

Dear DASD elementary school families,

Thank you to those who have engaged in the elementary school boundary change process the past few months, including those on the advisory committee and those who provided input this past week. We appreciate the time families took to learn more information, ask questions, and help identify pros and cons for three options currently being considered by the district. District administrative staff (superintendent, directors, elementary school principals, and others) have reviewed the work done by the Elementary Boundary Change Advisory Committee, communicated with many individuals, and have read the comments/questions from the online survey and those who attended the February 20th open house.

A summary of the process, as well as information and data accumulated over the past four months, has been made available to members of the Board of Education, including the final three options moved forward by the advisory committee. The administrative staff recognizes the challenges that any change brings, and that there is not one perfect option. We will be recommending one preferred option to the Board of Education at their meeting on Monday, February 27 (6:00 pm at the DeForest Area Public Library, 203 Library Street, DeForest), which is Option D 2.0, impacting families in the Conservancy and Holland Fields neighborhoods.

Option D 2.0 is being recommended for the following reasons:

- Supports targeted building enrollments in each school beginning in the upcoming school year
- Maintains equity of educational opportunities among all schools
- Initially provides enrollment relief at WES while leaving room for growth and efficient building utilization
- Even though this option affects the largest number of students, it allows the district flexibility to adjust class and section sizes with possible grandfathering and boundary exceptions.
- Enrollment projections align with the 90% target range
- Provides space for Morrisonville Elementary School students, even if phased in
- Highly unlikely that a new school in the south would change these boundaries
- Maintains Conservancy neighborhood unity
- Anticipates Holland Fields and Heritage Gardens becoming one contiguous neighborhood
- Provides tighter proximity and continuous border with EPES
- Least impact on bus routing and rider time
- Considers Gray Road as a thoroughfare and likely border
- Considers Conservancy neighborhood self-contained due to limited access and natural barriers
- Does not create a new group of eligible riders (all students in the D 2.0 neighborhoods are currently eligible for bus transportation and this recommendation does not create a new group of eligible riders)
- Note: all scenarios anticipated planning for a new elementary school at some point

After the new elementary boundaries are approved by the Board of Education, we will be in contact with families affected by the change to inform them about grandfathering, possible boundary exceptions, and development of a transition plan.

The district would like to extend our gratitude for the good and thoughtful work of the advisory committee members. We also appreciate all of the input shared by parents and guardians during this process. The deliberate and open feedback provided through the survey and those attending the informational open house were helpful in the administration's efforts for a recommendation and supported the entire process.

Sincerely,
Eric Runez, Superintendent