

Oakland Unified School District

Board of Education
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Minutes (Long)

Friday, May 30, 2008

7:30 AM

Special Meeting

**Board Room, Paul Robeson Building, 1025 2nd Avenue, Oakland, CA
94606-2212**

Special Committee on School Admissions, Attendance and Boundaries

***Kerry Hamill, Chairperson
Gary Yee, Christopher Dobbins***

A. Call to Order

Chairperson Dobbins called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 A.M.

B. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: Christopher Dobbins, Christopher Dobbins, Kerry Hamill, Kerry Hamill, Gary Yee and Gary Yee

C. Unfinished Business



08-1274 **Board Policy - Students - BP 5116 - School Attendance Boundaries (Second and Final Reading)**

Adoption by Board of Education of Amended Board Policy - Students - BP 5116 - School Attendance Boundaries and discussion of the proposed Amended Administrative Regulations for implementation.

Attachments: [08-1274- Board Policy 5116 - School Attendance Boundaries.pdf](#)
[08-1274 - Megaboundary Information.pdf](#)
[08-1274 - SAAB Committee Recommendation to Board - May 30, 2008 - Board Policy - Students - BP 5116 - School Attendance Boundaries.pdf](#)
[08-1274 - Board Policy - Students - BP 5116 - School Attendance Boundaries \(Revised\) - Second and Final Reading - June 25, 2008.pdf](#)

Desired Outcomes:

- *Decision to move this to the June 11 Board of Education meeting. At least 2 of 3 directors will need to approve draft policy to move this to the board meeting.*
- *Decide on mega-boundaries with concentric circles or middle school boundaries*
- *Last meeting we said that we wanted to see Scenario D drafted into policy.*
- *Draft policy as written will be revised to place priority on siblings*

Director Yee said he would like to see the value explicit about our belief about schools and families. If we put it up front, it becomes something we can all stand behind.

Director Hamill spoke of the importance of responding to every school site, but also making sure we don't lose any diversity. We know these three policies are not easy to balance:

1. *Would like to keep open priority on siblings and keep them together;*
2. *Governing board is committed to support and value schools that reflect the diversity;*

3. *Schools are asset to their neighborhood.*

Juwen Lam, Demographer, said staff would list the three values and not list the order.

Director Hamill recommended the following order for Scenario D:

Neighborhood

Siblings

Diversity

Director Dobbins said Families should be listed as first priority; Neighborhood, then Diversity. Director Yee and Director Hamill agreed.

Director Hamill said she would like the language to say that strong neighborhood schools build strong neighborhoods.

A motion was made by Committee Member Hamill, seconded by Committee Member Dobbins, that this matter be Recommended Favorably. The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: Adv Aye: 0
Adv Nay: 0
Adv Abstain: 0
Aye: 3 - Christopher Dobbins, Kerry Hamill and Gary Yee
Nay: 0
Recused: 0
Preferential Aye: 0
Preferential Abstention: 0
Preferential Nay: 0



08-1275

Board Policy - Students - BP 5116.1 - Intradistrict Open Enrollment (Second and Final Reading)

Adoption by Board of Education of Amended Board Policy - Students - BP 5116.1 - Intradistrict Open Enrollment and discussion of the proposed Amended Administrative Regulations for implementation.

Attachments: [08-1275 - Board Policy - Students - BP 5116.1 - Intradistrict Open Enrollment.pdf](#)
[08-1275 - Administrative Regulations 5116.1 - IntraDistrict Open Enrollment.pdf](#)
[08-1275 - Options Policy Scenarios.pdf](#)
[08-1275 - SAAB Committee Recommendation to Board - May 30, 2008 - Board Policy - Students - BP 5116.1 - Intradistrict Open Enrollment .pdf](#)
[08-1275 -Board Policy - Students - BP 5116.1 - Intradistrict Open Enrollment - Second and Final Reading - June 25, 2008.pdf](#)

Juwen Lam reviewed draft Board Policy on Open Enrollment and Enrollment Priorities. The priority for attendance shall be:

- *Siblings of students who are currently enrolled in the school and both siblings will be enrolled in the same school for the following year.*
- *Neighborhood residents.*
- *Students who reside within an elementary school's megaboundary as defined by Board Policy.*

As Ms. Vital indicated earlier, Board Members requested detailed information regarding the megaboundary concept which will be discussed in detail after review of the draft policy language. The choices are that either

§ That the elementary schools within each middle school boundary form a middle megaboundary; or

§ That each elementary school has their own megaboundary comprised of the next five closest elementary schools by concentric circle.

Director Yee said the first statement on open enrollment should say the Board desires to provide enrollment options that meets the diverse needs and interests of the District within the constraints of school capacity. He said to make the policy as global as presented seems to mislead people into thinking Open Enrollment is a policy right. And it is only a policy right within the constraints of the District's ability to have space. Mr. Bonino said in Part 3, the intent is around the redirected who will have a priority to a school within that boundary. It is not meant that all students have the third priority within the megaboundary. It is specifically for redirected students. Director Yee asked "The redirected would be in the same category as whom?" Ms. Lam said the redirected students, because of the resolution passed by the Board, were redirected to their next closest school. That clause expires this June. Normally, when we run the lottery process, a redirected falls after Program Improvement and they go back to the bottom of the priority list, which is a concern they heard out of the regional meetings.

Ms. Vital said it is the third priority. When you say "removing a neighborhood", it would come after neighborhood. This year, it was equal between neighborhood and the redirected student. Based on feedback, we are proposing that it would be third. A redirected Carl Munck student would not get to remove a Redwood Heights neighborhood student, but instead be redirected to another school, either within the middle school boundary, or by concentric circles.

Ms. Vital clarified that Item 3 under Enrollment Priorities would read "Redirected student ..."

Ms. Lam reviewed the draft Administrative Regulations on Enrollment Priorities. She said these guidelines reflect the values of supporting families and siblings. The District policy now would read: "Pursuant to district policy, students have priority to attend the school if a sibling is currently enrolled in the school and both siblings will be concurrently enrolled in school for the following year. "

Ms. Lam said the policy would give first priority to siblings who already have a sibling currently enrolled in the school. The second priority would be given to neighborhood residents. Third priority would be given to residents who have been redirected that reside within an elementary school's megaboundary as defined by Board policy. Fourth priority would be given to students from district designated Program Improvement neighborhoods. Any schools that have available space after these priorities can receive additional students from outside the neighborhood through the Open Enrollment Process.

Director Yee said Redwood Heights frequently has space in the upper grades. If a child is enrolled in the upper grades, then their sibling has priority to enroll. Does the school district have the right to consider the whole family's enrollment when we have an Open Enrollment space in the upper grades? Our value is families and we want to keep the

family together.

Ms. Lam reviewed the Megaboundary maps which provide two choices. (1) Elementary school locations with Middle School Boundaries and (2) Elementary School Locations with Concentric Circle Boundaries. The intent of the megaboundary was to continue to provide access to a neighborhood school in a larger radius while relieving some of the overcrowding in areas. She said the middle school boundary proposals lists all the elementary schools that fall in each middle school boundary.

Director Hamill said she was more supportive of the middle school boundary because it provides wider latitude to move a child from the flat area up toward the hills if they choose to do that; whereas, the concentric circle would make it more difficult to do that.

Ms. Vital said an important piece of feedback to staff would be how to handle Hillcrest. Right now, in the middle school boundaries, they live in their own boundary. As a policy we might need to have their megaboundary included with Montera and/or part of Claremont so that they are not their own boundary when there are seats.

Director Yee noted a problem in the concentric circle proposal in that it overlaps middle school boundaries in many cases which will lead to struggles as a student goes from elementary to middle school. Ms. Lam said the concentric circles are drawn to incorporate the five closest schools to that elementary school. The schools are not clustered equally across the District. For Grass Valley, since there are no schools to the East, in order to capture all the schools to the West, we created a concentric circle that was much larger than circles for other schools.

Director Hamill she said is in favor of the Middle School Boundaries proposal as it gives us more socio-economic variety. Director Yee said he wanted to ensure that each middle school boundary had at least one elementary school with an enrollment above 800.

Ms. Vital asked the Committee for input to resolve the Hillcrest piece and how to acknowledge it in the policy.

Public Comment:

Ms. Shannon Broome, PTA President, Hillcrest and member of its Long Range Planning Committee, said the middle school boundary does not do anything to solve the Hillcrest issue because there is nowhere to redirect the overcrowded students. Hillcrest is full by definition in that scenario. There needs to be a special listing for them. Transparency is important. People moving into Montclair or Hillcrest have the impression that they are guaranteed their neighborhood school and they find out it is not true. This policy does not guarantee a megaboundary school because the schools within the megaboundary could be full.

Tamara Morris, PTA President, Chabot, commented on the middle school boundary proposal and elementary school concentric circle boundaries proposal. Some schools would not have access to hill schools in the concentric circle boundary proposal.

Director Hamill said she wishes to avoid pitting one neighborhood against another which is the effect of changing policies when there is not enough room. She would like the committee to have another discussion on capacity on hill schools and a discussion on all-day Kindergarten. It restricts our ability to have space up there and to say that all of our schools are equal is not true. We have to make choices. She wants to say as part of

this process that we are going to look at capacity and deal with portables at schools with overcrowding issues. It is not an expensive solution and it does not take anything away from the flatlands if people are guaranteed that their sibling is going to get a space in another school. As our next step, we need to remedy the overcrowding issues and we cannot leave schools in a boundary where we know there are too many kids. For Hillcrest, she does not want to redraw the line in the same way we did last time because it was a bit extreme and she wishes to look at some other options. She wants the Kaiser attendance area put into the mix. She wants to look at half-day Kindergarten and possibilities of increasing space at Hillcrest. She wants to ensure we have looked at every possible option, including Montclair and Thornhill. She wants them to know we are doing this to accommodate the neighborhood.

Director Yee said he was the principal at Hillcrest before it became a K-8 school. The K-8 around Hillcrest is an artificial line. He said Hillcrest was always a feeder school to Claremont and Kaiser was always the overflow for Hillcrest. He would recommend the jagged line be removed as an artificial boundary around Hillcrest. Regarding enrollment he said decisions should be made at the lowest possible level whenever possible. Schools do not belong to the parents of a school. Schools belong to the community.

Director Dobbins said a lot of the issues are specific to Hillcrest, yet they do have spillover effects to the surrounding schools.

Director Hamill said it is good for us to know at Hillcrest and Chabot that non-neighborhood families are going to be kept there in perpetuity. We can figure out our enrollment knowing that they have a prerogative to stay. And we can count on that as we are figuring out how we are going to redraw the line, how many portables we are going to move up there, etc. She would like to have that discussion this summer. Director Yee said there needs to be a statement made after the Board Meeting that families are not guaranteed a space in a school because they buy a house in a neighborhood. There are crowded and overcrowding issues and sibling rights. Director Hamill agreed that Hillcrest should be in the North Oakland attendance area and should be a feeder school to Oakland Technical High School.

Ms. Vital clarified request for follow up around capacities and facilities tied to density of enrollment study. The second thing is that we will examine the all-day Kindergarten policy. Director Dobbins asked the committee to continue discussions on the two items. Ms. Vital clarified Board request that we would be removing the boundary on the left hand side for middle school boundaries so that they have the same access to the North Oakland elementary schools when Hillcrest is overcrowded in Kindergarten. Director Hamill said we would be looking at all-day Kindergarten as it relates to potentially overcrowded elementary schools. We are creating space in places where there is too much pressure. Ms. Vital said the committee will meet again in August to look at other issues tied to this policy.

Ms. Vital clarified the middle school boundary redirection at elementary and we would be removing the Hillcrest boundary jagged edge to the West which would add Hillcrest into the Chabot, Peralta, Sankofa, and Emerson attendance area for redirection. We would bring a resolution forth to remove that just for the middle school boundaries, understanding that they are K-8 and students matriculate up. For students not getting into Hillcrest, they would be redirected into Kaiser, Chabot, Emerson, Peralta, Sankofa or Santa Fe.

Director Hamill said we still need to deal with the overcrowding issue. The Board will be

discussing the overcrowding issue at Hillcrest over the summer. Ms. Vital said staff can follow up with families who were redirected to figure out how many families we are talking about who are going to have a Kindergarten for enrollment next year. What does that look like? Long-term, starting in August, we will be looking at Kindergarten potentially as a half day resulting in more seats.

Director Hamill said we need to make a commitment that we are not going to end this process knowing that we have a systematically overcrowded school and we are going to redirect people wherever they land. We are going to keep working until we ensure the boundaries have some integrity and every family has a home school.

Motion by Director Yee, Second by Director Hamill, to recommend to the Board as a whole, the policies as amended, as modified and discussed by the Chief of Community Accountability, and to specifically adopt Scenario D with changes as noted and to adopt the middle school megaboundary for the purpose of elementary school capacity decisions.

Ms. Vital clarified that Hillcrest will be removed for the purposes of redirecting the western part of that boundary.

The motion was approved as follows:

AYES: Gary Yee, Kerry Hamill, Christopher Dobbins

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

A motion was made by Committee Member Yee, seconded by Committee Member Hamill, that this matter be Recommended Favorably. The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: Adv Aye: 0
Adv Nay: 0
Adv Abstain: 0
Aye: 3 - Christopher Dobbins, Kerry Hamill and Gary Yee
Nay: 0
Recused: 0
Preferential Aye: 0
Preferential Abstention: 0
Preferential Nay: 0

D. Adjournment

Chairperson Dobbins adjourned the meeting at 8:40 A.M.

Prepared By: _____

Approved By: _____