



Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Capacity Management Meeting

Date: June 1, 2017 at 6:30pm

Location: Louisa Boren STEM K-8

Meeting Topic: Flip Herndon, Seattle Public Schools Associate Superintendent for Capital, Facilities, Enrollment Planning will present options to address capacity and enrollment issues that impact our school.

Why should I attend this meeting?

Seattle Public Schools has formed a Capacity Management Task Force to address increases in current and projected enrollment, with a charter to prepare a report and set of recommendations to the Superintendent of Schools. **An option under consideration by the District is the relocation of Louisa Boren STEM K-8 to the Schmitz Park elementary school building.**

The Louisa Boren STEM K-8 PTA has serious concerns about the consequences of this option:

- In its current location, STEM is able to serve all of West Seattle. By contrast, the boundaries of Schmitz Park's northwest location would negatively impact equitable access to the school for students in the community.
- STEM is the only option school in the Denny Middle School service area, and has a geographic zone aligned with West Seattle Elementary. That geozone would change if the school moves to Schmitz Park, which means placement of students from the less diverse, more affluent neighborhoods of West Seattle would take priority over students living in the central and south areas.
- The current capacity of the Schmitz Park building is 216 without portables. The public voted to approve the BEX IV levy, in part, to get children out of portables. Moving a school from an adequate site to one where 60% of students would be in portables disregards the wishes of the taxpayers and the goal of the District to provide permanent classrooms for West Seattle's growing student population.
- STEM provides a unique project-based curriculum. The high demand for this type of curriculum, as demonstrated by our projected 2017-18 enrollment of 539 (and waitlist of 189), will continue to grow and can only be accommodated at Boren. STEM's Special Education families depend on the valuable services offered at the school – any disruption to these services is unacceptable.
- Schmitz Park was designed as an elementary school and does not have the physical infrastructure to support middle school programs and activities.
- A move to Schmitz Park will create logistical hardships for families living in the southern neighborhoods of West Seattle, increase transportation costs for the school district, and increase vehicle traffic in the residential neighborhood surrounding the location.

In November 2013, **the Seattle School Board acknowledged the value STEM K-5 provides to the diverse student population in West Seattle by voting to permanently locate the school at Boren and expand it to K-8.** Since then, the school has continued to thrive and grow, expanding the programs and services it offers to the community.

To remain accessible to all families who want a project-based STEM education for their children, the Boren building remains the right location for Louisa Boren STEM K-8.

To stay updated on this topic visit stemk8pta.org, follow Louisa Boren STEM K-8 PTA on Facebook, or send email to: president@stemk8pta.org



Louisa Boren STEM K-8 History

- The idea for a new, STEM-focused, option elementary school originated in 2011 as a way to address elementary school capacity issues in West Seattle.
- K-5 STEM at Boren was opened in Fall of 2012. Expected first year enrollment was 58; actual enrollment was 268.
- Temporarily housed in the Louisa Boren building, the original expectation was that Fairmont Park would become the school's permanent home when building renovations were completed in time for the start of the 2014-15 school year.
- Increasing enrollment numbers caused the District to change plans, making the decision to open Fairmont Park as an attendance-area school. After considering and rejecting EC Hughes, the District designated Schmitz Park, with a building capacity of 216 students, to be the permanent home for STEM. STEM, with projected enrollment for 2013-14 at 327 students, was already over the capacity for Schmitz Park.
- In August 2013, the STEM PTA, with support from staff and the Delridge community, presented a proposal to Seattle Public Schools staff and Board of Directors, recommending the District designate the Louisa Boren building as the school's permanent home and expand to K-8. Emphasis was placed on the criticality of the Boren location to support equitable access of STEM's programs and services to families in the central and southern parts of West Seattle.
- The SPS Board approved the K-8 rollup and designation of Boren as the STEM's permanent location on November 20, 2013.
- At the time of the November 2013 Board vote, the Boren building capacity for a K-8 was determined to be 675, 450 for grades K-6 and 225 for grades 6-8, which takes into consideration support of an intensive special education delivery model and pre-kindergarten programming.
- STEM delayed expansion to K-8 for a year to accommodate the co-location of Arbor Heights in the 2014-15 and 2015-16 school years, adding 6th grade classes in 2015-16, and 7th grade in 2016-17.
- Louisa Boren STEM K-8 continues to thrive and grow, and has a 2016-17 enrollment of 482 in grades K-7. Factoring in 20 Seattle Preschool Program students and 10 half-day developmental preschool students, STEM currently serves 512 students daily.
- With the addition of 8th grade, STEM has a 2017-18 projected enrollment of 539 (excluding preschool). Longer-term enrollment projections have STEM holding steady at 514 through 2020-21.
- STEM has had a considerable waitlist each year since opening. The current list for 2017-18 stands at 189 students, with 154 for grades K-5 (58 for kindergarten), and 35 for grades 6-8. This is the second largest waitlist among Seattle schools.

Programs and Services Available at Louisa Boren STEM K-8

- English Language Learners (ELL)
- Elementary Special Education
- Special Education Preschool
- Elementary School Access
- Middle School Access (with addition of 8th grade in 2017-18)
- Resource room for students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP)
- Occupational and Physical Therapy
- Learning Assistance Program space
- Middle School Career & Technical Education Program
- Technology Lab, including Robotics and MakerSpace
- Preschool (City of Seattle)
- On-site Before & After School Care (YMCA)