

6-10-11
Hmndart

Alternative Committee Meeting Minutes for June 14, 2011

Date: June 14, 2011

Agenda:

- I. Call To Order
- II. Discuss Meeting Objective
- III. Review No Boundary Options and Examples
- IV. Discuss Committees' Opinions and Thoughts on No Boundary Solutions
- V. Summarize Board Recommendation and Summary

I. Call To Order

Emerita and Alesha kicked off the meeting to review the agenda and objectives for the current meeting.

Attendees:

Penny Weaver
Cathy Wright
Charles Velschow
Redwood Shores/Cherie Ho
Ralston/Donna Sims
Central/Lisa Conley
Central /Mike Rothstein
Nesbit/Alanna Shaw Fillippi
Nesbit/ Jason Tolu
Redwood Shores/Kris Binasik
Redwood Shores/Kerri Macha
Sandpiper/Andy Eliopoulos
Alesha Breite
Emerita Orta-Camilleri
Kelly/Fox

II. Meeting Objective

Based on the last school board meeting a no boundary solution was brought forward by the board to evaluate and consider. The alternative committee was asked to come back to the table to discuss these options and collect our feedback to share with the board on the various no boundary solutions.

III. No Boundary Example walkthroughs

Penny walked through a few examples within the Bay Area that have implemented a no boundary solution. These examples vary from small sized schools to medium-sized schools with varied API scores. Penny was able with the support of some parents, to collect very detailed information about their registration process, even some job descriptions, and program overviews and walked through them with the committee.

Saratoga- Parental Choice Preference

Overview: Implemented a solution that supports a no boundary solution. This process has been in place for several years and has the district office responsible for centrally managing all registrations. The registrations are submitted to the district office and parents have the ability to submit up to two school preferences. The school board staff then leverages the parental choices to assign the schools to the students. If it comes to a situation where there is not an available spot for parental choice then they use drawings to finalize the selection.

Important Points:

- School has not experienced recently, if at all, enrollment growth. If anything they have seen a decline.
- All API scores across the schools are above 900
- There are 3 elementary schools and 1 middle school within this school district
- The city of Saratoga does have 5 districts pulling children from this area. This district does not cover the entire city.
- One person manages this today and Penny was able to get the detailed job description.
- The job is maintained over the summer.

Mill Valley – District Distance Based Assignment

Overview: Implemented a solution that supports a no boundary solution. This process has been in place for at least 10 years and assigns children to school based on geographic distance, location, parent request and siblings. Parents drop off registration packets at the district office and supply all required information including geographic data and is all inputted into the student information system.

Important Points:

- All API scores across the schools are above 900
- They leverage Aeries to track all of the information for registration including children information and distance data
- District does communicate to parents no guarantee policy
- They leverage some sort of GIS software to determine distance. If parents want to debate walking distance then they can file a request to have school district admins measure walking distance to school.
- If they are unable to find the address in the systems they have to personally go out and map themselves
- They do have dedicated personnel on this task. Current job title for this role across the district include District Administration Staff, District Registrar.
- There are four different days set for collecting registrations (2 Days in Jan and 2 Days in Feb)
- If a conflict occurs based on enrollment and capacity then they use lottery to assign.
- Have not felt enrollment growth issues right now.

Pacifica – Parent Preference and Choice Assignment

Overview: Very similar to the Saratoga model. Parents submit registration packages to district office and provide preferences. District uses parent preferences and space available to determine school assignments.

Makeup:

- School composition includes both K-8 (3) and K-5 (2) programs. 5 elementary schools in total.
- API schools vary across all of the schools. More diversity than Mill Valley and Saratoga.
- Lots of unwritten rules

IV. Committee Opinion

The committee met and discussed the various pros and cons of each model and listed them below. Overall the opinion was not favorable for any of the no boundary solutions. The committee even discussed creating a third option of a blended solution between weighted geography with parental priority but was not a favorable choice to bring forward as an option to the board.

Overall Opinion:

- Both options would require additional staff. Estimations from the committee would include the additional 150K for staff support of the process. Discussed the need for a director level position and the need to look at splitting out the HR activities against registration activities and student services.
- The board would need to consider the additional requirements for this role that has been flagged as a year round role with part time requirements within their existing staff growth requests that have already been submitted.
- Education Process would be required across the community and district. Expected to see a huge increase in formal complaints until the program has stabilized.
- SFID separation was not favored by the committee because they feel we should not have segregation across the district and we should focus on unity instead.

District Distance Based Assignment (Mill Valley)

Pros:

- Sustainable Long Term Solution that provides flexibility
- Centralized Distribution
- More clarity on distribution based on geography

Cons:

- Geography Definitions and the clarity around determining them. Would require staff to clarify or review if questioned.
- Additional staff burden and the need for a complaint officer. Expected growth in complaints.

- Not an apple to apple comparison because none of the school samples above are currently facing enrollment capacity issues or growth
- Fluidity around determination. Still not very predictive for parents to determine school assignments. Does include uncertainty at the time of enrollment as assignments to school is delayed from time registration
- Also difficult for staff to determine capacity requirements by school for future growth and enrollment.
- Would need to consider daycare options and availability with school assignments.

Staff Impact: Initial Start: High / Sustain: Low

Vote: (10 No / 0 Yes)

Parent Preference/Choice Assignment (Pacifica and Saratoga)

Pros:

- Gives parents the ability to choose which school they would prefer
- Sustainable long term solution that provides flexibility

Cons:

- Creates additional activities and create burden for staff
- Additional staff burden and the need for a complaint officer. Expected growth in complaints.
- Not an apple to apple comparison because none of the school samples above are currently facing enrollment capacity issues or growth
- Even more fluidity around determination. Still not very predictive for parents to determine school assignments. Does include uncertainty at the time of enrollment and justification about final assignments.
- Also difficult for staff to determine capacity requirements by school for future growth and enrollment.
- Would need to consider daycare options and availability with school assignments.

Staff Impact: Initial Start: High / Sustain: Low/Medium

Vote: (1 Yes/ 9 No)

V. Board Recommendation

The committee overall was not in favor of the no boundary solutions. In general they were in favor of their home school lottery solution and even defined another new option/ augmented option to bring forward to the board based on the feedback heard in the last board meeting about proximity with lottery.

The new solution to bring forward:

Weighted Priority Enrollment Option

With the basics of Priority Enrollment in place including:

- Grandfathering

- Sister Schools
- Soft Cap
- Build Outs at Fox and Nesbit

Implement a home school lottery within home school designations with no boundary changes.

The recommendation is to augment this solution and introduce a weighted lottery system based on proximity of incoming students. The concern brought forth by the board is that the issue of proximity of student to any given school with a lottery. This would allow proximity to determine a higher chance of being assigned to the school by having a higher weight for assignment to the local school.

The recommendation brought forward by the committee is to follow a similar assignment model as the NBA draft pick and give a higher weight on the lottery to those that live in a similar proximity of the school closest to them.

Vote: Yes (8) / No (0)

Important Points to bring forward:

These options are only implemented when there is over enrollment only