

April 5, 2016, Regular Board Meeting

Title

10. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE: PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGE FOR JOHN LOVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL #73 AND LONG BRANCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL #106

Recommendation

That the Duval County School Board conduct a public hearing and approve the proposed boundary changes for the Kindergarten through second grade students that are currently zoned for Long Branch Elementary School #106 to John Love Elementary School #73 and the third through fifth grade students currently zoned for John Love Elementary School #73 to Long Branch Elementary School #106.

Description

John Love Elementary and Long Branch Elementary Schools are located on the Eastside of Jacksonville. Enrollment at Long Branch Elementary school is declining. On the first day of the 2015-16 school year, Long Branch was only 48% utilized. In addition to low enrollment and utilization at Long Branch, student achievement is also low. In 2014, the school received a held harmless "D" (based on its performance the school should have been an F) and a school grade of "F" in 2015. John Love Elementary, within the same feeder pattern, is also challenged by low utilization (64%), enrollment, and performance. The school received a held harmless "C" in 2013 (should have been an "F"), a held harmless "D" in 2014 (should have been an "F") and an "F" in 2015. Each of the three schools are identified as lower performing schools under the state's accountability system and may be subject to state sanctions in the future.

The two schools combined are built to hold a total of 701 students. John Love can hold up to 294 students and Long Branch holds 407. However, only 462 are collectively enrolled in both schools. R. L. Brown is built to hold 758 students, with just 378 are currently enrolled. All three schools are located in an area that has low resident growth which will be difficult to maximize school utilization without some form of boundary change and programmatic upgrade.

A community meeting was held with various working groups on October 29, 2015 at Englewood High School to review the John Love and Long Branch boundary change proposals. In addition to the group meeting, the Working Group held three additional meetings at Long Branch Elementary on November 10th, November 17th and November 24th. At the final meeting on November 24th, the group voted 8-1 to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to convert John Love to a K through 2nd grade early learning community and 8-1 to convert Long Branch to a 3rd – 5th grade learning community.

A community meeting was also held on March 14, 2016 to further engage and inform the community regarding the proposal.

The Public Hearing was duly noticed.

Gap Analysis

The three schools affected by this proposal demonstrate low enrollment and academic performance and struggle to consistently recruit and retain the highest quality personnel despite a paying performance incentives. R.L. Brown is a priority school and faces state sanctions, such as closure, charter conversion, or operation through a private management company if improvement does not occur. Both John Love and Long Branch are Focus schools.

The recommendation simultaneously offers parents within the community and districtwide with additional gifted and talented programming, enhances focus on early learning, increases building utilization, and positions the schools to improve student achievement and avoid state sanctions.

Starting with John Love Elementary, the school will absorb K-2 students from Long Branch and John Love Elementary schools creating an early learning focus. In addition, 3 year old and 4 year old Head Start and Title I PreK programs will be shifted to the building. This strategy will allow for a concentrated focus on human capital, training, problem solving, and intervention to students who have traditionally entered school below grade level in reading and mathematics. Prior data indicates that students who attend K-2 schools outperform their 3rd grade peers when taking the 3rd grade FCAT/FSA. In 2013-14, the percent of Level 1 students on the 3rd grade Reading and Math FCAT was lower for students who attended R.V. Daniels for 2nd grade as compared to students who attended like traditional elementary schools and the percent of students scoring Level 3 or higher was greater than students in those same schools.

To improve early learning instruction, intervention, and performance and better prepare students within the feeder patterns for grade level performance, the district will partner with the University of Florida's Lastinger Center at John Love to provide ongoing professional development to teachers, paraprofessionals, and interventionists in early learning. Any Given Child will assist the school with an arts integration focus at each grade level between core and music and art teachers. In addition, we will partner with "Nemours BrightStart" to strengthen early K-2 interventions.

The school will also have an intergenerational component by pairing retired and elderly citizens with students, and incorporate a "mindfulness" curriculum through a behavior interventionist and social worker to overcome discipline challenges.

A parent liaison will be placed at the school and after school programs will be offered. Each grade level (K-2) will also have a fully released interventionists to work with students below grade level in small groups and pullout sessions. John Love will receive a school social worker to assist families with navigating the education system while also providing intergenerational support. Services will also be provided through behavior interventionists for both schools.

On the other hand, Long Branch Elementary will concentrate its efforts on ensuring students are performing at higher levels at grade level in grades 3-6. Currently, lower performing elementary schools struggle with maintaining a strategic focus on the primary and intermediate areas and instead neglect the primary area although research clearly demonstrates that this should be focus when attempting to narrow the achievement gap. The 3-6 focus will reduce the school's focus on both areas and enable the school to sole focus on the accountability areas. Over time, students will be more prepared for the accountability

areas because of their support at the early learning center.

Sixth grade will be included at Long Branch based on the success demonstrated at Pearson and Pickett Elementary Schools.

In the 2014-2015 school year, the sixth grade students attending Pickett and Rutledge Pearson outperformed the sixth grade students attending middle schools within the same feeder patterns in both reading and mathematics. In mathematics, the 6th grades at both schools outperformed their peers even at magnet schools.

6th Grade Reading	
School Type	Percent Proficient
Magnet Schools	75%
6 th Grade at Pickett	70%
Non-Magnet Schools	44%
6 th Grade at Pearson	30%
Ribault Middle	18%
Highlands Middle	15%

6th Grade Mathematics	
School Type	Percent Proficient
6 th Grade at Pearson	89%
6 th Grade at Pickett	77%
Magnet Schools	69%
Non-Magnet Schools	40%
Ribault Middle	23%
Highlands Middle	23%

District enrollment trends from 2014-15 indicate that only 75% of fifth grade students transitioned to a middle school within the district while the remainder of the students left the district to either home school, charter school, or private school. This strategy will also assist the district in retaining 6th graders within the feeder pattern.

Previous Outcomes

Both schools fall under the low performing category within the state accountability system. Long Branch received a held harmless "D" (performance should have yielded an F) in 2014 and an F in 2015. Like Long Branch, John Love received a held harmless "D" (performance should have yielded an F) in 2014 and an F in 2015. The utilization rate at John Love is 64% and Long Branch is 48%.

Expected Outcomes

The utilization rate at John Love will be 101% (including Pre-K and Head Start classes) if the proposal is approved and Long Branch's will be 65%. The changes will better position both schools to recapture parents who have left their boundary schools and Long Branch will achieve a school grade of "C" or higher in the 2016-17 school year.

Strategic Plan Goal

Develop the Whole Child
Engage Parents, Caregivers, and Community
Ensure Effective, Equitable, and Efficient Use of Resources

Financial Impact

Better use of the building through increased utilization as well as FTE generated based on increased student enrollment. The approximate cost for transportation is \$140,000 and the cost to retrofit the schools is approximately \$90,046.

With this change, the district will also see a positive impact financially as well as with enrollment. There will also be the opportunity to recapture students who have left the schools. A total of 213 students left both schools at the end of the 2014-15 school year for home school, special transfer, magnet and or charter schools. The district estimates that it could recoup \$412,500 in general revenue through recapturing home school and charter students to Long Branch and John Love (plus recapturing 50 students from outside the district to a dedicated elementary gifted magnet at R.L. Brown). The transportation costs will be covered through the reduction in personnel as a result of the PK-2 conversions.

My Contact

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Attachment: [Boundary for RL Brown.pdf](#)