



Internal Attendance Boundary Committee April 29, 2019 Meeting Summary

Call to Order

The third meeting of the Internal Attendance Boundary Committee was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Committee members present: Alejandra Adame Barcenas, Cecilie Ballard, Jenna Boyd, Carrie Brooker, Joanna Cree, Julie Colmar-Davis, Kathleen Franzen, David Goeddel, Julie Johnson, Elizabeth Kemp, Meghna Kuckreja, 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.

Committee member not present: Gretchen Collins, Julie Winkleman.

Others present: Drew Howick, George Mavroulis, Sherri Cyra, Lori Ames, Katrina Krych, Jeff Fedler, Jessica Schwartz, Rainey Briggs, Mandi Sersch-Morstad, Perry Hibner, Bob Green, Annette Ashley, Todd Smith and Anne Bauer.

Welcome and Overview

Facilitator Drew Howick briefly covered the meeting agenda. He noted three topics would be covered at the meeting: a review of the District's transportation plan, including which students are bused and who walks to school; a review of the District's equity efforts; and an opportunity to provide suggestions to consultant Mark Roffers as he prepares the first option or two, which will be shared at the next meeting.

Howick also briefly reviewed a document that showed what members found most useful from the last meeting, along with what could improve the meetings.

He noted lots of members appreciated the data provided. most useful from last meeting. "We're glad you love it because you are going to get more," he said to laughs.

Most members indicated the meetings were going well although some wanted more data, others wanted the information in advance of the meetings while others wanted a preview of what would be covered at the next meeting. He asked members to continue providing feedback.

Members were given 2-3 minutes to introduce themselves to others at their respective tables. He then reminded them to use parking lot board if have questions or other ideas they want to share.

District Transportation Overview

Transportation Services manager Jeff Fedler and Jessica Schwartz reviewed the District's transportation operation.

Fedler noted MCPASD is one of very few districts in Dane County that runs its own comprehensive, district-owned transportation operation. There are nearly 100 employees and the regular routes cover more than 2,570 miles per day.

The elementary schools with the most routes are Sunset Ridge and West Middleton, with nine each. Kromrey has 12 routes, Glacier Creek 16 and MHS-CSCS 18.

He noted the state only requires and partially funds transportation for students residing more than 2 miles from a school or within an approved unusually hazardous transportation area. MCPASD provides transportation for all students residing 1.1 miles or greater from their school, except in Cross Plains where it is provided within a half-mile of school.

There is no state-imposed limit on the amount of time a student can ride on a bus. MCPASD's goal is that no one-way ride exceed 60 minutes and the typical one-way ride is 30 minutes, Fedler said.

More than 100 students at Sauk Trail, Elm Lawn and Northside are within walking distance of schools and aren't assigned to a bus. Park has 10 students who are within walking distance of the school and he said that is mainly because of sidewalk issues. All Sunset Ridge and West Middleton students are eligible to be bused.

He noted there is a routing process that occurs annually. Students are rolled over or removed from a route. Route changes are made due to enrollment changes. Unused stops are removed or students impacted are assigned to an existing stop. The goal is to rework routes for timing and capacity to maximize efficiency. Schwartz said she is forecasting for the 2019-20 school year now.

Director of Business Services Lori Ames noted one current example of inefficiency is students in the Blackhawk neighborhood students going to multiple elementary schools. She also said the committee will have to consider if it is worth moving a student who currently is in a walk zone to a school where they would need to be bused.

Fedler noted the highest density route that has the most riders is students in the Elver Park neighborhood going to and from Glacier Creek. The longest elementary is 30 minutes and goes to Sunset Ridge. He also noted the majority of elementary routes average 50-55 students on each bus.

District Equity Overview

Director of Elementary Education Rainey Briggs and Director of Bilingual Services Mandi Sersch-Morstad shared details about the work the District has done related to equity over the past five years.

Briggs asked members to find one collective commitment to focus on for the meeting and then to share that commitment with someone at their table. He then showed the MCPASD Equity Community Agreements and noted the similarities between that document and the one created for this committee.

Sersch-Morstad reviewed what MCPASD for students and staff over the past five years, including professional development, Equity Institutes, and participation in the Minority Student Achievement Network, which has allowed the District to learn what has worked and not worked in other districts.

They shared an image of students that compared equality vs. equity and asked everyone to talk with someone about what the images meant. They added another image that showed reality and another discussion was held.

A 4-minute video, “What do we mean when we talk about equity?” was then shown. Sersch-Morstad noted the video has been shown to MCPASD middle school students. Finally, a fourth image of students titled, Liberation, was shown. Members noted there was no fence this time and all three students were on the field although they still weren’t in the game.

“This committee has an opportunity to remove barriers for our students who are the most marginalized,” she said.

Briggs briefly reviewed a book on being culturally responsive that the District’s Leadership Team is reading and talking about this year. He then shared a handout on Ready for Rigor and asked members to read We Believe, which described five different schools. Members were then asked to identify which one best exemplified where they attended high school, which one best exemplifies where their children go to school, and which one they would want their children to attend.

Members were split into groups and spent 10 minutes looking at one of the eight criteria established for the committee. They discussed the question: What is the connection between this criteria and the educational equity we strive for at MCPASD? They then shared out.

“These are the things you are going to grapple with throughout this process,” Briggs noted. “As you are thinking about this process, make sure you are thinking about your child and the other 7,000-plus who will be impacted.”

A group discussion followed about how to hear from those voices and areas that aren’t represented on the committee. Cyra noted the District has had internal talks about focus groups to make sure no one assumes we know what is best for all students and families. Members also requested if they could learn more about how other districts who have gone through this process. Cyra noted Howick has helped a lot of those districts, but added that most districts, even in Dane County, aren’t as far along in regards to equity as MCPASD is.

“It’s part of the culture here and it’s an important part of the culture,” Howick said.

Table Discussion and Closure

Members were given 10-12 minutes to discuss what they would like Mark Roffers to consider as he puts together some options. Every member was encouraged to answer the question and put responses on a flip chart. Howick and District officials are meeting later this week to go over the responses.

Members were also asked to fill out a sheet indicating what they found most useful and what they wanted more of from the meeting. Ames noted an online document will also be available for members who want to provide more feedback away from the meetings.

Howick noted the next meeting is Wednesday, May 8 and that the planning team will meet this week to work on an agenda. He reminded members they will get 1-2 possible boundary options.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.