

Mercer International Middle School Capacity Management

December 15, 2020

Beacon Hill Int'l & Dearborn Park Int'l Meeting



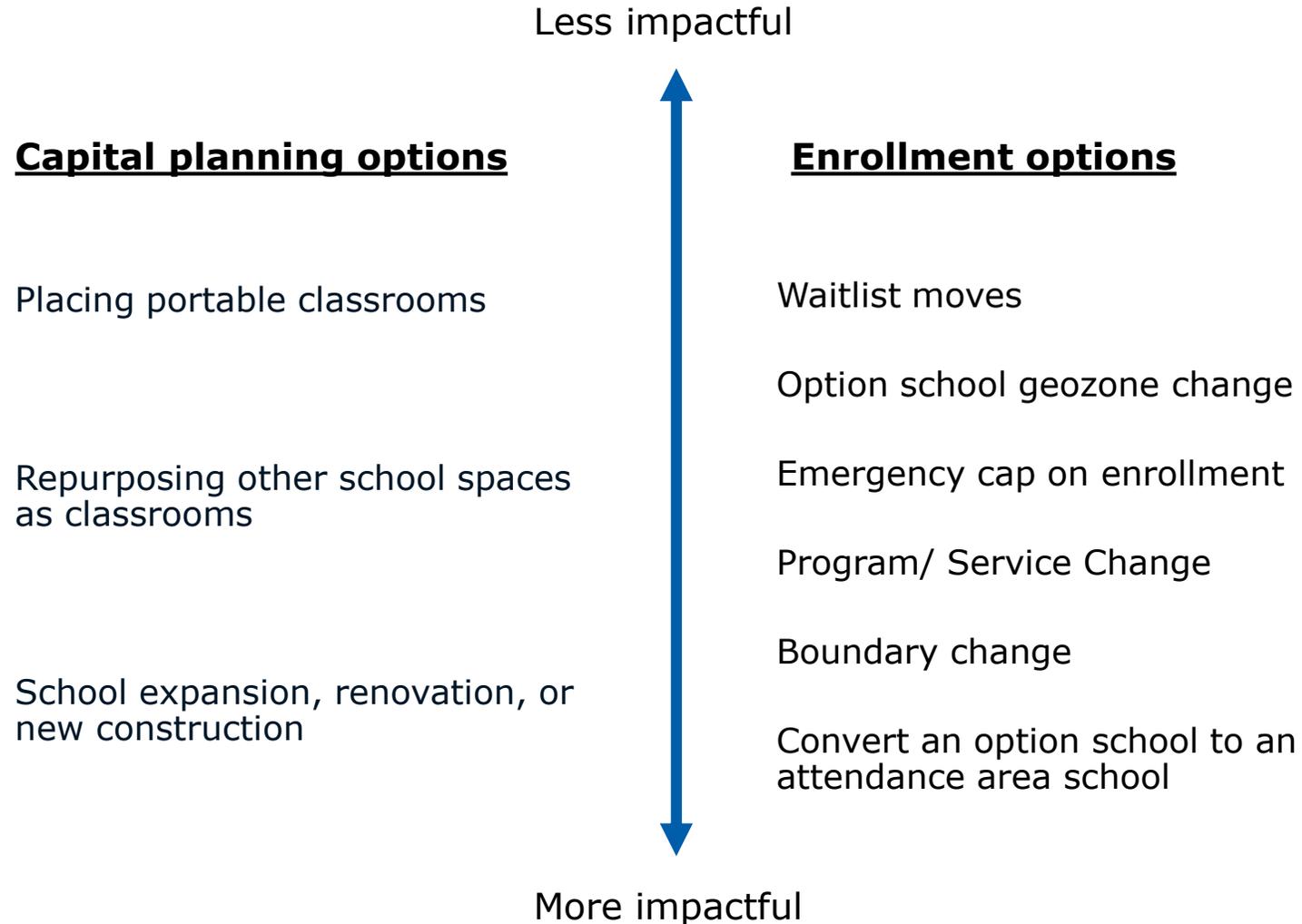
Mercer Middle School

- Mercer is overcrowded, and a solution needs to be identified to reduce the overcrowding.
- The Mercer BEX V replacement project is scheduled to open in September 2025, with a capacity for 1,000 students. Mercer will be temporarily located at Original Van Asselt from 2023-2025 which has a capacity of slightly less than 1,000.
- There are 6 elementary schools that feed into Mercer compared to 3 elementary schools that feed into Washington and 6 elementary schools that feed into Aki Kurose.
- In 2013, a boundary change was approved for Mercer to provide capacity relief but based on community feedback the change was not implemented.

| School | Right Size Capacity | 2019-20 Enrollment | 2020-21 Enrollment Projection (Feb 2020) | 2020-21 Enrollment |
|------------|---------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------|
| Mercer | 792 | 1115 | 1200 | 1185 |
| Aki Kurose | 868 | 656 | 679 | 727 |
| Washington | 895 | 606 | 603 | 603 |



Addressing Capacity Issues

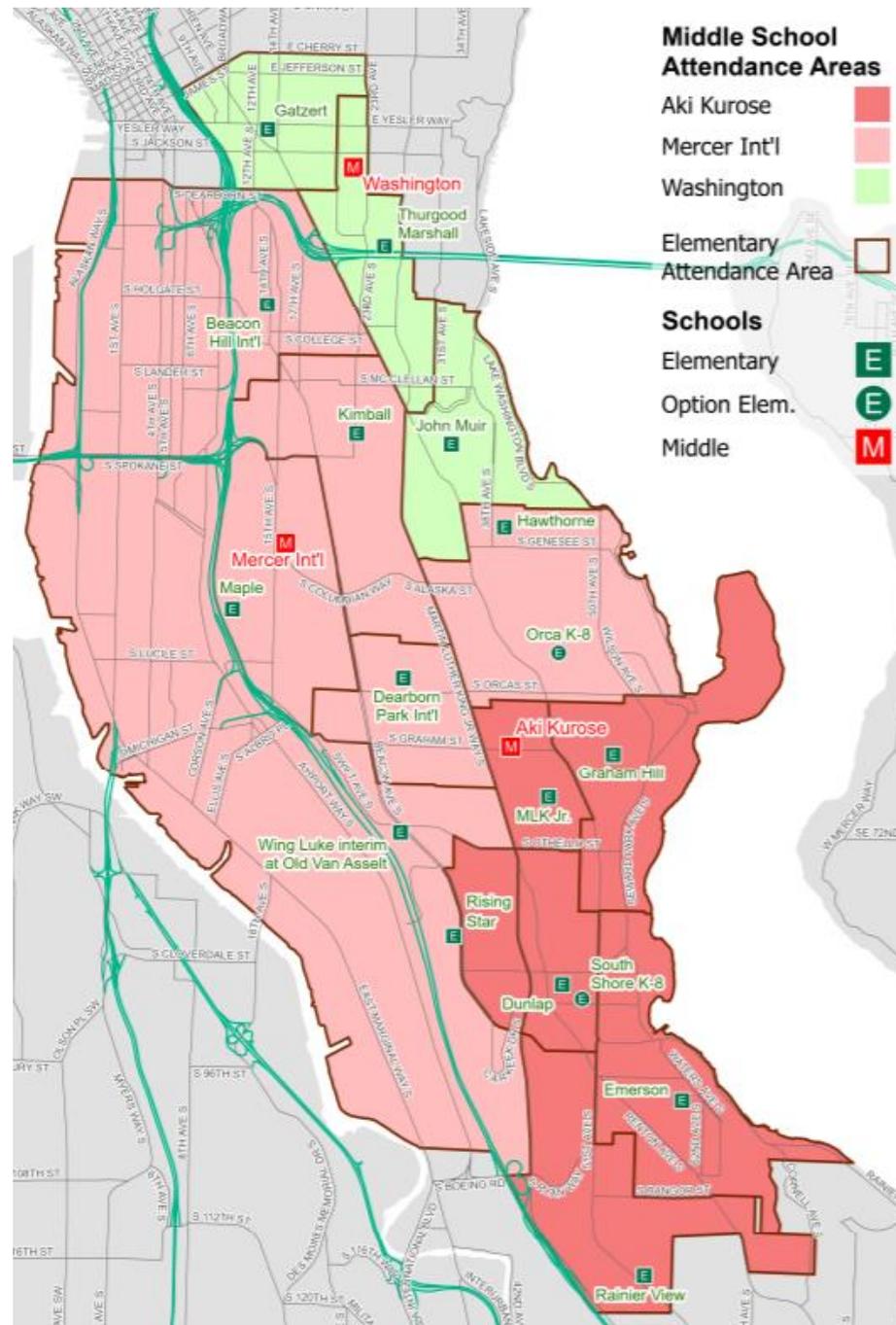


Process and Timeline

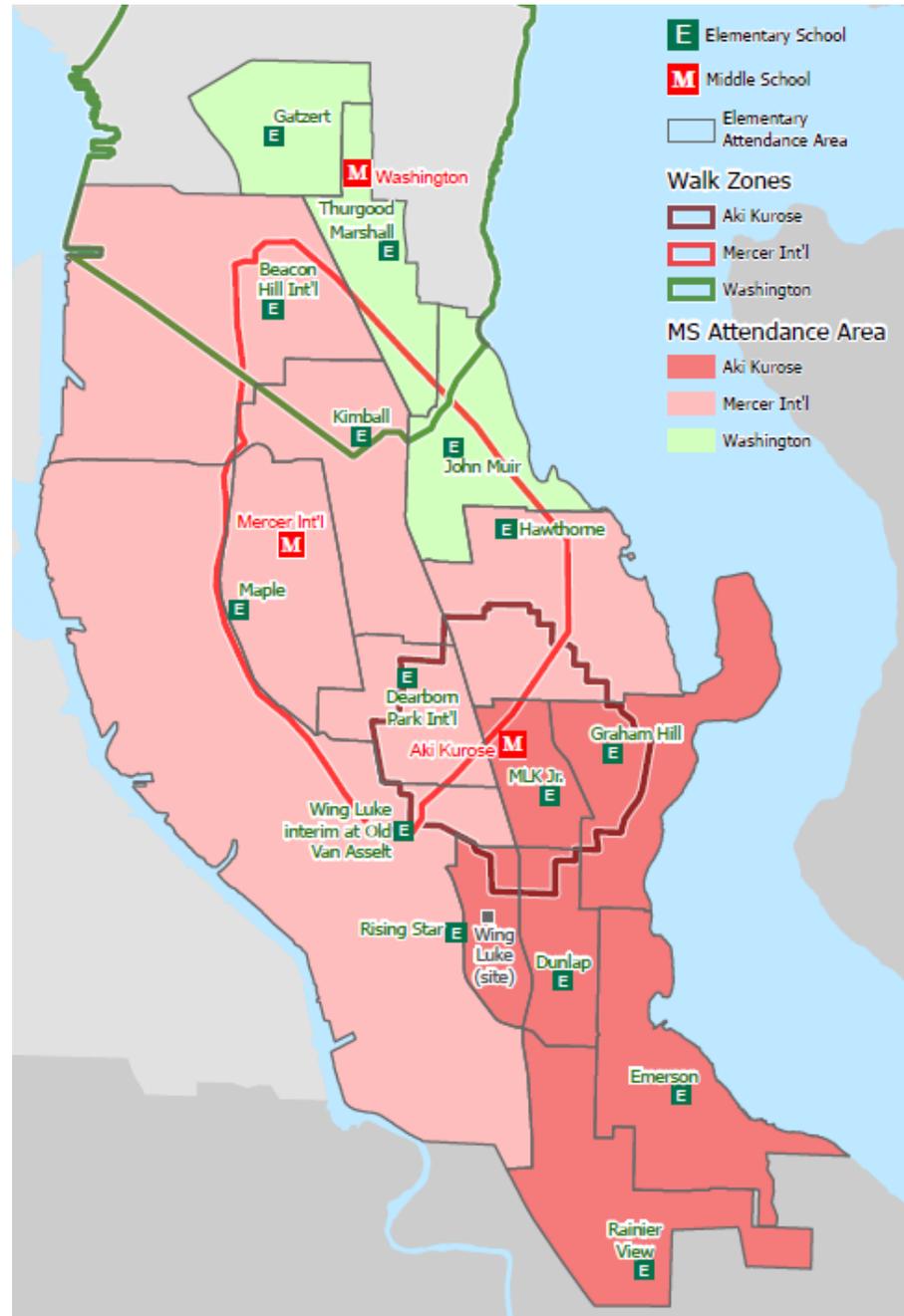
- **Fall/Winter 2020:**
 - Present issue and begin collecting feedback.
 - Attend school-based and community partner meetings to share information and collect feedback.
 - Create potential solutions based on feedback, data, and racial equity analysis, and share potential solutions to students and families; anticipated the week of Dec 14.
- **Winter 2020:**
 - Enrollment Planning recommends changes to the School Board at the January 6, 2021 Operations Committee Meeting of the Whole.
- **January 27, 2021:** Approval of any School Board changes.
- **Fall 2021:** If approved, changes will be implemented.



2020-21 Southeast Middle Schools



2020-21 Southeast Middle School Walk Zones



What we've heard from Beacon Hill & Dearborn Park families

- The current overcrowding is inequitable. The district should address this issue.
- District should use a racial equity lens in making decisions and ensuring the least amount of disruption to students of color and those furthest from educational justice.
- Continuity for students currently in the dual language immersion program from elementary school to middle school.
- Beacon Hill and Dearborn Park should remain International Schools and both feed into the same middle school.
- Request that proximity and walkability be a major priority in considering boundary changes.
- Keep neighborhoods and communities together.
- Convert an elementary school to a middle school or open another middle school.
- Request that current students and siblings be grandfathered.
- Consider disruption to families who have students at two different schools.



Additional feedback we've heard from families

- District should identify its priorities and make those clear to families in decision making.
- International Schools should also be considered for boundary changes.
- Suggestions for boundary changes for Kimball, Beacon Hill, Dearborn Park, Hawthorne, and Rising Star.
- Other comments included:
 - Ensuring that all three middle schools have adequate staffing and equitable programs
 - Sending students south of Othello to Aki Kurose and those north of Lander to Washington
 - Staggering classes and start times
 - Making Kimball or Maple a K-8
 - Making Kimball 5-8 and Maple K-4
 - Continue remote learning as an option



Boundary Principles:

Last approved by the School Board in 2013

- Ground decisions in data.
- Create boundaries that reflect equitable access to services and programs.
- Maximize walkability.
- Enable cost-effective transportation standards.
- Maintain key features of New Student Assignment Plan (e.g. opportunities for creating diversity within boundaries, choice, option schools, feeder patterns)
- Minimize disruptions by aligning new boundaries with current attendance area boundaries when feasible.
- Be mindful of fiscal impact (costs and savings).
- Be responsive to family input to the extent feasible.



Questions and Discussion

- What questions or comments do you have about the information shared?
- An International Schools Task Force developed recommendations in 2016 which talked about dual language being an opportunity to support ELL students. What does that look like to you and in your school?



Contact: Ashley Davies, Director of Enrollment Planning
aedavies@seattleschools.org

For more information visit:

https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what_s_new/mercero_capacity



SEATTLE
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS