

October 23, 2007

## PROGRESS REPORT #2

# Kindergarten Student Enrollment/Placement Policy

Superintendent Dailey and Student Affairs Officer Dave Dierking have been conducting a series of elementary school neighborhood meetings to gather parent input on how to prioritize kindergarten enrollment when schools are over capacity, and on proposed changes to general enrollment priority order. Five neighborhood school meetings were held between October 8 and 17. Below is a summary of the major points raised and received in email comments to [issuesandoptions@alameda.k12.ca.us](mailto:issuesandoptions@alameda.k12.ca.us). (Points received after October 15 Issues and Options are added to top of list.)

## *Summary of comments and issues*

- Changing boundaries should be last option.
- Two main issues are school capacity and diversions.
- Class Size Reduction (20 students for 1 teacher in grades K-3) program has impacted capacity of Alameda's small schools.
- Consider delaying the lottery. Take placements early and set date for future lottery.
- Re-open closed elementary schools.
- Parent input from enrollment meetings should feed into Superintendent's long-range planning process ("Pathway to Excellence and Equity")
- Facilities such as playground equipment need to keep pace with added enrollment.
- Look at impact of inter-district students on school capacity.
- Concern was expressed about difficult logistics of having students in different schools if no sibling preference is given.
- Concern was expressed about difficulty of being involved in more than one school, if parents were to have students at different schools—impact on parental involvement.
- The option for a random drawing does not currently give priority to siblings. The suggestion was made to exclude siblings from the drawing process and give them automatic entry with the first sibling.
- When considering giving priority to siblings, there is also a need to consider the needs of single-child families and parents with children who are not yet in the school system.
- Many parents place a very high value on neighborhood schools and the opportunity for neighbor children to walk to school together.
- Some parents feel that a random drawing does not treat children equally, and that 'first come, first served' gives parents an equal shot.
- Some parents feel that a random drawing is fair because 'first come, first served' generates too much anxiety and fear, particularly for first time parents.
- Concern was expressed about adding more children to an already limited site at Edison Elementary School.

*(Over for Summary of Suggestions)*



ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Issues & Options

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## **PROGRESS REPORT #2 Continued**

### *Summary of suggestions*

- Register students as they move in and allow them to renew every year.
- Give priority to students who have lived in the district the longest.
- Give priority to students who live closest to the school.
- Utilize former Island High School campus to provide additional capacity.
- Share survey data from Edison School Neighborhood Network and Edison School
- Should be able to enroll as soon as child is born.
- Consider staggered schedules to accommodate more students.
- Consider AM/PM kindergarten schedule to maximize use of facilities.
- Consider staggered schedules to accommodate more students.
- Maximize current use of space to generate additional classroom space.
- Develop school magnet programs to encourage students to enroll in other schools.
- Add portables or temporary structures to accommodate extra students when needed.
- Allow parents to pay for new construction or cost of additional portables.
- Ask the community to support a construction bond to increase facility capacity.
- Maximize current use of space to generate additional classroom space.
- Create a 'buffer zone' between two or more neighboring elementary schools. When one school is at capacity, students living in the buffer zone would attend the neighboring school based on space available.
- We should ask, *What five things can we do make every school in our district desirable?*