 2014-2015. This has been a result of the surrounding neighborhoods aging since their initial construction and occupation of families. The current enrollment is approximately 90 students below the permanent capacity of the building and almost 250 students below the total capacity when the existing portable classrooms are added to the total number of available seats.

Graphs 1 & 2: Actual and Projected Resident Student Population for Boundary Adjustment Option 2



E. Decision – Legacy Student Option

Extensive public comment was provided by the community concerning the scope of a legacy student program option for those students who would be impacted by the boundary adjustment. Staff have proposed that only those students who are in the 4th grade in SY 2022-2023 be eligible for legacy status. Staff have made this proposal for the following reasons:

- Students will not be subject to attending three different schools in three consecutive school years.
- The proposal would provide a substantive reduction in enrollment at Bonny Slope in SY 2023-2024.
- Special transportation route(s) will be limited to one school year.

While the staff recommendations have merit, I find it appropriate to extend the legacy program option to those students who are in the 3rd and 4th grades in SY 2022-2023 and will be in 4th and 5th grades next year. Using the current enrollment of 3rd and 4th grades at Bonny Slope as a guide, staff have estimated that the enrollment in SY 2023-2024 will exceed the capacity at Bonny Slope by as many as 40 students. I find that this condition will be acceptable since the enrollment will be approximate to Bonny Slope's pre-pandemic enrollment.

My decision to have both the current 3rd and 4th grade students be eligible for the legacy program option is unique to this attendance boundary adjustment decision due to the educational, emotional and social impacts that students have experienced as a result of the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Not all students currently enrolled at Bonny Slope will be eligible, and I understand the potential impacts that families may experience. However, the District must take immediate meaningful steps to address the over enrollment at Bonny Slope.

Bus transportation will be provided to those eligible students who opt to remain at Bonny Slope under the legacy student program. Transportation will be provided for the duration of the legacy enrollment at Bonny Slope, during SY 2023-2024 and SY 2024-2025.

Public comment also was received requesting to allow siblings of the legacy students to also be eligible for the legacy program. I have decided not to expand the legacy student program option. Expanding the legacy student program will not address the current over enrollment issue at Bonny Slope. The legacy student program is an optional program which may be chosen by families with qualifying students. If having students at two elementary school locations is problematic, that issue can be mitigated by not choosing to remain at Bonny Slope.

I have directed district staff to develop and publish materials to implement the legacy student program in January 2023 if the School Board approves the legacy student program.

F. Public Comments

As noted in this document, my decision is based on the factors specified in Board Policy JC, and the Board will make a decision on the Board objectives for this boundary adjustment process. I have reviewed all of the public comments submitted and wish to make the following observations in response to some of those comments.

The make-up and characteristics of the Beaverton School District will continue to evolve over time. Attendance boundary adjustments are a routine and normal undertaking across the district. I acknowledge the anxiety and uncertainty that exists when boundary adjustments occur in a given neighborhood. However, we must consider the impacts of imbalanced enrollments between schools. Along these lines, the Bonny Slope attendance area was one of several areas in need of a boundary adjustment in 2017. Due to prioritization of other boundary processes and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the District was not able to initiate the Bonny Slope and Findley boundary adjustment until September 2022. Staff will continue to monitor the enrollment of Bonny Slope and all other schools in the district.

Public comment also expressed concerns about the utilization of portable classrooms at Findley. Findley will see a construction project in summer 2023 funded by the 2014 Bond to construct permanent floor-to-ceiling walls in the existing classroom pods. This project will create an opportunity to use more classroom spaces in the building. However, due to the enrollment size associated with the boundary adjustment, there may be a need to continue to use some of the portables. This is important to acknowledge since Bonny Slope does not have the site area to accommodate the placement of a portables. The need to use portables may exist and utilizing existing resources is a reasonable option.

Finally, some community members suggested the room in which the Bonny Slope pre-K is located could be made into an elementary school classroom. The room in question is the Resource Room for Bonny Slope. If the District removes the pre-K program from Bonny Slope, the room will be returned to its designed purpose, not a classroom.