

Student Transition

Plan



Presented to the Educational Committee

February 9th, 2010

Student Transition Plan

This plan was created through the work of students from the three high schools in Duluth. Through the course of multiple large group meetings, meetings at the three high schools, and individual contact with students, this plan was created. In no way is this to be the final plan. We understand that there may need to be more discussions on some of the issues, but we encourage quick action. The expectation that we have for this plan is that it will show the School Board and the Administration how the students feel about the situation and what can be done moving forward in the short term. This plan will be divided into two sections. One part will be focused on the 2010-2011 school year. The other will be focused on the 2011-2012 school year, with the expectation that the year will set the precedence for future years when two high schools will be in operation. Each one of these sections will also be divided into the two sites that will be in operation, with the Central and East sites in the 2010-2011 school year, and the Denfeld and Ordean sites in the 2011-2012 school year. Also, the names of certain organizations and activities may be subject to change based on what the final names of the schools turn out to be. The Student Transition Team makes the recommendation that this plan be accepted as informational and used in used in further discussions of the transition.

School Year 2010-2011

Many of the recommendations that will be made in this section will affect the Central site primarily. This is due to larger mixing of students at this site, compared to that of the East site. Also, the makeup of the students that will be attending the East site will be primarily made up of freshman and sophomores. Therefore, many of the recommendations for the East site will not change the status quo for the 2010-2011 school year.

Yearbook- Spring 2010/Fall 2010

Central Site- We recommend that the Yearbook look into the possibilities of having two different covers, one for the Zenith and one for the Oracle. We also recommend that there be two senior sections in the Yearbook, one for those that would have graduated from Denfeld, and one for those that would have graduated from Central. All other portions of the Yearbook should be integrated. Of course the ultimate decision will lie in the advisor of the Yearbook. We recommend that the School Board make these recommendations to the advisor for the 2010-2011 school year.

East Site- We recommend that the Yearbook be named the Birchlog. All portions of the Yearbook should be integrated. Of course the ultimate decision will lie in the advisor of the Yearbook. We recommend that the School Board make these recommendations to the advisor for the 2010-2011 school year.

Newspaper- Spring 2010/Fall 2010

Central Site- We recommend that the Newspaper be named the Criterion. We also recommend that there be some investigation into whether the publication should be once a grade period, once a month, or some other publication timeline. Similar to the Yearbook, the final decision will lie in the advisor. We recommend that the School Board make these recommendations to the advisor for the 2010-2011 school year.

East Site- We recommend that the Newspaper be named the Greyhound. We recommend that the system of publication remain the same for the 2010-2011 school year.

Similar to the Yearbook, the final decision will lie in the advisor. We recommend that the School Board make these recommendations to the advisor for the 2010-2011 school year.

Dances- Fall 2010

Central Site- We recommend that the Central Site hold four formal dances. Fall Ball will be hosted during the fall at some time. This would be open to all students of the site. Sweetheart would be hosted in late January or early February and would be open to only sophomores, juniors, and seniors of the site. Prom would be hosted in the late spring and would be open to juniors and seniors of the site. Pop Concert dance would happen close to the time of the Music Department's Pop Concert, and would be open to all students that participated in the event. Each of these would most likely be handled by different organizations. Also, other regular gym dances would be handled by different organizations and should be left to the scheduling of those organizations. We recommend that the School Board make the recommendation that these guidelines be used when scheduling the dances for the 2010-2011 school year.

East Site- We recommend that the East Site hold three formal dances. Harvest Ball will be hosted during the fall at some time. This would be open to all students of the site. Sweetheart would be hosted in late January or early February and would be open to only the juniors and seniors of the site. Prom would be hosted in the late spring and would be open to juniors and seniors of the site. Each of these would most likely be handled by different organizations. Also, other regular gym dances would be handled by different organizations and should be left to the scheduling of those organizations. We recommend that the School Board

make the recommendation that these guidelines be used when scheduling the dances for the 2010-2011 school year.

Parking- Spring 2010

Both Sites-We recommend that parking at the both sites be changed from its current operation. Seniors should be given preference in receiving parking passes. They should be given out without a prerequisite to these seniors. Juniors that would be able to drive to school should be entered into a lottery for the remaining parking spaces. We recommend as well that there be some investigation into the ability to have some form of a Park-and-Ride system implemented for the west-end, where students would be able to park at Denfeld, or some other site, and ride a bus to Central. There would need to be an investigation into the fiscal aspect of this idea, as well as the feasibility.

Scheduling/Lunch- Spring 2010

Both Sites-We endorse the current plan being developed by the Administration. We recommend that campuses become entirely open for students during the lunch periods.

Early Registration- Spring 2010

Both Sites-We recommend that there be a few specific things addressed at the early registration in late August or early September. Parking should be organized at registration so that students will know their parking situation before school starts. We recommend that it be handled in the way that the plan describes above. We recommend that the dance contract policy of Denfeld be expanded to both of the sites. This should be run by the student

government at the school because it Denfeld has shown success using this plan. Lockers, Yearbooks, and School Photos should continue to be implemented at early registration. The Student Transition Team does not know what authority the School Board and the Administration has over early registration, but if they only make recommendations to each of the high schools, we recommend that these areas be urged to be addressed specifically. The Student Transition Team also feels that something can be done to help the new students at each of the two high schools get oriented to the new school at this event. We would recommend that some group that is very involved with the school, such as the Student Government, Key Club, or Link Crew, could give tours of the schools to the new students so that once the school year starts, students will not have to waste time getting integrated with the school.

Student Integration- Spring 2010/Summer 2010

Central Site- We recommend that extra meeting time for all of the classes at the Central site be scheduled to help integrate the Denfeld and the Central populations. This could come in multiple forms, such as regular class meetings or special events with activities in the gym. Student Integration teams, such as Link Crew, should also be integrated. This integration should begin with the selection of the members in the spring of 2010.

In relation to homecoming and spirit weeks, we recommend that there be three spirit weeks at Central/Denfeld. One spirit week would be dedicated to the Central students. One spirit week would be dedicated to the Denfeld students. The last spirit week would be a combination for both schools. The courts of each week would be comprised of the seniors that

would have gone to the respective schools. The student governments would have discussions over when each week would take place.

East Site- We recommend that a program similar to the Link Crew Program be implemented for the sophomore class. A day similar to the Link Crew Day for freshman could occur before the school year, to start the communication between the students that were at East the year before, and the new students that had attended Central. It may be a possibility that Link Crew could handle this program, and that it may be able to just be an extension of Link Crew.

Homeroom- Spring 2010

Both Sites-We recommend that announcements, information, and grades should be handled through the second hour classes. Also we recommend that second hour be expanded by a few minutes to accommodate this.

Graduation- March 2010

Central Site- We recommend that for the 2010-2011 school year there be separate graduations for the students that would have graduated from Denfeld and for the students that would have graduated from Central. Through talks with the Greater Denfeld Foundation, this situation would most likely not open up the scholarships for the students that would be going through the Western corridor until the students graduate with a Denfeld diploma, or whatever the name of the diploma will be in the future. Since there will be separate graduations, class rankings should not be combined for the class of 2011. This would allow easier competition for

the students in the class of 2011. Tours of the schools for the 2010-2011 school year should also still happen with the students that were scheduled to graduate from Denfeld getting a tour of Denfeld, and the students that were scheduled to graduate from Central getting a tour of Old Central. Before the school tours we recommend that a mass Boat Tour similar to what Central currently has should be implemented to the entire senior class. We also recommend that since there will be separate graduations that Academic Honor Nights remain separate as well. The All-Night Grad Party for the two high schools should be combined.

East Site- Looking at the student population that would be moving over to East next year, the Student Transition Team sees no need to adjust anything in relation to East's graduation. Any seniors that would move to East would be treated as regular transfer students.

Student Government- Spring 2010

Central Site- We recommend that at the Central site that there be one student government group. It will be made of juniors and seniors from both Central and Denfeld. We would recommend that senior members of the two current Student Governments get together and select the members for the new group in the spring of 2010. We also recommend that the group Pyramid be brought over to the Central site for the 2010-2011 school year and that it bring students from both schools together to work on projects. We also recommend that there be a large amount of communication between the two groups over the summer so that they can determine what each group will be handling each year.

East Site- We recommend that the Student Government structure of East remain the same because there will not be a large influx of students from Central in the junior and senior classes.

Both Sites- We recommend that the advisors for all of the Student Governments be selected as soon as possible for all three of the groups. The new advisors should be present at the interviews for the new groups. We recommend as well that the Duluth Student Council continue to operate to facilitate activities between both of the high schools.

Sports/Activities/Names and Colors- March 2010/Spring 2010/Summer 2010

Central Site- We recommend that for the 2010-2011 school year that the Central site be named Central Denfeld. The mascot in this recommendation would be the Trojans. There would be no official colors of this school. Instead it would be up to the sport coaches and captains as to what the colors each sport would wear. The Board could recommend though that the colors of Denfeld and Central be represented equally. It should also be left up to the coaches and captains as to what the uniforms would look like for the 2010-2011 school year. To address the concern that there will not be enough opportunities for students to participate, we suggest that the Central site add intramural sports. Intramurals have been shown at East to get a large number of students involved with sports at the high school.

East Site- We recommend that the name of East remain the same for the 2010-2011 school year. This would include keeping the mascot, colors, and uniforms the same. We make this recommendation on the fact that compared to the integration of the student populations at the Central site the integration at the East site will be much smaller.

Activates/Sports Fair- April 2010/May 2010

Both Sites-We recommend that once the coaches, activity advisors, administrators, and teachers have been assigned to their respective schools, that an Activates/Sports fair be held at each of the two high schools. This would be an opportunity for the adults at the new schools and the students at the new schools to begin to get to know one another. While this event would most likely be held by the Student Governments or the Sports Associations of the schools, we do have a few recommendations for how this would be implemented. The first option would be to have some sort of open house where students would go to their respective schools during some night of the week. The other option may be to have a half day of school dedicated to this fair. This second situation would make sure that all students meet with the adults to fully understand what will be happening the next year. Whatever option is chosen, an event similar to this would help to facilitate sports cooperation before the seasons even begin.

School Year 2011-2012 and Beyond

In creating the plan for the 2010-2011 school year, we were trying to make it so that some of the recommendations that we were making would have the ability to carry over to when the two high schools moved to their permanent locations. In this section, if something isn't addressed and it was addressed in the previous section, it is assumed that that plan will carry over to the new high schools. If the plan was proposed for the Central site it will carry to the Denfeld site, and if the plan was proposed for the East site it will carry to the Ordean site.

Graduation- March 2010

Both Sites-We recommend that starting with the 2011-2012 school year that the each school will have its own graduation, but that it will not be split within the school like the 2011 graduation. We would like to see though that the school district offer the option to students that they receive a Denfeld, Central, or East diploma when they graduate until the graduating class of 2013. Also because the graduations will be combined, we recommend that everything else be combined, including class rank and tours of the schools. Again with this though, we recommend that the District give the option of the students to end their high school careers with their respective high school traditions until the graduating class of 2013.

STC- Spring 2010/Summer 2010

Both Sites-We recommend that some transportation system be available for students to move between the two high schools so that they will be able to take full advantage of the STC course offerings. With the limited knowledge of the situation, the Student Transition Team suggests that three transports be provided. We suggest that they be provided during the three lunch periods so that students would not lose a class while being transported between the two schools. This may also help to promote greater school unity in the school by having students be in one school for part of the day and the other school for the other part of the day.

Clubs- Spring 2010/Summer 2010

Both Sites-We recommend that a uniform process of creating clubs and organizations be implemented at both sites. A simple form should be created so that administrators have a

simple way of keeping track of all of the clubs in the schools. The system of having a teacher advisor has been shown to work well and should be continued.

Sports/Activities/Names and Colors- April 2010

The Student Transition Team has developed three options for the naming of the schools in the 2011-2012 school year and beyond. Each line corresponds with an option. All sections in the third option can be used for any of the sites. If the third option is chosen, it is recommended that discussions of the new names continue to occur with students, teachers, and community members.

<u>Western Site</u>		<u>Eastern Site</u>		
Denfeld High School Hunter-Maroon and Gold		East High School Greyhound- Red and Grey		
Denfeld High School Trojan- Red and Gold		East High School Greyhounds- Red and Grey		
Enger Tower High School	Split Rock High School	Northern Lights High School	Aerial High School	
Warriors- Red and Gold	Bears- Blue, Orange, and White	Eagles- Green and White	Thunder- Blue and Silver	Norseman- Red and Black

We also recommend that on jerseys that would allow it, that a patch be created and worn. These patches would signify the three high schools to show that all three student populations are moving through the transition together. These patches would be worn through the 2013 season.

If the School Board decides to move forward with one of the three recommendations for the Eastern site, we recommend that the sports complex at that site be called the Ordean Sports Complex. If the School Board decides to move forward with the third recommendation for the Western site, we recommend that the sports complex at that site be called the Denfeld Sports Complex.

Conclusion

As stated at the beginning of this plan, the Student Transition Team is not expecting this to be the end all of transition plans. We would like to see the School Board and the Administration to start moving on these issues, as addressed next to each section, so that students start to learn what will be happening, and what they should be planning for. That's really all the students want to see in this transition. New traditions can be made, students will adapt. We just need to know what to adapt to. Again, the Student Transition Team makes the recommendation that this plan be accepted as informational when it is first presented, but later be considered in whole or in part as the final plan for the transition.

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