



BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

Cook Elementary to undergo boundary study

Adjusted boundaries aim to relieve pressures of overcrowding for '23-24 school year

New population growth in recent years has brought full classrooms and facility spaces to Cook Elementary in Syracuse. Right now, the school's full-time student enrollment hovers around 825 students, but the building's educational capacity is rated for 618.

"There is a need to address the overcrowding at Cook Elementary," said Elementary Director Dr. Gwen Hill. She outlined three options at the school board's disposal to remedy the issue: implementing year-round schedule at Cook, adjusting boundaries to move students to nearby schools or doing nothing.

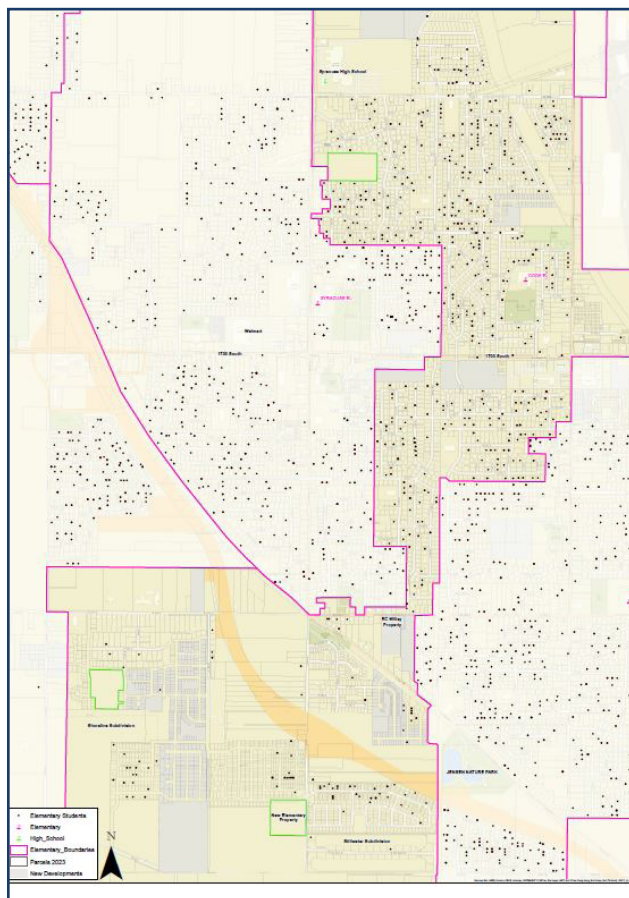
Following board meeting, the district started the boundary study by soliciting feedback from parents with children who attend Cook, as well as neighboring Bluff Ridge and Syracuse elementary schools. Discussions with the Cook's community council and parents found that families preferred adjusting boundaries to attending school year-round.

The school board will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m., Thursday March 2, in the Syracuse Junior High School cafeteria, focused specifically on the boundary proposal. The public is invited to attend and each person wishing to address the board about the plan will be given a maximum of two minutes to share their thoughts.

In the meantime, the district encourages community members near the affected schools to share their recommendations via email at elboundarystudy@dsdmail.net.

Following the hearing and collection of public comments, a boundary committee will propose

recommendations to board members. Then, the Board of Education will make the final decision on any boundary adjustments.



Shaded area represents the boundaries of Cook Elementary, as of January 2023. Each dot on the map represents a household with elementary-aged children.

Board approves TSSA and LAND Trust Framework for upcoming school year

In a unanimous vote of approval, the Board of Education approved the district's proposed framework for using funds provided by the Teacher Student Success Act and School LAND Trust program.

TSSA and LAND Trust

funding is given by the state of Utah annually and is the largest pool of discretionary spending available to schools.

On average, individual schools will receive \$211,900 combined from the two programs for

the 2023-24 school year. Common uses of these funds include hiring literacy coaches and reading tutors, giving teacher stipends, purchasing equipment to help with reading and math learning and providing remedial learning tools.

Students recite favorite MLK speeches for Board of Education

The Board of Education awarded Board Honors to four students, recognizing their accomplishments in the district's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Speech Contest.

Alexander Harrison (Bountiful Elementary), Luca Bailey (Muir Elementary), Malan Poll (Burton Elementary) and Paula Flores (Burton Elementary) and their families were presented with certificates and praise from the Board and members of the district's leadership team.

"Of all the events I've attending in Davis School District, attending the speech competition was the most remarkable," noted Assistant Superintendent Fidel Montero. "In fact, I would rank it up there as one of the best experiences I've had in all my years of education."

In addition to accepting their certificates, the students had the opportunity to recite their memorized speeches at board meeting.

"I chose Martin Luther King's speech, 'What is your life's blueprint?'" to inspire my fellow students to study hard and never give up," said first-grader Alexander Harrison before delivering his well-rehearsed speech.

Board members and district leadership members were impressed by the preparation and personality each student put into their speech. Video of the performances can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/3HKvhBQ> or scanning the QR code below:



Alexander Harrison



Luca Bailey



Paula Flores



Malan Poll