

Lakeview – Gulfport Elementary Staff Questions (revised 10/28/10)

Time Frames

- When will decisions be final/when will we know?
- When will this take place/definitely next year?
- Will we have to attend a job fair?
- When will we be in the new school?
- How does “move timeline” coincide with deadline for Choice?
- What is the timeline for a decision and for information about the process, if approved?
- When will the zone cut-off time be for families moving into the area?

Response/Answers

The School Board must vote twice on all Policy changes (1st and 2nd reading). The first reading is scheduled for 11/9 and the second reading is scheduled for 12/7. It should be noted that there will be two new School Board members installed between these two School Board Meetings. Should the Board approve a move, the schools would open in the fall 2011 at the new sites.

Answers to specific questions above will be forthcoming as more information becomes available.

HP/Personnel/Staffing

- Will entire unit (all the faculty & staff) be moved to Gulfport?
- If we are not on track with ESOL requirements, should we do this before the transfer? (concerned not all people could transfer)
- If there are only 10 Montessori classes, do all 18 teachers go or only those who replace the Montessori classes?
- What is the expected number of classes per grade level?
- Will we have any ESE? (LV)
- Will we have any Pre-K? (LV)
- Can we change the staffing model so that we have more K-3 and fewer 4/5? (LV)
- Will we stay in the same grade level? (LV)
- They have VPK, Pre-K, VE and IVE programs, will those continue? (LV)
- Are special needs students held to the same standards? (LV)
- Will our itinerants become full time? (LV)
- What is the process for instructional, administration and support staff positions (especially traditional teachers and staff)? How are those decisions made?
- What are the specific teacher transfer options?
- Gulfport is a Lastinger school and several teachers are applying for the Masters program. What happens with that partnership and the Masters program for these teachers?
- Will the Montessori teachers have to interview for positions at the Montessori school?
- What happens to social workers, psychologists, behavior specialists, etc.: where do they go?
- Does # of years experience affect hiring process?
- Will support be provided to Gulfport for interview process?
- Will the experience that fundamental teachers from Lakeview skew the interview process? Is that a fair interview?
- Will we need to interview/re-interview?
- Is the interview process just for Lakeview & Gulfport, or open to the whole district?
- Who will the administrator be?
- Do we take our support staff (office, specialists, plant operators and cafeteria) or do we get Gulfport's?

- What happens to their staff if there are a limited number of spots?
- How will cafeteria be affected?
- What will happen to the existing staff at Gulfport? (concerned @hard feelings/not LV fault district suggested this move) (LV)
- If we choose not to go “fundamental”, what would be our other opportunities? (GP)

Response/Answers

Once the Board has made a final decision, the Human Resources Department (HR) and the collective bargaining groups (PCTA / PESPA) would meet to design and negotiate the process and timeline for staff decisions. The process would likely build upon the sound process that was negotiated 2 years ago with the fundamental middle school consolidation, improve upon it based on lessons learned and consider the unique aspects of the Lakeview-Gulfport situation. Once the process is negotiated, HR and the bargaining groups will clearly communicate the process and timelines, including meeting directly with staff at Lakeview. At the 10/28 School Board workshop, the proposal clarified that all staff would need to interview with the principals at each school, a process similar to what occurred with the fundamental middle school consolidation.

Answers to specific questions above will be forthcoming as more information becomes available.

Students/Families

- What do you think the student population will look like?
- Will the demographics change?
- Will the existing Gulfport students have preference to stay or will they be part of the lottery?
- Will current Gulfport students be grandfathered in after Lakeview students?
- Do our children have a guaranteed spot or do they have to reapply? Do theirs?
- How will the remainder or overflow of Lakeview/Gulfport students be dealt with?
- Do students/families have a choice of schools (Gulfport Fundamental vs Gulfport Montessori)?
- Will the remaining slots be put into a lottery? (GP)
- What % of students walk to school? (GP)
- Is homework help available before and after school for students?
- How do we keep our parents as partners and informed? Need to avoid panic
- How can we help our families together?

Response/Answers

The current proposal calls for all current Lakeview students to be moved to a full fundamental school in the Gulfport facility. Gulfport families will have the opportunity to “opt in” by making application during the normal countywide application period and agreeing to all fundamental guidelines and signing the parent/guardian agreement. As all current countywide elementary wait lists expire at the end of each school year, students on the 10-11 Lakeview wait list will need to reapply as they would have had to do to Lakeview. All the current priority preferences in Policy will continue (feeder school, sibling, and professional courtesy) and a new proximity preference has been proposed for a percentage of seats available after the current priorities. The remaining seats will be filled in random number order as in past.

Answers to specific questions above will be forthcoming as more information becomes available.

Magnet/Fundamental

- Will there be buses, if so; will we have early dismissal on Wednesday?

- Is it possible that we may become a neighborhood fundamental rather than a county?
- Are the fundamental policies going to stay the same?
- Will the Rtl process allow disruptive students to manipulate the fundamental procedures/rules for dismissal?
- If you have all these fundamental schools, where will the students go when they are dismissed from the program?
- What are the options (and what will be the zone school) for traditional parents that do not want fundamental? (GP)
- Will there be support for opting in to the program? (GP)
- Will there be support for families once in the program? (GP)
- What student assignment/magnet application processes will be in place for our students? Will any choice be allowed? (GP)
- Will support/funds be provided to increase parental awareness? How do we educate them? (GP)
- How will ESE parents be informed of the possibility of going to a fundamental program, since currently it is only a program for the highest achieving students? (GP) What support will be provided to staff/parents to accommodate transition process? (GP)
- Where can information about “fundamental” programs be found?
- Has a fundamental program been merged into a “D” school before?
- How does the district want us to approach tours and the Fundamental /Magnet Fair in January?
- What is flexible proximity? How does flexible proximity affect us?
- What happens to Montessori parents who want fundamental?

Response/Answers

The current Policies for countywide programs detailed in the Procedures for Countywide Programs Handbook will apply. Many of the changes proposed will be codified in this Policy the Board must approve, however the general application process, timeline, transportation practice, etc. s will be the same (i.e. parents provide transportation to fundamentals, while magnets receive arterial transportation, same online application process with any new preferences for proximity applied). As with the fundamental middle school consolidation, significant outreach and support will be provided to prospective fundamental parents and training will be provided to any teachers new to fundamental. An overview of the fundamental elementary program and FAQ’s has been provided to the Gulfport administration and will be provided to the stakeholder team.

Answers to specific questions above will be forthcoming as more information becomes available.

Montessori Questions

- Will the Board truly continue to financially support Montessori (i.e. assistants in each class)?
- Could Montessori move to a different building and leave Lakeview where it is?
- Could the Montessori program move to an empty facility?
- Will we have time to prepare environment for Montessori classrooms?
- Who will support the Montessori students? Will their current ESE teachers follow them to the new location?
- Will we open more Montessori kindergarten classes if there is a waiting list?
- What about attrition of Montessori students? What will happen if the number of Montessori student is low? What will happen? Will the teachers be moved?
- Can we open a Pre-K for 3-6 year olds as is traditional for Montessori education?
- Will we allow new students in grades 1-5 during transition to Montessori? Will we have to?

Response/Answers

One of the key drivers of this proposal is to enhance the fidelity of the Montessori program by offering a whole school model which indicates the district is committed to the program.

Answers to specific questions above will be forthcoming as more information becomes available.

FCAT Scores/A+ Plan/NCLB

- Will we be under sanctions due to Gulfport Elementary?
- Does our school grade go with us?
- Will our 2011-12 FCAT scores be viewed Lakeview Fundamental in regards to growth or do we start as a “new” school?
- Is this to save Gulfport from NCLB sanctions

Response/Answers

School grades, AYP, Title I SINI status, or DA status were not identified drivers in the proposal. Details regarding the state Master School Identification (MSID) number to be used will be subject to state rules and cannot be determined at this time. The number to be used may impact the of the new school.

Answers to specific questions above will be forthcoming as more information becomes available.

Title 1 Questions

- How do they determine if we stay a Title 1 school? It is probable that there are enough current Montessori student who meet the Title 1 qualifications.
- UF/Lastinger graduates are required to teach at a Title 1 school for 5 year commitment. How will we fulfill that requirement?
- What happens to Title 1 materials (i.e. document cameras)?

Response/Answers

The primary determination for Title I status is the percentage of students receiving free or reduced lunch, however, there are details in the federal statutes and may depend on the MSID number as above.

Answers to specific questions above will be forthcoming as more information becomes available.

Logistics/Materials

- How will our materials, equipments, etc. be moved?
- When do we pack? Will boxes, packing tape, etc. be provided?
- Who will physically move our belongings? County employees or contracted?
- Can our “amazing” library book collection be moved with Lakeview?
- What educational materials will we be able to move (i.e. classroom libraries, textbooks, science kits, microscopes, etc.)?
- Can the PE equipment move to the new school?
- Does our furniture/things move with us?
- What about K unit?
- How do we know classrooms will not be stripped?
- What else moves with us (resources earned through PTA and Bookfair)?
- Will we be allowed to take our technology with us? Portables?
- Will Smart Boards and other technology earned through CTIP, A+ or grants be moved?
- What kind of technology does Gulfport have?

- Could we leave the Lakeview where it is and grow a fundamental program at Gulfport, providing our parents support? (GP)
- Who will provide supplies (boxes, tape, labels, etc.) for the move? Is there assistance for moving & packing?
- Do we take the technology we are using now or will we be getting new equipment?
- Will time be allowed during work day to attend negotiation update meetings?

Response/Answers

A process similar to the consolidation of the fundamental middle schools two years ago would be followed, with process improvements based on input from those schools.

Answers to specific questions above will be forthcoming as more information becomes available.

Names/Mascots

- What will our name be?
- Can we keep the name Lakeview Fundamental?
- Can we take the “Dolphin” mascot with us?
(expense to staff to order new tee shirts w/different name or logo)

Response/Answers

There is an established process for naming schools that was used during the middle school consolidation and that would be utilized again.

Answers to specific questions above will be forthcoming as more information becomes available.