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TO: Liam Skinner, Superintendent

FROM: Wendy Crocker-Roberge, Assistant Superintendent for Schools & Leadership

DATE: January 29, 2025

RE: *Response to Motion Regarding Greenhalge Traffic Update*

The following report is in response to a motion by Eileen Delrossi:

Request the superintendent to report on how the traffic pattern change has impacted the Greenhalge school

Greenhalge Elementary School Principal Dr. Jennifer Scarpati provided an update following recent changes in the traffic pattern prompted by a prior School Committee motion.

Greenhalge Elementary School instituted a new procedure for arrival and dismissal starting on January 2nd. The procedure was communicated to families via Class DOJO, our school-wide communication app, for the 2 weeks before the December break and then again following the break. Updates and helpful reminders have been shared this month via DOJO as well to help it run more smoothly.

Four staff members were reassigned from other duties to support arrival and dismissal on Victor Street. Administrators have been present as well for additional support. With the new procedure, families pull to the left-hand side of Victor Street and can drop their students off. Parents are asked not to get out of their cars during this time.

At dismissal, the same process is completed in reverse. Families were provided with signs with their child's name to aid staff and expedite the process.

Overall, the process is going well and cutting down on illegal parking on the surrounding streets. Arrival is quicker than dismissal.

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Three concerns for consideration include:

1. Multiple times a week cars are parked on Victor in the no parking area. This requires administrative outreach to LPD and often the involvement of our SROs.
2. Families line up early for dismissal. We do not begin dismissing students until 1:50. By this time, cars are often backed up down Ennell Street all the way to West 6th. At times this has also prevented special education buses from getting to their pick-up location on time.
3. At times, parents have been irritated or frustrated by having to wait in line and have demonstrated unsafe or disrespectful behavior to staff. Behavior has included getting out of cars, yelling/swearing at staff, cutting off others in line, being on cell phones, driving too fast, stopping too close to other cars/staff, etc. These have been addressed by administrators on a case-by-case basis. Any persistent or severe behavior will be managed in conjunction with our School Resource Officer.

Moving forward, these are areas that should be considered and monitored.

I visited the Greenhalge School on Friday, January 24, 2025, ahead of morning arrival and observed the practices shared by Dr. Scarpati firsthand. Traffic moved in a slow and steady progression within the dropoff window, with an initial surge at 7:30 AM and another slight surge closer to 7:40 AM. Staff were all visible and present at their assigned locations and the dropoff went smoothly. We will continue to monitor the situation with traffic surrounding the Greenhalge School.