

Focus Group Notes – Chinese (Group 2)

Feedback on the enrollment and program balancing proposals from different Chinese participants:

- We do not understand the proposals.
- This is new to us. We are not aware there are going to be changes. Please keep things the way it is.
- Not sure how PPS came up with the proposals. I wish more Chinese families would have a chance to participate through, for example, a survey.
- It is not a good idea to consolidate the Chinese Immersion program to Bridger. It is too far away from the Chinese population. Longer commute time and more transportation cost.
- A lot of families we talked to agree that it would be best to have half Chinese and half Caucasian and other races than just centralized classes in Bridger.
- Now there are 2 classes in Woodstock and 1 class in Harrison. An easy solution is to add another class in Harrison.
- Most of the families we know in Woodstock said they are happy about the classes right now. If they are forced to go to Bridger, they would much rather forgo the Chinese Immersion Program and just take regular classes.
- After collecting parents' opinions from Woodstock, most everyone thinks it is fine to go to Kellogg Middle School after Elementary School.
- We oppose to closing Woodstock's Dual Language Immersion Program in Chinese and moving it to Bridger's mobile classrooms.
- Most parents report that they do not live near Bridger or Harrison Park School.
- According to the annual PPS Head start application for Kindergarten data survey, 60% of families live between SE Duke & Holgate, meaning, in general: Most families live closer to Woodstock School.
- The learning environment is to be considered. The Dual Language Immersion Program in Chinese and English is good but it is not only about learning the language. More importantly, the mutual immersion of Chinese and English, letting the Chinese to assimilate into the American culture.
- It would be advantageous to allow children from Chinese and American families to interact and learn from one another.
- If the Chinese Immersion Program is to be moved to Bridger School, it is equivalent to sending your child to Chinatown to learn Chinese in a closed environment.

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- We should encourage a learning environment where Chinese and English are immersed in each other, otherwise, the Immersion Program will be meaningless.
- Moving the children to the mobile classrooms of Bridger School promotes racial discrimination because all the Chinese will be segregated. Chinese kids should be able to interact with classmates from other cultures too.
- Mobile classroom is not as good as regular classrooms. It is not very convenient for children to study, eat lunch, go to the restroom, etc. For school age children 5-8 years old to adapt to those mobile classrooms is extremely challenging.
- Because of the language barrier, with no translated publications or flyers, we as parents, or as new Chinese immigrants would not understand what is going on about the school like what we were just told about the proposed changes.
- We just heard about this zoom meeting from each other not fully understand what's going on about the proposed changes.