

April 5, 2016, Regular Board Meeting

Title

9. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE: PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES FOR ANDREW JACKSON HIGH

Recommendation

That the Duval County School Board conduct a public hearing and approve the proposed boundary changes for Andrew Jackson High School #35, Jean Ribault High School #96 and William Raines High School #165 starting with incoming 9th graders in 2016-17.

Description

Student enrollment at Andrew Jackson High School is declining each year and has reached a utilization rate of only 48% for the 2015-16 school year. In addition, for 10 of the past 15 years, Jackson has received a "D" or an "F" or a hold harmless "D" or "F" (based on its performance the school would have earned a D or F) grade. As a result of input from faculty, parents, Advisory Council, ACE Working Committee and a community meeting, the school is being recommended for a boundary and programmatic change that will phase in a dedicated magnet at the school beginning with the ninth grade in 2016-17. The school's dedicated magnet programs will be gaming, cybersecurity, information technology and sports medicine, marketing and broadcasting. Each program will be connected to Dual Enrollment courses.

A community meeting was held with various working group members on October 29, 2015 at Englewood High School to review the Jackson Boundary Proposal including conversion of the school to a dedicated magnet. In addition to the group meeting, the Jackson Working Group held three additional meetings. A November 4th meeting was held at Johnson YMCA; November 16th at The Johnson YMCA; and a final meeting on December 9th at Andrew Jackson High School where the group voted 8-1 to reject the superintendent's recommendation. The group recommended that the superintendent add sports medicine, information technology and Health and Fitness as non-dedicated magnet programs.

The working group's input enhanced the analysis of what programs would be most attractive to attract students to Jackson but without the school gradually transiting to dedicated magnet status the programs will not reach their enrollment potential due to the school's negative reputation within and outside of the boundary. The proposal also does not position the school to overcome expected lower performance in the short-term.

Students currently attending Andrew Jackson will continue to have access to the existing programming currently at the school and may be able to access the new programs that will be added at Jackson based on their course of study.

A community meeting was also held on March 10, 2016 to further engage and inform the community regarding the proposal.

To ensure the proposed STEM magnet programs successfully recruit former boundary students, with a special emphasis on women, African-American and Hispanic students, the district will develop and implement a marketing campaign to create awareness and interest for the programs.

The Public Hearing was duly noticed.

Gap Analysis

With a capacity of 1,456, at the 20 day count in September, 2015, Jackson had only 702 students enrolled. This leads to a utilization rate of 48%. There are 1,302 students who live in the attendance area. Of the 1,302 students projected, only 42% of the neighborhood students actually enroll at the school. 314 students opted this year to attend other high school magnet programs; 133 left on special assignments; 58 enrolled into charter schools; 63 used McKay scholarships; 45 signed up for homeschool, and the remaining students left for virtual and contract schools. A gradual conversion is strategically proposed to recruit former boundary students back to the school, while also attracting students from outside of the boundary through unique programs.

In order to prepare for this proposed boundary change, district staff visited a nationally recognized Sports Medicine Charter School in Miami, Florida. The site visit to The Sports Leadership and Management (SLAM) School provided staff with a representation of how the school integrates the New Florida Standards and sports-related themes into Mathematics, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies. The overall vision of the school is designed to prepare students for careers in Sports Medicine, Business, Marketing, Health, and Communications through electives coursework in the following career academies: Sports Medicine, Digital Television & Sports Media Production, and/or Sports Marketing, Entertainment, & Management. If implemented at Jackson, the program will offer parents and students with flagship and destination programming. It will also develop a pipeline of much needed athletic trainers and interns for the district's high schools.

The gaming program allows for continuity from Kirby Smith Middle School where students have access to those elective courses now. Andrew Jackson would be the only high school that offers gaming. In addition, the information technology program will be a one of a kind program and first of its kind placed in the urban core. Students will have access to dual enrollment computer science courses and internships with the school district. The recently developed Early College program in partnership with Citi and Florida Blue will remain.

The programs are designed to recruit traditional magnet students from Kirby Smith Middle School but more importantly to offer unique programs for students within the boundary who are not willing to attend Andrew Jackson.

Students from the former Jackson boundary will be given priority status to the school. If this boundary change is approved, students interested in participating in the program will be permitted to apply through the special transfer process since the magnet application process is complete.

The recommendation also better positions two strong neighborhood schools, Raines and Ribault High School, to increase its enrollment by absorbing the former Jackson boundary beginning with next year's ninth grades. Students from the Jackson boundary currently attend both schools. As the district continues to consider possible financial options to renovate Raines and rebuild Ribault, it will be difficult to explain to taxpayers the economic efficiency of maintaining three lower performing and lower utilized schools within the same area

including Raines (52%) and Ribault (71%). Overcoming higher standards and accountability measures also will be a difficult reality of all three schools in the future.

Previous Outcomes

For 10 of the past 15 years, Jackson has received a "D" or an "F" or a hold harmless "D" or "F" and performance continues to remain stagnant. The school has received two school grades of "D" in recent years. This decline in school grade and the constant drop in enrollment has severely impacted the school academically and fiscally. In 2014-15 731 students were enrolled. In 2015-16, enrollment had dropped to only 702 students.

Expected Outcomes

With the approval of this recommendation, we will be able to maximize a currently underutilized school in a residential area that has low resident growth. We will be able to possibly increase long term enrollment at two of our active community based schools at Raines and Ribault.

Strategic Plan Goal

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

Financial Impact

FTE will be generated based on student enrollment. The approximate increase in transportation costs is \$65,450 for Raines and \$80,354 for Ribault. The transportation costs will be covered through personnel savings in General Revenue as a result of other proposed boundary and program changes as well as the funds that will be recouped through the recapturing of students.

My Contact

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Attachment: [Boundary for Andrew Jackson.pdf](#)