



# **Middle School Enrollment Policy Review & Community Engagement Process**

**Community Information Meetings: June 29<sup>th</sup> & June 30<sup>th</sup>**

# Agenda

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- Introductions
- Presentation:
  - Why review the Middle School Enrollment Policy now?
  - Possible alternatives
  - Community Engagement Process Overview
- Questions:
  - About the community engagement process?
  - About the possible enrollment policy alternatives?
  - What other policy alternatives should be considered?
- Close

# Who is here?

Scan the QR  
Code with your  
smartphone to  
tell us about  
yourself.



# Today's Webinar Format

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- The main purpose of this webinar is to introduce the middle school enrollment policy community engagement process.
- Please type your questions and comments in the Q&A. We will read and respond to as many as possible after the presentation.
- There will be many more opportunities to ask questions and share your opinions in the coming months.

# Why Review the Middle School Enrollment Policy Now?

# BUSD: A Commitment to Integrated Learning

- In 1968, BUSD became the first major public school system to voluntarily integrate its schools
- The commitment to diverse, integrated school communities is a core district value

# **BUSD believes that diversity in our school communities...**

- enriches the educational experiences of students
- advances educational and occupational aspirations
- enhances critical thinking skills; facilitates the equitable distribution of resources
- reduces, prevents or eliminates the effects of racial and social isolation
- encourages positive relationships across racial and economic lines by breaking the cycle of racial hostility to foster a community of tolerance and appreciation of students from varied and diverse backgrounds; and
- promotes participation in a pluralistic society.



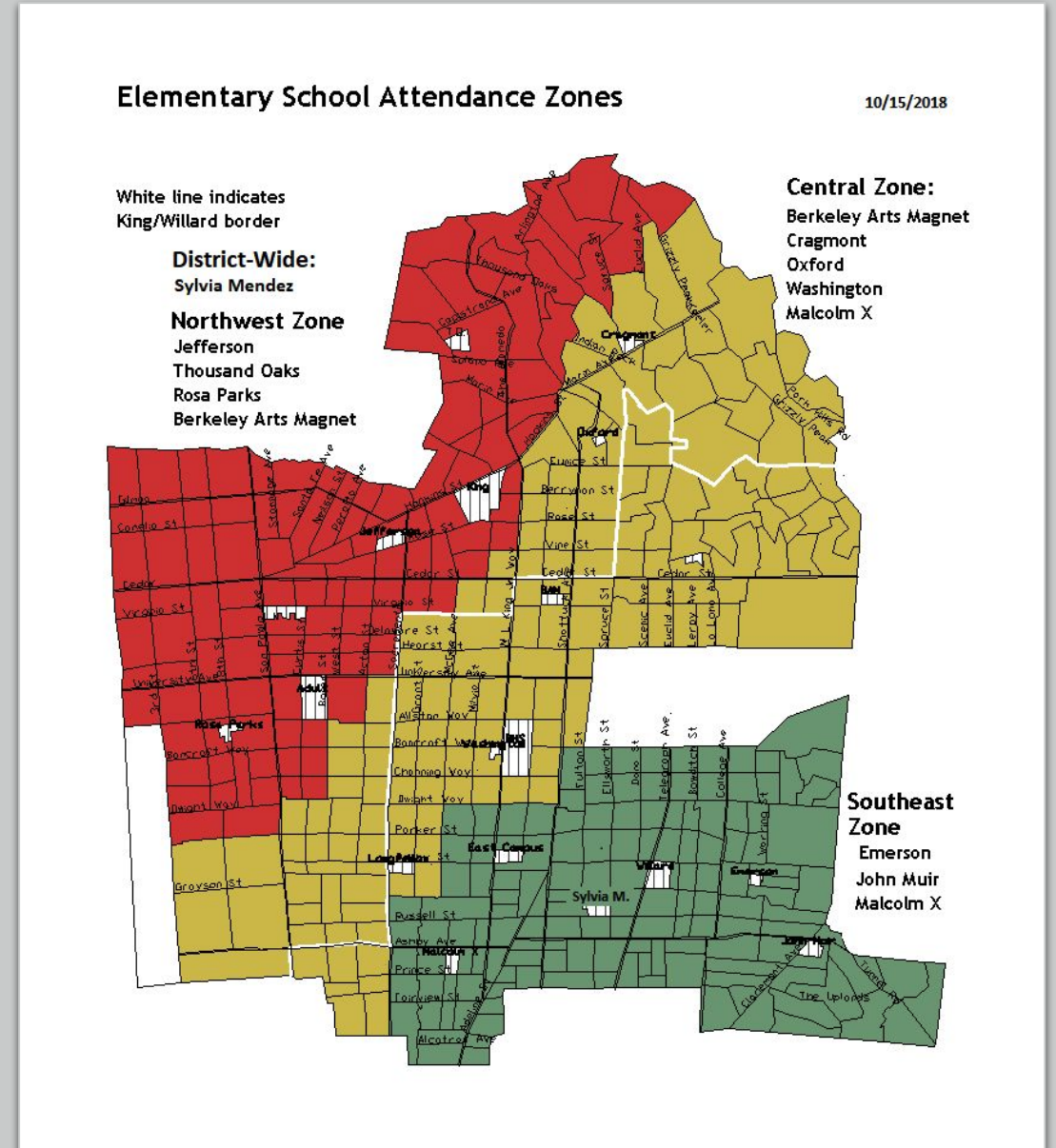
## **When considering school integration, BUSD focuses on three key socio-economic factors:**

- Parent education
- Parent income
- Race/Ethnicity



# Elementary School Enrollment

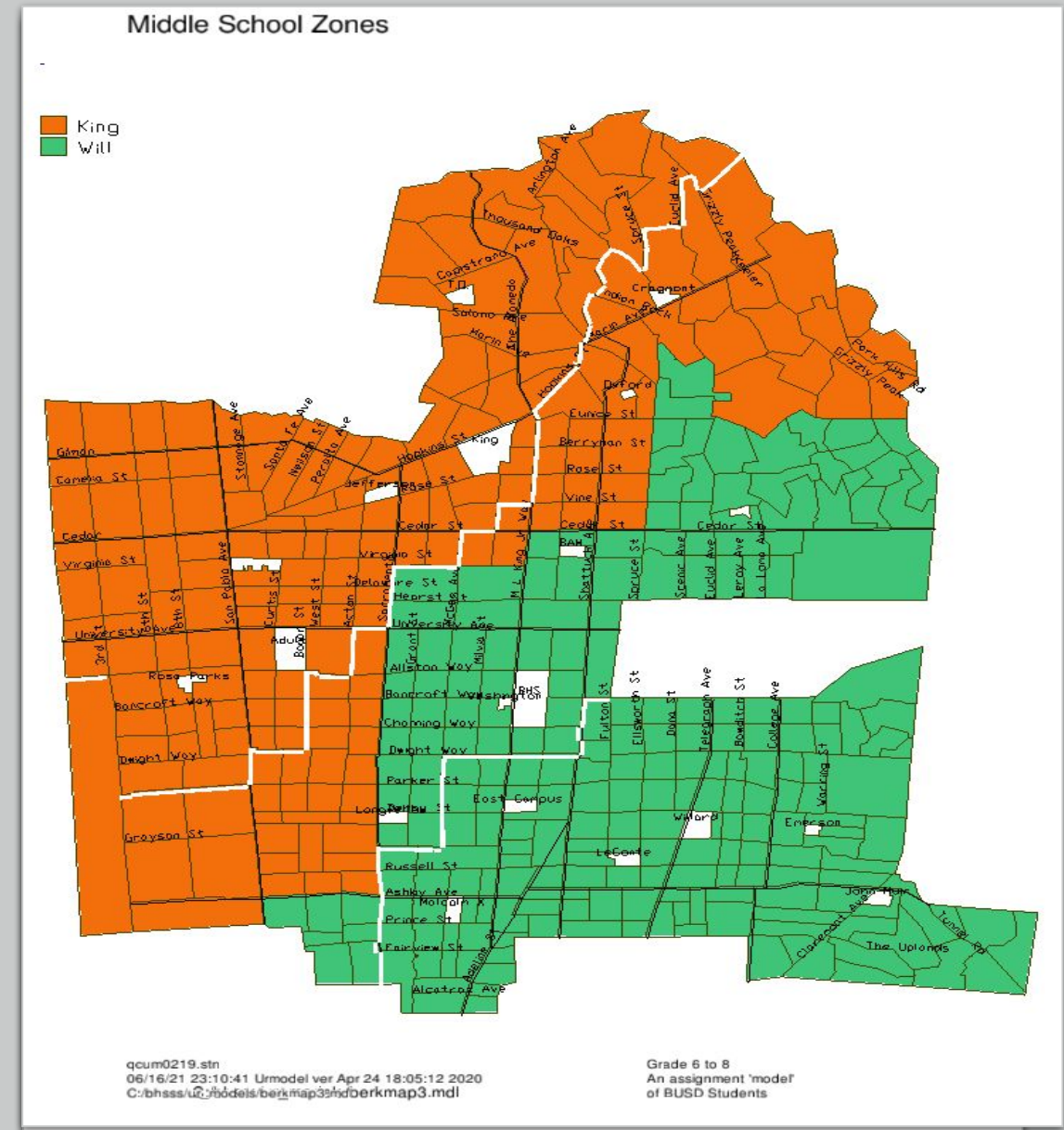
- BUSD created three elementary school enrollment zones
- Berkeley's fully integrated elementary schools are a source of community pride.





# Middle School Enrollment

- BUSD's three middle schools are King, Longfellow and Willard
- In 1994, there were only two middle schools: King and Willard. The two enrollment zones created for these schools are based on geographical factors and still exist.
- In 1995, Longfellow became BUSD's third middle school but was not assigned an enrollment zone.
  - It was designed as a magnet "choice" school.







**The Middle School Enrollment  
Policy has not been reviewed  
since 1994.**

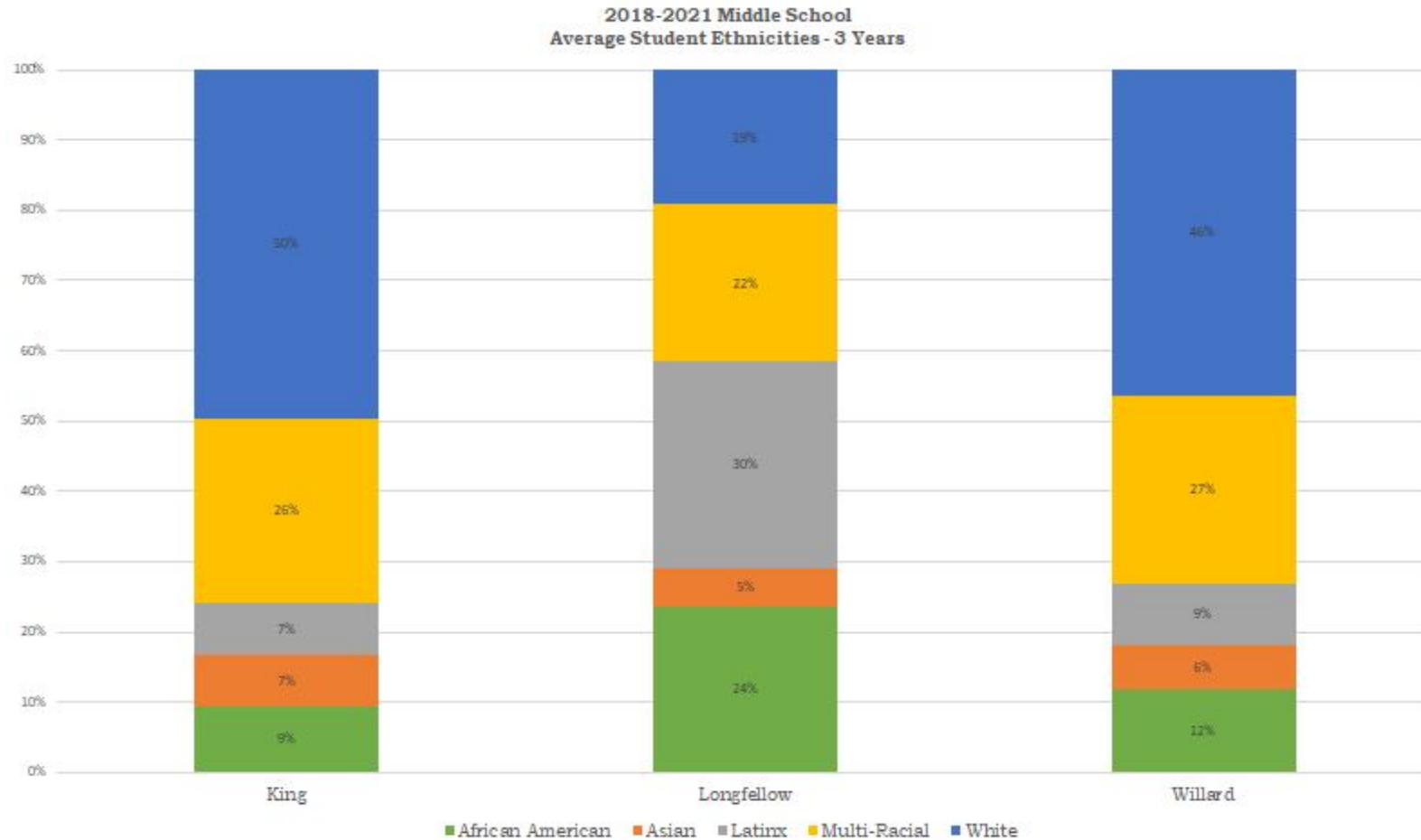
**Demographics and enrollment trends have changed since then.**

# Right now:

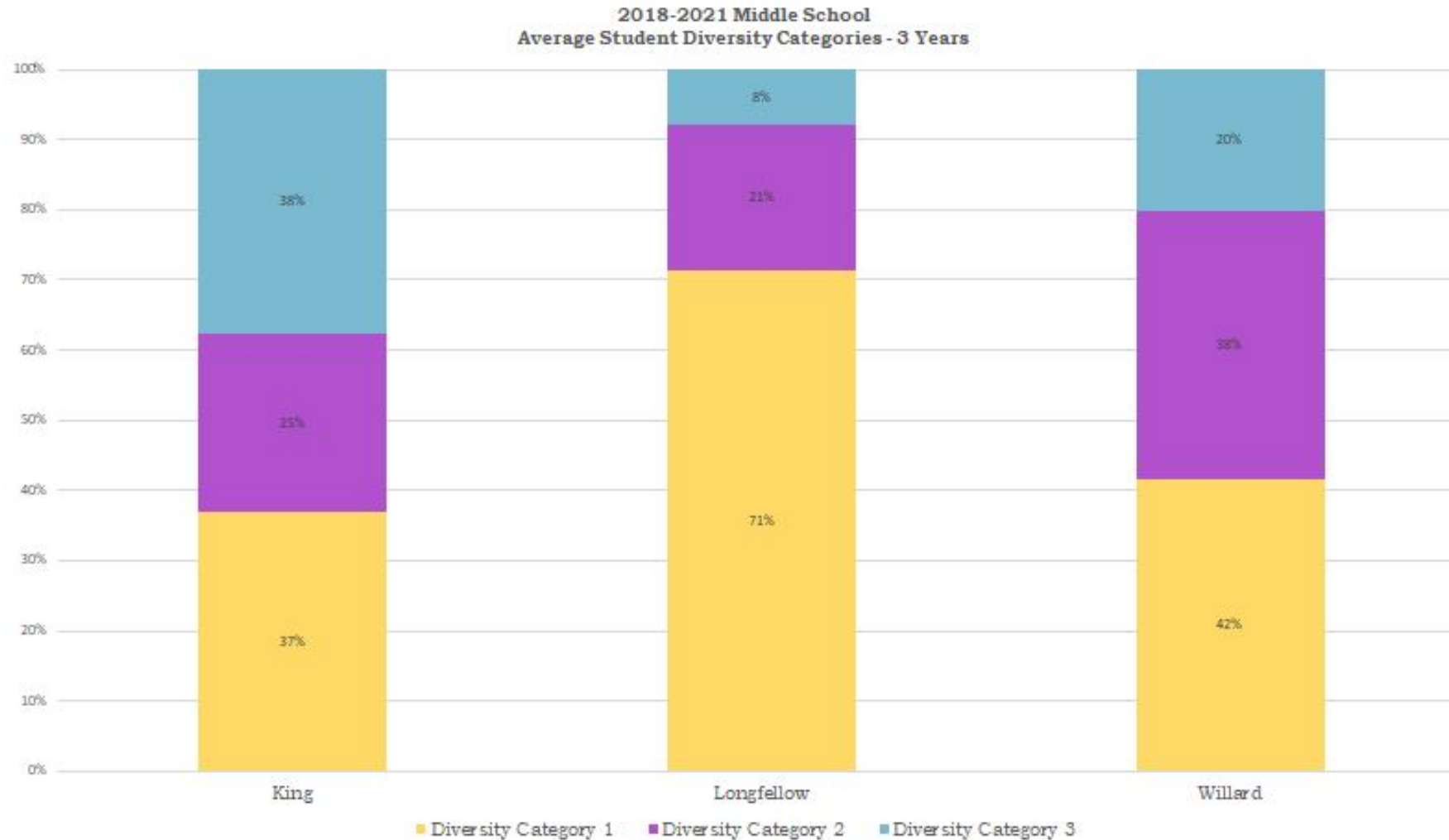
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- **BUSD middle schools are segregated.**
- None of the middle schools reflect the racial and socio-economic diversity BUSD seeks to achieve in its schools.
- **All three BUSD middle schools are impacted by this segregation.**
- The trend is expected to continue if current enrollment practices do not change.

# Middle School Populations by Race/Ethnicity



# Middle School Populations by Diversity Categories





# A Crossroads...

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- The School Board has directed the Superintendent to review the middle school enrollment policy, with community and staff input, and to present recommendations on how to move forward by November 2021.
- The Board will make its decision in November so that any enrollment policy changes can be in place by the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

# What Enrollment Policy Alternatives Are Being Considered?

# Option #1

## **Leave the current assignment plan in place.**

- Enrollment at King and Willard will continue to be done by zone and Longfellow will continue to be a choice school.
- The current imbalances are expected to continue.

# Option #2

**Create three new middle school zones that integrate BUSD middle schools socio-economically and racially.**

- New zones would likely be created with the same method used for elementary school zones.

# Option #3

**Create clusters of elementary “feeder schools” linked to a designated middle school.**

- A group of elementary schools would feed into a designated middle school.

# Option #?

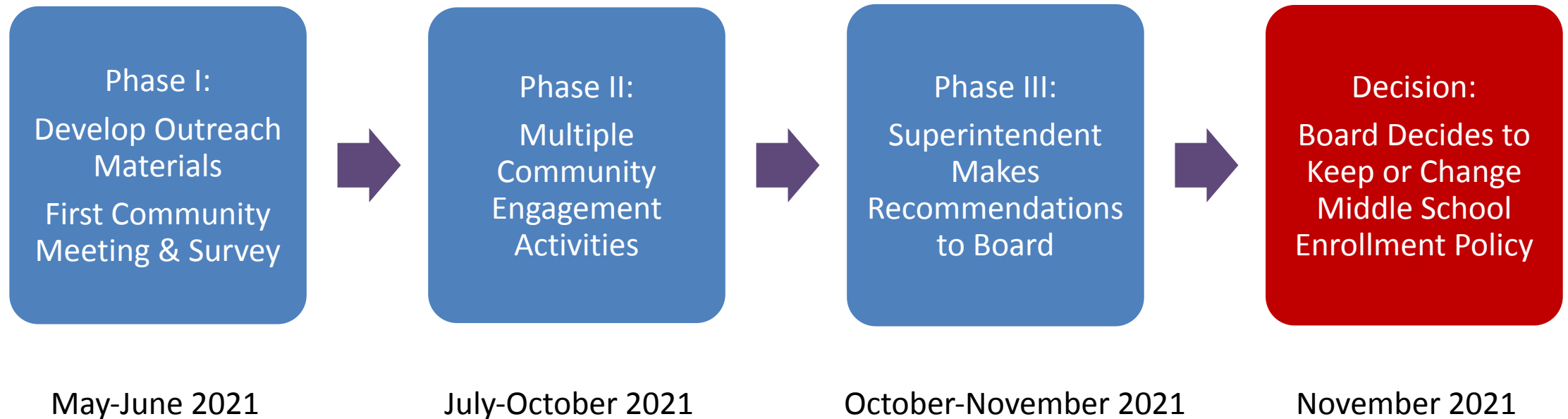
- Newer, better ideas may come from the community engagement process.

# Community Input is Critical.

The Community Engagement Process

May-November 2021

# Middle School Enrollment Policy Community Engagement Process: May-November 2021





# Community Engagement Activities:

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- Community-wide Meetings
- Small Focus Groups
- Educator Engagement Meetings
- Community Surveys
- Affinity-Based Meetings

# Questions?

# Your Questions:

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- What questions do you have about the community engagement process?

# Your Questions:

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- What questions do you have about the middle school enrollment policy alternatives being considered?

# A Question for You:

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- What other enrollment policy alternatives do you think should be considered?

# Next Steps

**We'll be sharing survey results +  
more information and ways to  
engage later this summer.**

Check the BUSD Website for Updates!

**Thank you for coming!**