RESOLUTION No. 7228

Resolution to End Jefferson Dual Assignment and Designate Jefferson as a Comprehensive High School

RECITALS

A. In December 2022, The PPS Board of Education adopted Resolution 6627, which stated that "By the start of the 2026-27 school year, the Superintendent will initiate a process to develop a plan to increase student enrollment at Jefferson High School."

B. Jefferson enrollment has been impacted for decades by transfer options, including voluntary busing to other schools in the 1980s and 1990s and No Child Left Behind in the 2000s. The largest driver of enrollment at Jefferson High School for the past fifteen years has been the dual assignment choice, endorsed by the PPS Board of Directors in resolutions 4236 in September 2010, 4358 in October 2010 and 4394 in January 2011. The assignment plan is unique to the Jefferson region and allows high school students a choice between Jefferson and either Grant, McDaniel or Roosevelt depending on their home address.

C. Resolution 4358 also designated Jefferson High School as a Focus High School. The initial plan allowed students within the historical Jefferson boundary to maintain guaranteed assignment at Jefferson while also providing dual assignment to one of the neighboring comprehensive high schools.

D. Since the implementation of dual assignment Jefferson enrollment has ranged from 391-670 students. Over that same period, the comprehensive high schools that receive dual assignment students have seen significant enrollment growth, spurred, in part, by building modernizations completed at Roosevelt (2017), Grant (2019) and McDaniel (2021). Dual assignment has contributed to enrollment instability and decline at Jefferson, impacting program opportunities for Jefferson students.

E. In 2020 and 2025 Portland voters approved funding for full modernization of Jefferson High School. Groundbreaking is scheduled for May 2026, with the new building slated for completion in Fall 2029.

F. In Fall 2025, community members were invited to provide feedback on options for sunsetting Dual Assignment and returning to a standard school boundary assignment system. Feedback was received from more than 400 stakeholders.

G. To stabilize enrollment and bring equitable, comprehensive, comparable programming to the revitalized campus, the Jefferson Dual Assignment choice will end with the 2026-27 school year. Beginning in the 2027-28 school year, students will be assigned to Jefferson and surrounding schools through standard neighborhood boundaries, and Jefferson will operate as a comprehensive high school.

H. The Superintendent has developed a plan to convert dual assignment zones to standard school boundaries in time for implementation in the 2027-28 school year [see Resolution 7229].

RESOLUTION

1. The Board of Education adopts the Superintendent's recommendation to end dual assignment and designate Jefferson as a comprehensive high school beginning in the 2027-28 school year.