



Internal Attendance Boundary Committee March 6, 2019 Meeting Summary

Call to Order

The first meeting of the Internal Attendance Boundary Committee was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Committee members present: Alejandra Adame Barcenas, Cecilie Ballard, Jenna Boyd, Carrie Brooker, Gretchen Collins, Joanna Cree, Julie Colmar-Davis, Kathleen Franzen, Julie Johnson, Elizabeth Kemp, Allison La Tarte, Lisa Labissoniere, Katherine McCallum, Scott Neville, Kathy Nieber-Lathrop, Debra Pickett, Marina Probasco, Brian Shaw, Tami Shaw, Ryan Sippel, Kim Sloan, Justine Wegner, Julie Winkleman.

Committee member not present: David Goeddel and Meghna Kuckreja.

Others present: George Mavroulis, Sherri Cyra, Lori Ames, Rainey Briggs, Katrina Krych, Jeff Fedler, Jessica Schwartz, Perry Hibner and Bob Green.

Welcome & Overview

Superintendent George Mavroulis thanked everyone for agreeing to serve on the committee. This is the third major boundary change MCPASD has undertaken in his 27-plus years here.

He noted the Board of Education approved the committee members, along with the charge and criteria to use to evaluate possible options last month. He also said facilitator Drew Howick will report regularly to the Board about the committee proceedings and then share the Board's feedback. Mavroulis reminded members meetings will be filmed and summaries posted on the website.

Assistant Superintendent Sherri Cyra also thanked the members. She noted there will be seven elementary schools by 2020-21 so elementary boundaries need to be redrawn. She also said they are serving as an advisory committee and that the Board has the final decision.

"We appreciate you being here in and focusing on the best interests of our students," she said. "It's a complicated process and it can be an emotional process."

She briefly reviewed the timeline and noted the goal is to present up to three potential solutions to the Board by Nov. 15. The Board would then approve in December, which allows the District time to hire staff and communicate boundary decisions to MCPASD families.

She noted the District will have administrators here to help but that an outside facilitator was hired to run the process. She then introduced Drew Howick, who has worked with DeForest, Sun Prairie and Verona among others.

“I have admired what MCPASD has accomplished over the years,” he said. “This school district has a great reputation. ... Dane County is a very desirable place to live and have your kids to go school. ... You have a chance to shape a very important decision.”

Howick noted lots of information will be shared so that the committee can make good recommendations but not so much that you are overwhelmed. He also stressed it is important to understand the history of boundaries as that will likely play a role in what future ones look like.

“It is a series of dominoes, and a puzzle that we will put together,” he said. “My job is to keep us on task and move it forward.”

Review Agenda & Introductions

Howick had committee members introduce themselves and talk about why they wanted to serve on the committee. It was noted the committee has representation from all six elementary schools, although some members don't have children at that level. In addition, the goal was to have representation from as many of the 63 neighborhoods that make up MCPASD as possible.

Howick also reviewed the meeting schedule, although he added every date may not be needed. He emphasized boundary work is a process that takes time.

Members then reviewed the creation of discussion guidelines. The seven norms of collaboration were shared and Howick said research shows they help individuals work effectively as a group. Members were asked to identify norms that will help the committee do its best work. Answers were shared, and the committee's guidelines will be presented at the next meeting.

Director of Communications Perry Hibner briefly reviewed how information from committee meetings will be shared with the larger community.

Overview of Charge & Criteria

Cyra reviewed the charge of the committee and noted they can create up to three recommendations for the Board on boundary changes.

She then reviewed the criteria the committee should use to evaluate possible options. She said the District put a lot of time and thought into the criteria before they were approved by the Board. She said the District reviewed what other districts have used along with values and goals of MCPASD.

Cyra also noted there may not be a solution that meets every criteria so might have to decide if want to meet as many as possible or if some criteria are weighted more heavily. Howick added his experience is that no recommendation will meet every criteria equally.

She also noted neither middle school can likely handle taking students from four elementary schools.

Information on the Current Situation

Forecasting projected enrollment is critical in a district like MCPASD where growth is occurring at all levels, Director of Business Services Lori Ames said.

The District used a private firm, Roffers Consulting, during the most recent facilities planning process. Mark Roffers used to be an urban planner and he worked with area developers and all eight municipalities that make up MCPASD to identify current and future development. He forecast enrollment out 10 years but Ames noted the further out you go the less dependable predictions are. Howick said Roffers will attend a committee meeting in April.

MCPASD also works with the UW-Madison Applied Population Lab for short-term enrollment projections. They provide multiple models annually and Ames also noted they changed their projection model for kindergarten because the growth happening here isn't happening elsewhere in Dane County.

"We spent an incredible amount of time forecasting our enrollment ... knowing we are going to be wrong," she said to chuckles.

APL and Roffers consulting will be providing updated numbers to MCPASD. Members requested that current and projected enrollment also available for each of the 63 neighborhoods.

Ames noted that new construction is fueling enrollment growth, along with houses turning over more quickly than expected. She noted a good example is Elm Lawn, which was expected to see declining numbers but continues to gain students.

Mavroutis said 10-15 years ago averaged the District typically gained 40-50 students per year. In last five years, the average annual gain has been 150 to 200 students.

The current District boundaries map for the six elementary schools was then shared. Members were reminded that Park, Sunset Ridge and West Middleton feed into Glacier Creek Middle School, while Elm Lawn, Northside and Sauk Trail feed into Kromrey Middle School.

Members were also reminded that municipal boundaries aren't contiguous. A discussion about MCPASD land inside the City of Madison followed. Ames noted some some areas in southeast corner of the District are businesses, including and Woodman's and Exact Sciences.

Mavroutis then reviewed the three most recent boundary changes. In 2003-04, a committee dealt with overcrowding at West Middleton. Lines were redrawn to send High Point students to Elm Lawn after the neighborhood petitioned the committee and offered to make the move.

In 2007-08, Middleton Hills and Northlake neighborhoods were building out and Northside was facing overcrowding so some students were moved to Elm Lawn. Mavroutis explained those students were already being bused because of how busy traffic was on Century Avenue.

In 2003-04, a committee also looked at Blackhawk because Sunset Ridge was at capacity. It was decided that land that was currently vacant would send any students once the land was developed to Sauk Trail because that school's enrollment had declined. In addition, Elm Lawn had space so students in an apartment complex who were already riding the bus were moved there.

Ames noted this means four schools have attendance areas near the new Pope Farm Elementary School, making it more likely that most, if not all, MCPASD elementary schools will be impacted by the current boundary process.

Members then briefly reviewed enrollment. They saw a chart that showed District K-12 in-building enrollment in 2012-13 and projecting out to 2028-29. It was noted that about 70 students will open enroll into the District in 2019-20 and that number will be down to four students by 2028-29. The chart included the District's current capacity, although space will be gained when the new elementary school opens and again when the high school expansion is completed.

Cya also noted the projected growth assumes the District continues to grow as it has in recent years. She also said it can be toughest to balance capacity challenges at the elementary level because there are more schools.

The committee asked if more online opportunities might help with capacity challenges. Cyra said it would most likely help at high school level as nNot as many K-8 students take online classes.

Table Discussions, Parking Lot & Conclusion

Members had 20 minutes to discuss two questions at tables: What did you learn and what was your reaction to what you learned? What questions do you have based on what you learned?

Howick noted the answers will help MCPASD administrators prepare information for members in advance of the next meeting. Each table then shared out a couple of answers to each question.

Howick noted administrators will respond to questions in writing and share with the committee before next meeting. If there are answers that need quite a bit of information, that will be shared at the start of the next meeting, he said.

Howick also noted the committee won't have to draw boundaries. Rather, Roffers will present some scenarios and see how the committee responds. In other districts what typically has happened is that has led members to come up with mutations or refinements to an original scenario.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.