

Date: June 11, 2010

To: Jeffrey M. Young, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

From: James Maloney
Chief Operating Officer

Re: Response to Awaiting Report C10-84

Report with a plan for a school placement process for students moving on from the Haggerty School and the expected date by which parents/guardians will be informed.

Over the past two weeks we met on three occasions with a working group of Haggerty School parents and staff to consider possible improvements or changes to the current next school options for Haggerty 5th and 6th graders. As a result of these meetings five themes as well as possible responses or resolutions to those themes emerged. The five themes were as follows:

- Communication with the Family Resource Center (FRC). Specifically, how can the FRC be more responsive to the needs of the Haggerty community as they prepare to move on to their next school?
- Operational issues. Decisions need to be good for the Haggerty and the District. Factors such as program, space, enrollments and budgets have to be considered.
- Peabody/Haggerty Connection. How could this relationship be strengthened?
- Moving on as a full cohort to a designated school vs. maintaining parent choice.
- The Haggerty grade structure. Should it be K-5 or K-6?

Response / Resolution Efforts

1. Communication with the FRC. Central Administration will work with the FRC, Janelle Bradshaw and Haggerty Family Liaison Kathy Sampson in an effort to

reduce delays in the notification of options and placement of Haggerty students at their next school.

2. Operational Issues. Physical space, individual programs (Montessori, Amigos, and differing middle grade structures) and budget issues are all considerations that are factors in where a Haggerty 5th and 6th grade class could move as a complete cohort or in large numbers. For these reasons the Peabody appears to remain the most logical sister school to the Haggerty.
3. Forging a Stronger Peabody/Haggerty Connection. There is a belief that the relationship could be strengthened in other ways to make it a more acceptable and stable option. For example, in what ways can the connections between students begin at an earlier age rather than just as the connection is to begin at the sixth or seventh grade. How would we define the attributes of a strong relationship? Janelle Bradshaw and Jen Ford will begin discussions jointly with their communities to address this need.
4. Moving as a full cohort to a designated school vs. maintaining parent choice. In this matter the group was in agreement that parent choice should be maintained.
5. The Haggerty Grade Structure, K-5 or K-6? This issue has been referred back to the Haggerty School Council for further review and the grade structure at the Haggerty also be part of the discussion regarding middle grades system wide.

I believe that the working group was encouraged by the progress made over the three meetings and look forward to making progress with the resolutions that came out of our meetings.