

To: Board of Education

From: Kyle Hayden, assistant superintendent, business & operations, ext. 4309

Re: Approval of Boundary Change – Liberty Memorial Central & West Middle Schools

Date: September 6, 2012

Background:

On May 10, 2012, the board received a presentation with corresponding discussion about a potential boundary change that would impact the Deerfield Elementary neighborhoods north of Peterson Road and east of Kasold Drive, including the area east of Iowa Street and north of Interstate 70 extending to the Kansas River. This boundary area channels students into Deerfield Elementary School and Liberty Memorial Central Middle School.

The boundary has been in place for many years and was implemented to relieve overcrowding at West Middle School. With the opening of Southwest Middle School in the mid-1990's, that overcrowding issue ended. The large majority of students from Deerfield attend West and a very small percentage attend Liberty Memorial Central. The neighborhood described above is closer to West Middle School.

After the construction of Southwest, Deerfield parents began to request transfers to West due to school proximity and the ability to continue their child's education with the majority of their peers from elementary school. These requests have been granted because West has had the available space. However, transportation is not provided for these transfer students. Some of the students in the Peterson neighborhood do live more than 2.5 miles from West and would qualify for transportation.

For the last several years, some parents have requested a boundary change. Last year, board members and staff met with parents from this neighborhood and most expressed a desire to be included in the West boundary.

Board policy states that any boundary change must be noticed by February 1. The earliest that the boundary could be changed would be for the 2013-2014 school year. The intent of addressing this issue early in the school year is to allow parents the opportunity to make plans for this change well in advance of next August.

Recommendation:

The administration recommends that the Board of Education consider a boundary change for Liberty Memorial Central and West Middle Schools effective for the 2013-2014 school year. The boundary change includes the neighborhoods north of Peterson Road and east of Kasold Drive, including the area east of Iowa Street and north of Interstate 70 extending to the Kansas River. The result of this change will be that all Deerfield Elementary students would attend West Middle School. As per board policy, approval of this change in boundary will be brought before the board at its September 24, 2012 meeting.

Boundary Change Liberty Memorial Central Middle School & West Middle School

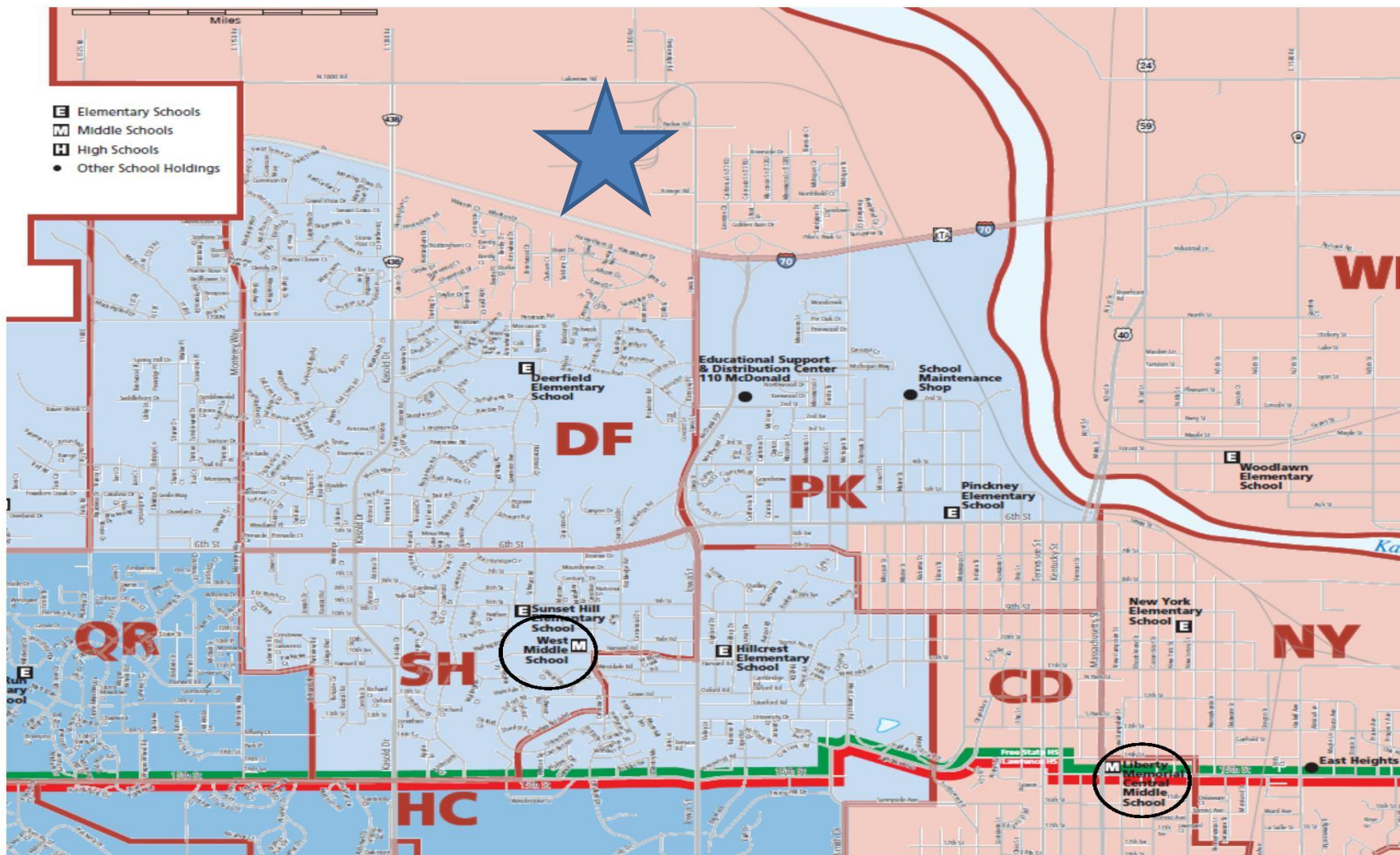
September 10, 2012

Kyle Hayden

Assistant Superintendent – Business & Operations



Geographical area – north of Peterson Road and east of Kasold Drive, including the area east of Iowa Street and north of Interstate 70 extending to the Kansas River.





Issues

History

- Over-crowding @ WMS prior to SWMS sent a small group of Deerfield students to LMCMS.
- Opening of SWMS created space @ WMS. Parents began requesting transfers from LMCMS to WMS.

Current

- # of students attending WMS = 58
- # of students attending LMCMS = 23

Transportation

- Currently all students attending LMCMS receive transportation. If boundary change is made to attend WMS, students may or may not receive transportation based on the 2.5 mile policy.



Survey

February 2, 2012 – Deerfield Elementary parent meeting requesting boundary change from LMCMS to WMS.

February 16, 2012 – Survey mailed to parents in targeted area presented with 2 options.

Option A:

School: LMCS (Current Boundary)

Transportation: Busing provided for all students.

Option B:

School: WMS

Transportation: Busing may or may not be provided based on 2.5 mile policy.



Survey Results

Letters Mailed to Targeted Area	73	
Responses	46 (63%)	
Chose <u>Option A</u> (current LMCMS boundary)	8 (17%)	All respondents have students attending LMCMS
Currently using transportation to LMCMS	6	All qualify for transportation
Chose <u>Option B</u> (boundary change to WMS)	38 (83%)	
Qualified for transportation	32	



Recommendation

Approve the boundary change for Liberty Memorial Central and West Middle School effective for the 2013-2014 school year.

The boundary change includes the neighborhoods north of Peterson Road and east of Kasold Drive, including the area east of Iowa Street and north of Interstate 70 extending to the Kansas River. The result of this change will be that all Deerfield Elementary students would attend West Middle School.