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Memo

To Board of Education

From Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent
Sonali Murarka, Executive Director-Enrollment
Jody Talkington, Senior Director-Strategic Projects

Board Meeting Date October 28, 2020

Subject Equitable Enrollment Pilot: Proposal to Add Low-Income Enrollment Priority to Sequoia Elementary School

Action Vote

Background The Citywide Plan calls for updates to our enrollment policies to ensure more equity in access to quality schools. To this end, the Superintendent formed a community working group earlier this year to research potential changes. The working group presented a series of recommendations on October 14, 2020, one of which included a recommendation around equitable enrollment pilots at a handful of high-demand schools.

As previously presented to the Board and public on October 14, the rationale for these Equitable Enrollment Initiatives at these schools is as follows:

- The pilot schools have previously expressed interest in exploring enrollment policy changes with a lens of increasing equitable access and diversifying their schools.
- School diversity is a top value that families mentioned in the equitable enrollment community survey.
- These pilots can help inform potential broader policy changes, in particular around how to resolve the tension between neighborhood schools and integration.

Each individual school’s pilot must come to the Board for approval separately. These pilots are intended to be in place for 3 years, but shall be re-evaluated annually for their impact on student composition

and school community sentiment, among other areas.

As discussed during the October 14 presentation from the working group, there are a few main considerations to keep in mind around these pilots:

- Estimated impact was modeled based on recent years of data, which may or may not be a good predictor of what happens in future years.
- Enrollment priority does not guarantee diversity – these schools may need a more comprehensive plan addressing recruitment.
- From the modeling, it does not appear that any one district school would be impacted by losing more than a handful of students who might now get a priority into Sequoia Elementary School. But, we would want to track this, to ensure nearby schools are not negatively impacted.

We see these considerations as areas for us to closely monitor and keep track of, not as reasons not to move forward.

Discussion

OUSD does not currently have a citywide approach to tackling equitable access to schools and/or integration. The work towards a larger enrollment policy update is continuing this school year and will likely take considerable time. Nonetheless, there is a desire from the school communities and from OUSD staff to move forward with a few pilot programs around enrollment priorities to begin to assess what this could look like and the impact.

In October 2020, OUSD staff is bringing forth three proposals for Board consideration: Chabot Elementary, Edna Brewer Middle, Sequoia Elementary School. These schools are all proposing to add an enrollment priority for students living in low-income areas, *after* the enrollment priorities for siblings, neighborhood, and school staff children.

Fiscal Impact

Small negative fiscal impact, as we anticipate most but not all families who no longer receive an offer to Sequoia Elementary School will likely attend another OUSD school.

Attachment

Presentation
Resolution

**RESOLUTION OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-0118

ADJUSTING ENROLLMENT PRIORITIES AT SEQUOIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2019, the Governing Board passed Resolution No. 1819-0150 relating to the Citywide Plan;

WHEREAS, the Citywide Plan provides that one key enrollment strategy is to revisit the enrollment priority ranking to ensure more equity in access to quality schools; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the school community at Sequoia Elementary School is to ensure equitable access for lower-income families who do not live in the Sequoia neighborhood, which is in line with the Citywide Plan's enrollment strategies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board hereby adds an enrollment priority at Sequoia Elementary School for students living in lower-income Census areas, as defined in Administrative Regulation 5116.1, such that Sequoia Elementary School's enrollment priorities will follow the order outlined below:

- (1) Continuing student priority
- (2) Sibling priority
- (3) Opportunity ticket priority
- (4) Neighborhood priority
- (5) School staff priority
- (6) Priority to students living in a lower-income Census block group
- (7) Oakland resident priority, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT these enrollment priorities for Sequoia Elementary School shall be in effect for enrollment for Fall 2021, Fall 2022, and Fall 2023, consistent with Board Policy 5116.1 – Open Enrollment, but may be re-evaluated by the Board and Superintendent prior to Fall 2023.

Passed by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE:

PREFERENTIAL NOE:

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION:

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

RECUSE:

ABSENT:

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution passed at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District held on October 28, 2020.

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OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jody London
President, Board of Education

Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education