



Option School Possibilities

Hillsboro School District

January 20, 2010

Agenda for Today

- Review questions from previous meeting
- Today's format: Definition of type of program, requirements, features, selection process and pros and cons
- Assign work groups by level and complete worksheet
- Review draft parent survey
- Discuss timeline goals and objectives from January to June 2010

Magnet Programs

- Are part of the public school system
 - Dual Language Program at Minter Bridge and WL Henry
 - IB Program at Hillsboro High
- Remember to meet the definition of a magnet school, transportation is provided and neighborhood students aren't given first priority

Requirements

- Usually have something special to offer different than a normal school
- Because this is an attractive choice to many students and families it increases the diversity of the student population within them
- Operate under the exact same administration and bureaucracy as other HSD schools

Features

- Compelling modes of instruction
- Unique academic experiences
- Distinctive curriculum or instructional approach
- Have diversity as an explicit purpose
- Enrollment is open across geographic school zones

Selection Process

- Admission criteria
- First-come, first-serve applications
- Lotteries
- Percentage set-asides for neighborhood residents
- Equity / Diveristy focus

Pros and Cons of Magnet Schools

- Low SES students perform better
- Academic Achievement has replaced the original goal of increasing diversity
- More choice to families
- Specialized programs emphasizing on a theme increases commitment
- Other schools benefit from teaching methodologies
- Critics focus on the negative aspect of taking the brightest students away
- Can draw resources from regular school programs
- Why make one school so great, why not make them all great
- Selection criteria can often leave out students who are low performing
- Philosophical based arguments

Is a Magnet School the Right Choice?

- Are we interested in offering a different curriculum or instructional approach than what we offer in our schools?
- Do parents feel their children have needs that would be better met with a Magnet school?
- How do families feel about sending children to a school outside the normal boundary?
- Are we interested in improving student achievement and diversity?

Charter Schools

- Fit the niche between private and public
- Funded with public money
- Schools have freedom in exchange for student achievement
- Run autonomously of the existing public school system
- Schools of choice that offer unique learning environments and alternative learning methodologies

Requirements

- Proper approval from state and local Board of Education
- Own governing board
- Unique and innovative educational program
- Granted usually for a particular period of time



Features

- Increase opportunities for learning and access to quality education
- Choice with accountability
- Innovative teaching practices
- New professional opportunities for teachers
- Encourage community and parent involvement

Selection Process

- Some charters will give preferential enrollment to the following:
 - Children that are considered to be at-risk
 - Priority can only be given to students who have previously attended or siblings
 - Enroll students so the racial/ethnic parallels the regular public schools in the area
 - Cannot charge tuition, lottery enrollment if full

Pros and Cons of Charter Schools

- Choice
- Different and unique academic experience
- Can serve as labs for educational experiments and innovation
- Some fail to serve students with ELL or Special Education as well as traditional schools
- Pressure to perform
- Can take ADM from schools

Is a Charter School the Right Choice?

- Are we interested in sponsoring our own Charter School?
- Are there financial benefits that outweigh a magnet school option?
- Are the needs of our community better met through this option?



Miscellaneous Questions regarding Magnet Schools

- Regional vocational agriculture/technical schools
- Transportation
- Student enrollment requirements

Tasks For Today

- **Task 1**

Form work groups by level; K-6, middle, or high

Purpose: Using the worksheet answer the following question:

What elements do effective option programs have?

Report out

Tasks For Today Continued

- **Task 2**

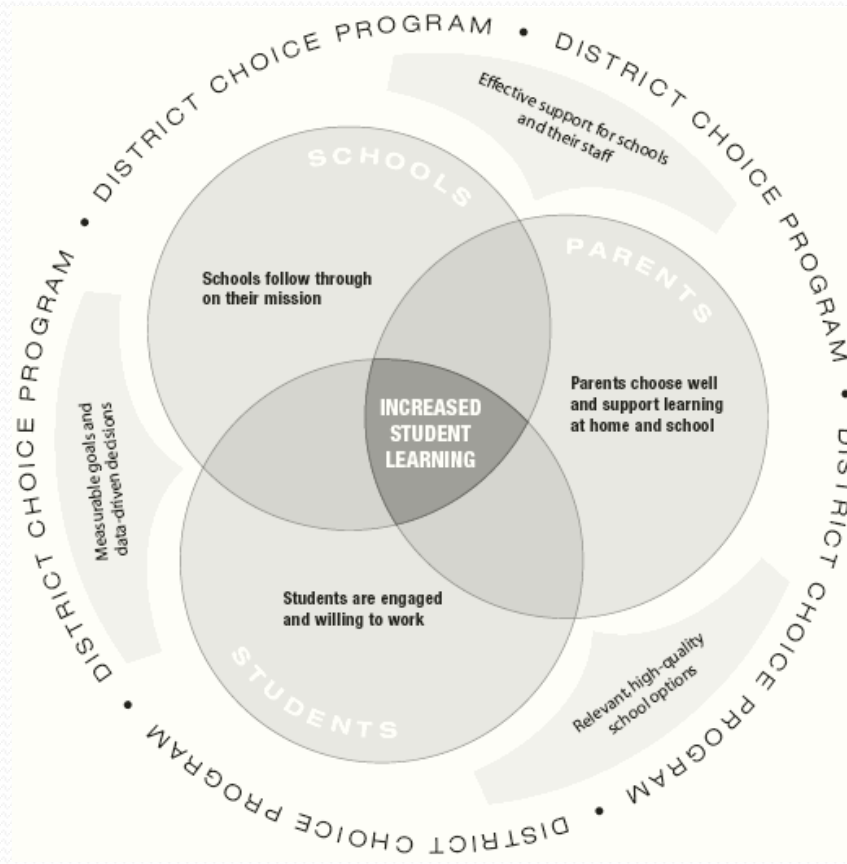
In the same groups

Purpose: Review the draft parent and student survey

What additional questions do we need to ask, are there questions that need to be reworded or deleted

The survey will be sent to all parents who students attend programs or schools outside

Timeline



- **February:** Review survey results, generate ideas for scoring rubric
- **March:** Share rubric, Run options through rubric, explore community partnerships
- **April and May :** Narrow options and define pathway
- **June:** Recommendation to Board