



## BONNY SLOPE-FINDLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

### POLICY ISSUE / SITUATION:

Bonny Slope Elementary School has experienced a steady increase in enrollment as new residential development has become available. Bonny Slope's capacity is at its maximum and enrollment growth is forecasted to continue. Bonny Slope requires an attendance boundary adjustment to help relieve potential student overcrowding.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Bonny Slope's growth in enrollment is linked to the increase in the general population within its current attendance boundary. The increase is attributable, in large part, to new residential development in the areas north of Thompson Road. These and other areas of Bonny Slope still have additional residential development capacity, which will continue to place enrollment pressure upon the school. Bonny Slope has a total building capacity of 600 general education students; the school does not have any portable classrooms onsite. The school does not have any Self-Contained Specialized Programs. There are 24 general education classrooms, one (1) pre-kindergarten classroom and a one (1) resource room. Prior to the pandemic, Bonny Slope was regularly above its permanent building capacity. Bonny Slope has a projected enrollment of 643 students for the 2022-23 school year, 43 (7%) above capacity.

Findley Elementary, located to the east of Bonny Slope, school has experienced a declining enrollment since 2015, when enrollment was 826 general education students. In 2019, prior to the pandemic, Findley's enrollment was 641, a decline of 185 students (-22%). Enrollment at Findley declined further in 2020 and 2021 during the pandemic. The pre-pandemic declining enrollment is likely due to the natural aging of the neighborhoods and families living within them. Findley experienced significant growth up through the mid 2010s, but these neighborhoods are now sending fewer elementary-aged students to BSD schools. Findley today has few remaining lands for additional residential development.

Findley Elementary has a permanent capacity is 625 general education students, supplemented by 152 additional seats in 8 portable classrooms. The school serves only general education students and does not house a Self-Contained Specialized Program or Pre-Kindergarten program. There are 25 general education classrooms and one (1) resource room. Findley is projected to have 484 general education students in the 2022-23 school year. This will result in 141 available general education seats (and 293 available seats if portable capacity is included).

In consultation with Teaching & Learning administrators and the principals of Bonny Slope and Findley, staff have reviewed potential strategies to aid Bonny Slope and the projected overcrowding of the school. One option is to move the Pre-Kindergarten program to another school; this would make 25 additional seats of capacity available. However, administrators and staff prefer to retain the Pre-Kindergarten program at Bonny Slope to maintain the continuity of that successful program. Therefore, Facilities staff have concluded that a minor boundary adjustment is necessary to assist in relieving overcrowding at Bonny Slope.

Pursuant to Policy JC, staff will develop and execute a public involvement plan to inform the affected communities of this adjustment. Due to the size of the area and number of properties potentially affected by the proposed boundary adjustment, staff do not recommend creation of an advisory committee. Rather, staff recommend the adjustment process include public meetings for the affected community where analysis of growth trends and the proposed boundary adjustment will be presented for comment. Staff will begin the boundary adjustment process in Fall 2022 with an anticipated decision date in January 2023. Staff recommend the adjustment go into effect for the SY 2023-24 school year.

**District Goal: WE empower all students to achieve post-high school success.**

The District prohibits discrimination and harassment based on any basis protected by law, including but not limited to, an individual's actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national or ethnic origin, marital status, age, mental or physical disability, pregnancy, familial status, economic status, veteran status, or because of a perceived or actual association with any other persons within these protected classes.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommend the Board adopt the following Objective to initiate a boundary adjustment between Bonny Slope and Findley Elementary School.

**Objective 1:** Create an attendance boundary amendment that will provide overcrowding relief for Bonny Slope Elementary School for the SY 2023-24 school year.

**Objective 2:** To the degree feasible, balance future enrollment with each affected school's capacity.