

Regular Board Meeting – February 15, 2011

SUBJECT: K-5 REDISTRICTING: TRANSITION PLAN**Overview**

In October and December, 2010, and again in January, 2011, the Board reviewed K-5 enrollment, staffing, and class section trend data over the past ten-year period and reviewed three options provided by district administration for K-5 redistricting. This past January, the administrative team recommended that the Board move forward with Option 1 as the least disruptive, most efficient redistricting plan. Implementation of Option 1 would affect 20 families and 24 students currently attending Highland School; students residing on the west side of Skokie Boulevard north to Davis Street would be moved to Devonshire School beginning with the 2011-2012 school year. Additionally, the ELL Kindergarten class, currently housed at Jane Stenson School, would be moved to Devonshire School if necessary to better balance enrollment among the elementary schools.

Proposed Transition Schedule

The administration proposes that students affected by the Option 1 Redistricting Plan who will enter Grade 5 for the 2011-2012 school year be given the choice to remain at Highland School or move to Devonshire School. Siblings of these students, including incoming Kindergarten students, would also have the choice to remain at Highland School for the 2011-2012 school year, and would move to Devonshire School for the 2012-2013 school year.

Students entering Grade 4 or lower in 2011-2012 would move to Devonshire School this coming August.

The following chart indicates the students affected by the Option 1 Redistricting Plan:

Grade
5
sib 3
2
3
1
1
1
5
sib 2
5
sib 2
sib 2
4
2
2
3
3
5
1
2
2
2
4
5

Students highlighted in yellow represent those students and/or siblings who may choose to remain at Highland School or move to Devonshire School for the 2011-2012 school year. All other students would move to Devonshire School.

Should the Board opt to move forward with this transition plan, the administrative team would host an evening meeting for affected families within the next few weeks. Child care and translation services would be provided by the district. Additionally, we would provide affected students and parents from Highland School an opportunity to visit Devonshire School during the school day this coming spring.

Conclusion

Given the cohort of students and families affected by the Option 1 Redistricting Plan (noted above), this transition schedule provides for a logical move to Devonshire School while allowing 5th grade students and their siblings to remain at Highland School during the 2011-2012 school year. By moving all other affected students in the upcoming school year, we more efficiently approach our goal of maintaining a more balanced enrollment across the three wing schools for the foreseeable future, we create the potential for lower class size at Devonshire, and we deploy co-curricular staff in a more cost-effective manner.

