

## Brainstorming Changes In Assignment Program/ October 13, 1998

### Goals:

- Maximizing choice of magnet schools, while
- Fulfilling our agreement with OCR

### I. Numbers/Sequence of Choices

#### **A separate magnet lottery will be held substantially before the non-magnet lottery**

- Students receiving assignment will be marked so that they are not included in the regular lottery.
- Students not receiving magnet assignments will be entered in the regular lottery

#### **There will be up to three possible choices in each of the magnet and regular lotteries**

- It will be possible to choose the magnet schools #'s 1,2 and 3.
- Out of zone students will be considered after in-zone in each case, and will not receive transportation, if assigned.
- Because six choices may be too many for many families, we will leave the possibility open so that no one feels slighted. We will make it very clear that we will not provide transportation out of zone.

#### **Parents can choose non-magnet schools first and magnets second.**

Magnet schools can be a second or even a third choice in the regular lottery. A student so choosing will run the risk of there being no space left in the magnet by the time it gets to the regular lottery, but that it up to the family.

**\*\*Tough Question:** How can we do this and not set racial caps for these schools?

Maybe this is not possible. Our goal is to get as many people to choose magnets as possible. Is there another way?

### II. Magnets as Defaults.

It is our hope that magnets will never be default assignment schools. If it is necessary we will do everything possible to limit this occurrence, including leaving them underfilled (as we have done with Longfellow in the past)

### **III. Timing of Lotteries**

The magnet lottery must be held enough in advance of the regular lottery that there is time to call OCR and have them give technical assistance. If we assume this takes up to 3 weeks, we have to run the magnet lottery in early to mid-February in order to run the regular lottery at the end of the first week to the beginning of the second week in March.

- Do we want to consider moving our notification date back (i.e. does it really make a difference to be so early, or would we have the same results with a date two weeks later)?

### **IV. Wait Lists**

We are in agreement that we will no longer have a written, ordered list, but rather a pool from which we will draw when a space opens. The issue **how to rank students in the wait list pool?**

- In zone students will always be considered before out of zone.
- In zone students will be assigned to two tiers. The first will be those who got their applications in before the first deadline. The second will be everyone else.
- Out of zone students will be in a third tier, after in-zone.

#### **How will be students be selected for placement from the wait list pool?**

- Magnet Schools: Names will be pulled and if there's not a negative impact beyond permissible standards they will be assigned.
- Non-Magnets: We can keep on pulling until we get what we need.

#### **\*\*\* The next thorny question:**

##### ***What about socio-economic status in magnet schools?***

- What measure do we use to determine the balance?
- What are the plus or minus's on this?
- How about the wait list? How to apply it to that?