

Approve the Superintendent's Recommendation on Eastside Alternative School's Plan for Improvement

In February 2006, the Board reviewed Eastside Alternative School as part of a larger district review of elementary alternative schools. As a result of that initial review, the Board voted on February 15, 2006 to eliminate grade caps for Eastside and three other alternative schools reviewed in 2005-06 and took the following actions specific to Eastside:

1. Direct district staff to work with Eastside to develop a plan for improvement to address the key findings of the report related to assisting Eastside to attract and address the instructional needs of a more diverse student population, including low SES, special education, ELL and students of color.
2. Direct staff to begin the process of working with Eastside to develop a plan for relocation of Eastside from Parker Elementary to a standalone site or co-location with another alternative school or middle school as part of the district's review of boundaries, enrollment patterns, and facilities planning.

Carmen Urbina, Parent, Family, Community Coordinator, and Scott Marsh, Principal at Eastside Elementary School, provided an update on the strategic planning process that Eastside has undertaken to address the directive from the board to meet the instructional needs of a more diverse student population, including low SES, special education, English language learners, and students of color. The process has engaged the Eastside staff, site council and parents in discussing the school's mission, culture, vision, strengths and weaknesses, and to identify strategies and activities that will address the goals stated in the Eastside Elementary School Improvement Plan Executive Summary Update:

Main goal: To improve Eastside Elementary School capacity to welcome, support, and effectively serve diverse learners and their families—and then to do so—in order to meet the Board's requirements for retaining alternative school designation.

Outcome of the process: To develop an improvement plan to increase equity and diversity.

To date, Eastside staff and parents are in the process of completing the third of six phases of their strategic planning process and are now working on initial recommendations. They expect to finish their work and present a three-year plan with an implementation schedule and measures by June 2007. As the final step in their planning process, community members will be asked to join with Eastside staff and parents in discussing the key learning from this process and how Eastside plans to move forward. The Eastside Elementary School Improvement Plan - Executive Summary Update was included in the board packet at your last meeting.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent recommends that the board:

Adopt a finding that Eastside's plan for improvement has met the intent of the requirement to develop a plan for improvement to address the key findings of the report related to assisting Eastside to attract and address the instructional needs of a more diverse student population, including low SES, special education, ELL and students of color, and at this time no further action is necessary.