

Hello Glenwood Families,

We are writing to provide you with some information and an update on the work of the Mandarin Magnet Implementation Committee.

Background Information:

On September 20, 2018, the Board of Education voted to approve a school-wide Mandarin Dual Language Magnet Program at Glenwood Elementary. Following that vote, the administration received extensive feedback, questions, and concerns from staff members, parents, and community members. Responding to all of this information took a great deal of time away from planning the program implementation, and the community became extremely divided. At the Board of Education Work Session on November 27, 2018, the administration therefore requested to postpone implementation of the magnet program until August 2020 and assemble a District Mandarin Magnet Implementation Committee. This request was approved by the Board.

The goal of the Mandarin Magnet Implementation Committee is to review the recommendations received from the Glenwood faculty in November 2018, solicit additional input from all stakeholders, and develop revised recommendations that adhere as closely as possible to the currently approved plan while incorporating additional stakeholder feedback. The Committee is therefore charged with attempting to develop a compromise for Board consideration that addresses the following essential questions:

1. Is it possible to address the overcrowding at GES while maintaining a two track program? How can we manage enrollment over the long-term, even after the class size legislation goes into effect in 2020-21?
2. How can we promote diversity across the school?
3. How can we further strengthen the MDL program to ensure access and opportunity for all students?
4. How can we unite the GES community?
5. How can we develop a program that meets the needs of all students and remains fiscally responsible?

The Mandarin Magnet Implementation Committee began meeting in December 2018, and is now in the process of meeting monthly to brainstorm ideas that address the essential questions, gather research and resources, conduct site visits, and solicit and review stakeholder feedback. The draft timeline of Committee activities is listed below. A revised Mandarin magnet implementation plan is tentatively scheduled to be presented to the Board for discussion in April 2019, with a request to vote on the plan in May 2019.

General Information

Team Membership: **Please note the addition of our PTA co-chairs.**

Sheryl Bauer - K DL	Maggie Wu - 1st Grade DL	Melissa Towne - 1st Traditional
Cally Stanford - 2nd DL	Shane Chinni - 3rd Traditional	Cherry Zhang - 3rd DL
Judy Bello - 5th DL	Kristen Cho - ESL teacher	Bill Rathbun - Counselor
Channing Bennett - Assistant Principal	Katie Caggia - Principal	Helen Atkins - Coordinator DL & ESL
Elaine Watson-Grant - Executive Director of Elementary Education	Jessica O'Donovan - Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction	Traci Adams- PTA Co-Chair (MDL Parent) Renee Bosman- PTA Co-Chair (Traditional parent)

Timeline: **Please note that the next board update has been changed to 4/4*.**

- **January 18:** Mandarin Magnet Implementation Team Meeting
- **January 28:** Team Site Visit to Stough Elementary
- **January 29th at 6pm; GES Cafeteria: Parent/Community Input and Engagement Session #1** *A second Parent Input and Engagement Session will be held. The date is currently TBD*
- **February 7:** Implementation team members will present a Board Update on work completed to date.
- **February 14:** Mandarin Magnet Implementation Team Meeting
- **March 11:** Mandarin Magnet Implementation Team Meeting
- **April 4th*:** Implementation team members will present a Board Update on work completed to date.
- **April 5:** Mandarin Magnet Implementation Team Meeting
- **April 18:** Draft Implementation Plan presented to the School Board
- **May 2, 2019:** Board Vote on plan

Work to Date

The Mandarin Magnet Implementation Committee has had three meetings:

1. The team had an organizational meeting on December 17th.
2. Friday, January 18th, the Mandarin Magnet Implementation Committee met to analyze, discuss and make preliminary recommendations on the following topics:
 - Managing enrollment and overcrowding at GES
 - Creating a lottery process & marketing plan for a school-wide magnet program
 - Supporting language development: Mandarin as a Foreign Language, Mandarin Language Arts, Mandarin intervention and bilingual coaching.

3. Thursday, February 14th, the Mandarin Magnet Implementation Committee reconvened. The first part of the meeting consisted of the team reviewing and analyzing the feedback from the in-person parent round table, staff round table and the online survey. The second part of the day included analyzing, discussing and drafting preliminary ideas on the following topics:
 - A potential overarching magnet theme
 - Content and language allocation in MDL
 - Integration: Uniting students, teachers, and families in the traditional and MDL programs

-The Mandarin Magnet Implementation Team