

Port Angeles School District
Elementary Transition Team
Report 6
March 12, 2007

SUMMARY

The Elementary Transition Team met on March 7, 2007 to determine a recommendation regarding whether the team should consider renaming the Roosevelt facility as students from other elementary schools are blended into the new, larger K-6 program. The team also reviewed room assignments at each elementary building subsequent to the determination of the special education class placements. The third task of the team was a complete review and analysis of previous discussion on elementary programs and schedules. This latter task was started, but there was not time for conclusion.

The team focused a portion of its efforts on a review of the music and physical education program structure, using members' expertise to identify alternatives to the configurations earlier presented to the board. A review of this effort and direction by the board of directors is also anticipated to guide further team work on this topic.

As the transition team is concluding the work plan set forth in September, team members found it necessary to review previous discussions and program decisions.

Table 1 below, Program Topic Recommendations and Results, provides an overview of program specific recommendations and decisions identified in previous reports.

Table 1			
Program Topic Recommendations and Results			
Program Topics	ETT Recommendation	Board of Directors Review	Comments
Special Education Program Placements	February 12, 2007 Report 5	Yes	Programs assigned as recommended
MAC Program	November 13, 2006 Report 3	Yes	MAC is the third unit at Franklin
Strings–Grade 6	October 9, 2006 Report 2	Yes with additional FTE. Not approved	Number of sections not yet determined
Band–Grade 6	October 9, 2006 Report 2	Yes	Number of sections not yet determined
General Music–Grade 6	October 9, 2006 Report 2	Yes	Number of sections not yet determined
Physical Education	Not at this time	No	No
All Day Kindergarten	November 13, 2006 Proceed with Option D and available space	Yes	Decision to implement not yet determined

Table 2 below, Support Topic Recommendations and Results, provides an overview of program specific recommendations and decisions identified in previous reports.

Table 2 Support Topic Recommendations and Results			
Support Topics	ETT Recommendation	Board of Directors Review	Comments
Portables	November 13, 2006 Report 3	Yes	Jefferson, Dry Creek <i>Not decided</i>
Emergency Services for special education	February 12, 2007 Report 5	Yes	Agreement final 3/07

The reports listed in these tables provide reference to the earlier recommendations and decisions for readers of this sixth report.

ELEMENTARY PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Two key elements affecting the elementary program schedule were reviewed by the transition team: instructional time and transportation. They are closely linked.

Instructional Time

The team reviewed the Basic Education requirement for instructional time, which is an *average* of 1,000 hours for grades 1 through 12. Current sixth grade averages were reviewed by the team, and are displayed in Table 3, Basic Education Hours and Schedules, below.

Table 3 Basic Education Hours and Schedules		
School	Hours	Schedule
Roosevelt Middle School	1,078.10	
Stevens Middle School	1,069.25	
Dry Creek Elementary School	1,005.15	8:00 a.m.-2:07 p.m.
Fairview Elementary School	1,008.10	7:57 a.m.-2:05 p.m.
Franklin Elementary School	1,058.25	8:05 a.m.-2:00 p.m., 2:30 p.m.
Hamilton Elementary School	1,058.25	8:05 a.m.-2:10 p.m., 2:30 p.m.
Jefferson Elementary School	1,073.00	8:05 a.m.-2:20 p.m., 2:35 p.m.

The table indicates that none of the schools is currently offering less than the required number of basic education hours annually.

Transportation

Costs related to equalizing dismissal times at elementary schools were analyzed by the team. If Dry Creek ran on split dismissal, it would add an additional four buses at \$100,000 per bus for \$400,000, and a recurring cost for driver labor and miles would be \$70,474. This would produce a total first year cost of \$470,471 for a longer instructional day at Dry Creek Elementary School.

Fairview/Roosevelt would take an additional three buses at \$100,000 per bus for \$300,000 with a recurring cost for driver labor and miles of \$56,383. The total first year cost of 356,383 for Fairview/Roosevelt Elementary School.

The combined total of buses to extend the instructional day at both schools would be \$700,000. The combined total *annual* cost of labor and mileage would be \$126,869.

ELEMENTARY PROGRAM ELECTIVES

The current programs at the elementary schools include general music, strings, and physical education. These programs connect to middle school and high school programs ensuring a cohesive set of performance objectives.

The following is being considered by the transition team:

- The team is struggling with the fact that two elementary schools do not provide the same number of average hours per grade level. It is noted that all schools average more than the state-required 1,000 hours for grades 1 through 12, but that they are different in the amounts exceeding the state's requirements.
- Maintaining a five-day schedule for music *without increasing* the length of the school day provides less time for other instruction.
- If grades 4, 5, and 6 offer the same number of music and physical education opportunities then the planning time for staff is *equal* within each site.

General music is provided in grades K through 6 with the following grade level implementation:

- Grades K-3 are provided one general music class for 30 minutes per week.
- Grades 4-5 are provided with the option of strings or general music for 40 minutes two times per week.
- *To be determined*: Grade 6 is provided an elective option including general music, strings and band.

Physical education is provided in grades K through 6 with the following grade level implementation:

- Grades K-3 are provided two physical education classes for 30 minutes per week.
- Grades 4-5 are provided two physical education classes for 40 minutes each.
- *To be determined*: Grade 6 will be provided physical education.

Nutrition and Fitness Report

The salient point of the Nutrition and Physical Fitness Task Force's recommendation about teaching time for physical education in grades 1 through 12 dealt with the requirement of the 100 minutes of physical education and health instruction. The task force recommended that minimally 60 of these minutes need to be taught by a certified physical education instructor. Task Force members hoped that as time goes on more and more of these minutes will be taught by a certified physical education instructor. While it is possible to meet the recommendations with current staffing ratios, the task force felt the district might be better served by hiring an additional elementary physical education specialist. This being said, the task force chose to

remain silent on a decision about whether to hire more staff as there are myriad resources, facility and staff implications that could potentially be tapped.

Based on the current configuration described in Option D of the Facilities Efficiency Task Force report, and the recommendations of this transition team, the grade 6 classroom teachers will be relocated from middle school to the elementary sites. With movement of students and classroom teachers, it will also be necessary to bring general music, choir, strings, band, and physical education staff to serve the additional grade level.

The elementary principals, with the advice of program specialists, prepared schedules to maximize the FTE of current staff. A schedule is dependent on the availability of middle school personnel. The elementary schedule can be determined when the final schedule is selected for middle school implementation. The program for grade 6 can be implemented from two days per week to five days per week.

Board of Directors Guidance

The Elementary Transition Team recognizes that the Board of Directors may wish to provide guidance regarding the number of program minutes provided for physical education, general music, band, and strings for grade six students. Before determining the final schedule, the ETT is requesting guidance from the board of directors with respect to program mix.

The program can be configured to utilize two days of music and physical education each week. This uses the existing number of music and physical education teachers. The program can be reconfigured to utilize five days of music and physical education per week by reassigning existing teachers from middle and high school instruction to elementary school instruction. This would not cost more money, but would take time from the non-elementary levels. It would also reduce the amount of time devoted to academic and state-assessed subjects in elementary schools (reading, writing, mathematics, science).

Absent specific guidance from the board of directors, the elementary program will be configured using existing resources to continue to provide five days of music at each of the elementary schools within the sixth grade schedule. This will produce more “release” time for sixth grade teachers than for other grades. As a result, sixth grade teachers will be able to provide opportunities for enrichment and remediation at fifth grade.

SCHOOL NAME CHANGE

The Elementary Transition team discussed whether the team should consider renaming the school. When tallied, there were 16 ‘NO’ votes and 3 ‘YES’ votes. Therefore, the members have determined to recommend not to go through the process of making suggestions to the school board for renaming the ‘new’ elementary school.

The rationale behind the members' decision:

Arguments for going with the 'No' vote and not remaining the school:

- Roosevelt is an honored, historical name and should be kept.
- Roosevelt is a familiar name and familiarity equals comfort for people.
- Not going through the renaming process will save money.
- It gives a new identity to three groups of school children, those from Fairview, Monroe and Franklin.
- It is not a "new" building. We should 'honor history.'
- Save money by not going through the renaming process.
- There are more important issues to be considered and determined.
- There is no way in which to satisfy everyone regarding the renaming issue.
- Instead of changing the school's name, decide on a new mascot to bring people on line with, and be more comfortable with the transition process.

Arguments for going with the 'Yes' vote to proceed with the process of renaming of the school:

- Parents and community members will have 'no voice' in the matter of renaming the school.
- A new name would help in the process of adjusting to the transition. A new name will 'signal' a new, fresh beginning for all those involved.

Once the board determines whether to provide guidance on the amount of music and physical education, and determines whether to accept the recommendation of the team on elementary school naming, the team can proceed with the scheduling and staff assignment work.

Appendix A

Middle School Elective Schedule Analysis

Stevens Middle School Sixth Grade Class Schedule Physical Education, Music & Other Electives		
Physical Education Classes	Band or Orchestra	Art, Technology/Computers, Engineering/Shop or Music Enrichment
60 minutes per day – every other day taken for the whole year. On alternate days, students take core enrichment or remediation with their home room teachers.	60 minutes per day – taken all year long.	One elective per quarter from above four listed, taken for 60 minutes per day. (At the end of the year, each student who has chosen not to take band or orchestra will have had one quarter of art, one quarter of technology/computers, one quarter of engineering/shop and one quarter of music enrichment.)
Total 90 hours per year	Total 180 hours per year	Total 180 hours per year
Beginning time of day: 8:20a.m. Ending time of day: 3:05p.m. Lunch Period: 30 minutes + 24 minutes of passing time allowed = 54 minutes per day not spent in classes.		

Roosevelt Middle School Sixth Grade Class Schedule Physical Education, Music & Other Electives		
Physical Education Classes	Band/Choir/Orchestra/Seminar*	Art/Shop
44 minutes per day for 2 trimesters of the year (24 weeks)	44 minutes per day all year long (36 weeks) 25 students take Seminar: 15 seminar/band 10 seminar/physical education	44 minutes per day for 1 trimester of the year (12 weeks)
Total 88 hours per year	Total 132 hours per year	Total 44 hours per year
Beginning time of day: 8:17a.m. Ending time of day: 3:05p.m. Lunch Period: 30 minutes per day. Students have three to four minutes of passing time = 50 minutes per day not spent in classes.		

Elementary Physical Education-Music Schedule		
5 days per week	3 days per week	2 days per week
Total 120 hours per year	Total 72 hours per year	Total 48 hours per year