

June 12, 2008

Dear Terrace Park Parents:

At the June 3, 2008 Edmonds School District Board of Directors meeting, the Citizen Planning Committee (CPC) was directed to work with District staff and parent leaders to study and create a plan to close two small elementary schools, explore reductions in transportation services to reduce general fund costs, as well as study and plan for other changes. One of the other areas to be addressed in this work includes the study and development of a detailed plan for moving the Terrace Park Middle School (grades 7 and 8) into Brier Terrace Middle School for the 2009-2010 school year and to present this to the Board for final approval in December of 2008 so there would be time to implement. Since this will impact your student(s), we wanted you to have some background information and to know you are invited to participate in the process.

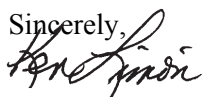
In recent years the combination of declining enrollment, unfunded and under funded State mandates, and overall inadequate State funding for schools have created a significant financial challenge for school districts. At the same time our enrollment has declined as families have elected to move to more reasonably priced housing. Because State funding to local schools is dependent on enrollment counts, shrinking enrollment means fewer dollars from the state.

This past spring we reduced our school district budget by 3.1 million dollars as a result of limited resources and increased costs. This involved making painful reductions/changes to staffing, programs, and services just to develop next year's operational budget. In order to be fiscally responsible the district must continue to reduce costs and build capacity to meet these ongoing challenges; thus, the moving of the Terrace Park 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade program better uses capacity in the nearby Brier Terrace Middle School, and creates more capacity at the current Terrace Park School to accept students likely to come from one or more of the elementary school closures also being processed.

We share your interest to keep the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade program strong and determine how best to have it located at Brier Terrace Middle School. There are different options and models that need to be discussed in the process. Should it stay as a separate program or be integrated into the middle school? Can it do both? How best do we sort through these and related issues? These questions and more will be the focus of the study and planning process.

Beginning in August and extending into next fall, members of the CPC, District staff, and parent leaders will be working together with me to develop a plan for this move. Every attempt will be made to continue and possibly enhance the many positive aspects of the Terrace Park 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade program albeit housed at a different site and working within the financial realities of our system.

We welcome parents to participate in the development of these plans by providing guidance and feedback through community meetings. If you would like to participate, please let me know. Additionally, we seek input through either regular or electronic mail. Each and every idea is welcomed. I am available at [limonk@edmonds.wednet.edu](mailto:limonk@edmonds.wednet.edu).

Sincerely,  


Ken Limón  
Assistant Superintendent