Dinner will be served

AGENDA AND BOARD REPORT

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Flag Salute

II. Shaping 4J’s Future Update: Transportation, Transfer Limits at Middle and High Schools, Boundary Review

The Shaping 4J’s Future strategic planning process culminated in March 2008 with board approval of a number of recommendations and a time line for action.

At this work session, staff will present initial work on three district-wide strategies:

- A transportation study to estimate the cost of expanding bus transportation to all elementary schools within a region, which might make school choice more accessible to all families;
- Transfer limits at middle and high schools to help balance enrollment and programs among schools; and
- School boundary review to consider adjustments that might address areas where boundaries no longer seem logical, considering the current school locations and where students reside.

A. Introduction and Overview – Superintendent

B. Transportation Study (Staff: Jon Lauch)

The board approved the following recommendation at its March 19, 2008 meeting:

“Recommendation 4 – Transportation:
Study the possibility of adding transportation to all elementary schools within each region, including the possibility of adding transportation to alternative schools within the region only, or to neighborhood school transfers from within the region only, and consider developing a pilot project to test a new approach. There may be some additional transportation costs related to any boundary adjustments and possible school consolidations.”

Previous to the March 19 meeting, staff had projected and reported costs to provide regional transportation to alternative schools. The annual operating cost for this option was estimated at approximately $1,000,000 ($300,000 after state reimbursement at the current percentage of 70%) including the capital expense for an additional 19 buses (costs amortized over 10 years). Staff also noted that there is no additional capacity at the existing site to accommodate the additional buses and that the capital costs of property acquisition and improvements were not included in the above costs. The latter costs were not previously quantified.
Staff has reviewed the routing requirements to accommodate the additional “school choice” transportation, based upon actual school choice from the 2007-08 school year, and estimates that an additional 26-30 routes would be required at an annual operating cost of between $1.62 million and $1.78 million (between $486,000 and $534,000 after state reimbursement) including the annualized capital expense for buses. In addition to the above costs, there would be significant capital costs associated with property acquisition and improvements to accommodate the additional buses. The range of these capital costs will be quantified and discussed in greater detail at the work session.

Copies of the operation cost projections and for the capital cost scenarios will be included in your red folders. Staff will be available to review the detail and discuss basic assumptions used in generating the numbers as well as pros/cons for the various scenarios.

An outline of the transportation study presentation is included in this packet.

C. Transfer Limits at Middle and High Schools (Staff: Tom Henry)

The board approved the following recommendation at its March 19, 2008 meeting:

“Recommendation 2 - Limit transfers for middle and high schools:
Each middle school could accept up to 5% of the middle school students residing within the boundaries of another region. No middle school could accept transfers that would result in a student enrollment that exceeds the middle school size maximum enrollment target of 600 students. Each high school could accept up to 7.5% of the high school students residing within the boundaries of another region. No high school could accept transfers that would result in a student enrollment that exceeds the high school size maximum of 1500 students. IHS transfer students would be included in the 7.5% maximum; IHS transfer enrollment would be pro-rated to reflect the ratio of IHS students to regular program students in the receiving school.”

Staff will present a proposed plan for implementing transfer limits to become effective for the 2009-10 school year.

D. Boundary Review (Staff: Barb Bellamy)

The board approved the following recommendation at its March 19, 2008 meeting:

“Recommendation 3 - Boundaries:
Staff review of existing school boundaries in 2008-09 and make any suggested revisions by February 2009 for 2009-10. Key considerations when redrawing boundary lines should include:
• Keep bus route no more than 45 minutes, one way.
• Current attendance area islands and optional areas should be reduced whenever possible and new ones not be created.
• Avoid creating schools with high concentrations of low income families.
• Keep geographically and historically defined neighborhoods together.
• Consider the proximity of students to school when redrawing boundary lines, closing or consolidating schools.
• Minimize impact to current students and families, particularly those directly impacted by recent school closure and boundary change decisions.
• Consider ways to “grandfather” current students attending schools affected.”

Staff will present preliminary recommendations for boundary changes and outline a process for gaining public input, before making any boundary changes. Board policy authorizes the superintendent to make boundary changes to school attendance areas.

Materials included as background in the packet are:

• Shaping 4J's Future Board Action – March 19, 2008, which lists recommendations approved by the board at that meeting.
• Shaping 4Js Future Core Values, Goals and Principles dated January 28, 2008.

III. Adjourn

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THIS MEETING WILL BE BROADCAST OVER KRVM-AM (1280)
NO SMOKING, PLEASE!

INTERPRETERS FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING:
To request interpreter services for this meeting, please call 687-3327 or TTY 687-3447 or the TTY Relay Number 1-800-735-2900