



Board of Education presentation – Eagle Point Elementary School

March 7, 2019

2019-20 Enrollment Impact – Introduction

Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Instruction Lori McKenna

Good evening. Thank you for this opportunity to provide you with updated information regarding our enrollment planning for the 2019-20 school year. Before we go through tonight's presentation, I wanted to provide a little context for the discussion.

As you'll remember from our presentation at the January 31 board meeting, we began this evaluation to address enrollment growth at O'Neal Middle School. We have learned in the 18 months that O'Neal has been in operation that the building cannot adequately serve the temporary enrollment pattern the district put in place when it opened O'Neal.

So we have been studying a variety of options to reduce the enrollment at O'Neal while continuing to provide our students with a robust middle school experience.

However, additional factors now have come into play since our last board discussion. Most notably, the significant budget deficit the district is facing for 2019-20.

That unfortunate reality led us to look more closely at our recent trend of declining elementary enrollment in North Albany and Arbor Hill.

Over the past year, our enrollment at North Albany Academy, Arbor Hill Elementary School and Sheridan Preparatory Academy has decreased by almost 100 total students, or nearly 10 percent. The most significant factor for this decline most certainly would be the new KIPP elementary school.

KIPP has added about 200 elementary students in recent years. That school will continue to add grades over the next two years – up to 160 more students – until it is fully enrolled.

VISION STATEMENT

The City School District of Albany will be a district of excellence with caring relationships and engaging learning experiences that provide equitable opportunities for all students to reach their potential.

MISSION STATEMENT

We will work in partnership with our diverse community to engage every learner in a robust educational program designed to provide the knowledge and skills necessary for success.

So we can expect additional decline in our elementary enrollment on the north side of our city.

We also anticipate that our proposal to open a new middle school at North Albany Academy in 2023-24 will have an additional negative impact on enrollment there. And, as we have noted in the past, only about one-third of North Albany's current students live in that school's enrollment zone. The rest of the current students at North Albany are open-enrolled from other parts of the city.

With all of that in mind, tonight's presentation adds an additional option for your consideration. That option would be to restructure North Albany Academy as a small, temporary middle school to relieve the enrollment pressure at O'Neal.

Under that option, we would re-enroll North Albany's current students in prekindergarten through fourth grade at our other 11 elementary schools.

As with the enrollment pattern at O'Neal, this small middle school program at North Albany would be temporary until our new permanent middle school configuration is in place in 2023-24.

The enrollment pattern for our future, permanent middle school configuration will be determined with considerable community involvement and will include the participation of a wide range of stakeholders. We will engage in a very open and inclusive process in making those critical long-term decisions.