

May 17, 2007

TO: Hillcrest K-8 Families and Staff

FROM: Denise Gail Saddler, Network Executive Officer

RE: Enrollment and Program 2007-2008

Cc: Kimberly Statham, Ph.D, State Administrator
Kirsten Vital, Chief of Community Accountability
Beverly Rothenberg, Hillcrest Principal

First of all, I would like to thank the Hillcrest community for engaging in an earnest manner to address a most challenging enrollment dilemma. I received innumerable emails and talked and met with many of you. In the end, we were able to work together to address our enrollment challenge for the upcoming school year. Hillcrest's Long Term Planning Committee has been meeting regular with the focus of making specific recommendations for the 2008-2009 school years and beyond. I look forward to working closely with you and advancing a transparent process early in October so that all parents are clear on their true options. Again, I would like to thank all of you especially the PTA, who exhibited stellar leadership.

After careful review of the Hillcrest enrollment for the 2007-2008 School Year, space, and input from incoming and existing Hillcrest families I recommended the following to Dr. Kimberly Statham, State Administrator:

- Enroll all neighborhood kindergartners, who participated in the Options Process
- Maximize Hillcrest space by renovating the library portable
- Support one full day kindergarten and two half day kindergartens, if needed to address enrollment for the 2007-2008 school year
- Transparent Options process for the 2008-2009 school year

Dr. Statham supported the recommendations and will be monitoring the implementation.

I have been working closely with Beverly Rothenberg, Hillcrest Principal regarding the execution of these recommendations. All Day kindergarten is a District initiative that will be implemented fully at all Oakland schools. In the case of Hillcrest we have agreed to provide one full day kindergarten and two half day kindergartens, if needed to meet enrollment for the 2007-2008 school year. There is an expectation that, if for some reason that there is a shift in enrollment that All Day kindergarten will be provided for all kindergartners at Hillcrest.

All regular kindergarten activities will continue as planned (assessments, play dates orientation etc.) Principal Rothenberg will be responsible for student assignments to classrooms as always. Please do not request a specific teacher or classroom. The Hillcrest policy regarding the aforementioned will remain the same. The staff will thoughtfully make these assignments. I am looking forward to our continued work and an exceptional opening of the school year in the Fall.