

## **RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM HILLCREST COMMUNITY REGARDING RECOMMENDATION FOR SOLUTION TO OVERCROWDING (12/12/07)**

**NOTE: All questions are answered based on the current staff recommendation as of December 12, 2007. The accuracy of these responses is contingent on Board of Education approval of staff recommendation.**

**NOTE: All questions are answered based on the current approved Board Policy and Administrative Regulations regarding Intradistrict Enrollment and Attendance Boundaries, as of December 12, 2007. These policies are subject to annual review.**

### **Question 1: When is the district's meeting with Montclair School?**

We met with the Montclair families 12/10/07 to discuss how this recommended change would impact their attendance area

### **Question 2: Will Montclair School have additional kindergarten tours so that families who live in Area M can visit?**

As a district, we believe that each individual school is responsible for their own marketing and community engagement. Families are encouraged to reach out to the Principal at Montclair to learn more about the school and possible kindergarten tours.

### **Question 3: For homes in Area M, is the neighborhood middle school now Montera? Or, do they remain with Hillcrest as their neighborhood middle school? Similarly, for homes in Area C, is the neighborhood middle school now Claremont? Or, do they remain with Hillcrest as their neighborhood middle school?**

**NOTE: Those asking this question assumed the answer was that Montera and Claremont would become the neighborhood middle schools for these homes. The map that was included of the new Montera attendance area in the Board Meeting Agenda for this Wednesday, however, did *not* include these Area M homes as within the new Montera attendance area. This might have been due to the fact that the agenda item being discussed was the redrawing of Bret Harte lines, but it indicates a need for clarification.**

You are correct that we have not yet brought forth a recommendation to redraw the Hillcrest middle school attendance boundary. The need for redrawing this boundary is contingent upon the Board approving the redrawing of the elementary school boundary. As such, we will be bringing this to Board as a subsequent recommendation following their decision regarding the elementary school boundary. It is important to note that the middle school will not participate in the options process until 2009. All current 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be able to progress into the 6<sup>th</sup> grade next year.

### **Question 4: Related to Q3, for middle school prioritization, is the following an accurate reflection of what you indicated the priorities would be (i.e., is this how the options policy would work as applied to the Hillcrest Middle School)?**

**Pool of applicants limited to the 5th grade class at Hillcrest in the year prior to middle school entry.**

**Priority 1: Area H students with a sibling (older or younger) at Hillcrest**

**Priority 2: Area H students without a sibling at Hillcrest**

**Priority 3: Area M and Area C students with a sibling (older or younger) at Hillcrest**

**Priority 4: Area M and Area C students without a sibling at Hillcrest**

**Other priorities in the options policy are not relevant because the middle school only draws from the current 5th grade class in any given year.**

***If the above is not a correct reflection of the policy, could you please tell us what the priorities will be and whether Hillcrest siblings will have preference? Basically, people want to know if they live in one of the three areas and do or do not have siblings at the school, what priority will they be. We received several questions on this point, indicating a fair amount of confusion from the meeting, so clarity around this would be a big help. The above reflects what most people thought they heard.***

Siblings in Area M and Area C only receive grandfathered priority for kindergartners during the 2008-2009 school year. Based on the recommendation, a middle school lottery will not be held until assigning students for the 2009-2010 school year. As such, there is not specific prioritization for Area M and Area C as it pertains to middle school students. Therefore priorities 3 and 4 in your scenario above do not hold. When this lottery occurs, it will be held consistent with OUSD's options policy and administrative regulations. Based on the currently approved options policy, this means that you are correct that Priority 1 will come before 2 in your scenario above.

**Question 4a: If the above priorities are correct, what is the rationale for treating Area M and C existing Hillcrest students (e.g., a current second or first grader) differently from similarly situated Area H students of the same grade level?**

See response above. Siblings in Area M and Area C only receive grandfathered priority for kindergartners during the 2008-2009 school year.

**Question 5: For 2008-2009, will all current Hillcrest 5th graders who apply be admitted to the middle school regardless of whether they currently live in Area M, C, or H?**

Yes, for 2008-2009, all current Hillcrest 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be admitted to the middle school

**Question 6: Will the district specify in writing what was said at the meeting that the pool of applicants for the middle school is those students who attend 5th grade at Hillcrest?**

This is correct. The pool of applicants for the middle school is those students who attend 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Hillcrest

**Question 7: A family with a current Hillcrest K who lives in Area M, and has a 2009 or later entry student to kindergarten wants to keep its family together and be a 100% Montclair family. Can that family get both children into Montclair if there is space in the current K or next year in 1st? Since they are now "in neighborhood," essentially the question is whether they would have priority as a neighborhood family to fill a vacated slot at Montclair if someone leaves?**

Based on this recommendation, vacated spaces at Hillcrest will not be filled. Students in Area M are now Montclair families and will have neighborhood priority consistent with options policy and administrative regulations.

**Question 8: When is the meeting with Chabot School?**

The meeting with Chabot families was held December 11, 2007

**Question 9: If a family lives in Area H when eldest child is admitted and then moves to another part of Oakland, will a younger child seeking to enter K be treated as an out of attendance area sibling?**

Yes. Sibling prioritization is based on where the incoming student lives at the point that he or she participate in the options process.

**Question 10: For the transition period (in your slides 2008-2009), do siblings who live in Area M and Area C have priority over non-siblings who live in Area H or are they all on an equal footing (e.g., subject to lottery if there are more than 40)?**

Siblings living in Area M and Area C will have priority over non-siblings who live in Area H for the 2008-2009 year ONLY.

**Question 10a: For the transition period (in your slides 2008-2009), where will those who are redirected be sent to school if the combined number of students (Area H non-siblings**

**and Area M and C siblings) exceeds 40 -- i.e. will they have priority to attend Chabot or Kaiser?**

Students in Area M and C will have neighborhood priority at Montclair and Chabot respectively. They will be placed based on how they have prioritized schools on their options form with a priority at their neighborhood schools. If any students are required to be redirected from Area H, they will be placed based on how they have prioritized schools on their options forms as non-neighborhood students.

**Question 11: The map posted of the attendance area boundaries is a little fuzzy. For example, it is unclear which addresses on Sheridan are in Area M and which are in Area H. Similarly, the reference to Harbord is accurate but the line actually heads up Florence before it cuts over to Sheridan. Can you provide either addresses or a more detailed map that people can match up to their homes?**

**STILL AWAITING FINAL RESPONSE.**

**Question 12: In the future, if Hillcrest (or another OUSD school) continues to have more than 40 applicants for K, will involuntarily redirected students receive priority just below the neighborhood students for another school of their choice or will they be prioritized after/with students that seek voluntary transfers? Or will these situations be handled on a case-by-case basis?**

Based on current options policy and administrative regulations, all non-neighborhood students are prioritized the same. As students who have been redirected from their neighborhood school, these potential students will be considered nonneighborhood students for their next highest priority school.

**Question 13: Is there sibling priority for a pre-K entering K, when the sibling is leaving 5th grade but is applying to get into the Hillcrest middle school? Is there sibling priority for 5th grader in this situation seeking to enter 6<sup>th</sup> because there is also a pre-K seeking to enter K? Assume that both live in Area H and the year is 2009-2010.**

The pre-K student going through options would be prioritized as a sibling because, at the time of application, their old sibling was attending Hillcrest. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade student would not be prioritized as a sibling because, at the time of application, their younger sibling was not yet attending Hillcrest.

**Question 14: Will Hillcrest teachers who don't live in the attendance area be able to send their children to Hillcrest as a priority? What priority will they have?**

Based on current options policy and administrative regulations, teachers do not have priority for schools where they teach. Their child would be prioritized as a non-neighborhood student.