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## **Aurora Public Schools East Aurora Attendance Area Committee Recommendation**

The East Aurora Attendance Area Committee considered input from parents, community members and instructional leaders and thoroughly reviewed enrollment, transportation and facility data to develop a final attendance area recommendation. **After careful deliberation, the majority of the committee favored recommending scenario 4 to the Superintendent's Leadership Team and the Board of Education.** A final survey of the committee showed eight members preferred scenario 4 compared to five members who preferred scenario 3. The committee feels that both scenario 3 and scenario 4 have similar advantages, and all members indicated they would be satisfied with either scenario.

The committee developed a list of pros and cons to further assess the two scenarios. The following is a summary of the most significant merits of scenario 3 and scenario 4:

- Both scenarios create logical attendance areas for the new P-8 and the new high school that plan for projected growth and provide sufficient enrollment to support the new programs. This is accomplished by moving fewer students from their current schools compared to the other scenarios considered.
- Scenario 3 and scenario 4 provide enrollment relief to Aurora Frontier K-8, Murphy Creek K-8, East MS, Gateway HS, Hinkley HS, and Rangeview HS. The significant relief to Hinkley HS may provide additional room at that school to address crowding issues at Aurora Central if needed after the classroom addition at Central and the expansion of Aurora West Preparatory Academy are completed.
- Both scenarios align the feeder system of the new high school. The straight high school feeder limits the number of transitions all students that attend the P-20 campus will make, provides a similar instructional program for all students that attend the new high school, and fosters a unique relationship between the P-20 campus and its feeder schools. In scenario 4, all students attending the new high school would change schools one time in their K-12 academic career.
- These two scenarios limit the amount of new transportation and expected student ride times compared to the other scenarios studied.

The following is a summary of the limitations of scenarios 3 and 4:

- Although Aurora Frontier K-8 and Murphy Creek K-8 will receive significant enrollment relief in both scenarios, the enrollment at both schools is projected to exceed both schools' capacities toward the end of the planning period. The two K-8s are in developing areas, and the committee was unable to develop a solution that limited the growth potential in both schools without greatly reducing enrollment in the first year of

the boundary change. Further strategies to alleviate crowding such as mobiles, additional boundary adjustments, and new schools will likely be needed in the future. The timing of when enrollment will exceed capacity at Aurora Frontier and Murphy Creek will depend largely on a rebound in the new housing market and the amount of open enrollment the schools accept.

- Neither of the two scenarios provides any enrollment relief to Side Creek. When full-day kindergarten is added in 2010-2011, Side Creek's enrollment is projected to be approximately 14% above its standard capacity. The school has two mobiles to accommodate the additional enrollment. In recent years, enrollment at Side Creek has begun to stabilize as the neighborhood ages. Since 2005, enrollment at the school has declined by 6%. The administration at Side Creek is confident they can effectively operate at the current enrollment levels.
- In scenario 3, enrollment at Clyde Miller is expected to decline by 15% in the first year of the attendance area change. In scenario 4, enrollment will decline by approximately 20% in the first year of the boundary change, but it will gradually increase to about its current level as the school develops into a K-8. However, scenario 3 and scenario 4 were greatly favored over other scenarios in surveys returned from families who reside in the Clyde Miller attendance area.
- Clyde Miller will require facility modifications under scenario 4 in order to accommodate middle school age students.

After a fair assessment of the strengths and shortcomings of the two scenarios, the East Aurora Attendance Area Committee recommends scenario 4, but believes either scenario 3 or scenario 4 offer the best attendance area solutions for schools in the eastern part of the district. While many committee members favor the idea of growing Clyde Miller into a K-8; the group understands there may be factors related to instruction, budgets, and facilities that district leadership must weigh before making such a decision.