



Internal Attendance Boundary Committee May 22, 2019 Meeting Summary

Call to Order

The fifth meeting of the Internal Attendance Boundary Committee was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

Committee members present: Alejandra Adame Barcenas, Cecilie Ballard, Jenna Boyd, Carrie Brooker, Gretchen Collins, Joanna Cree, Julie Colmar-Davis, 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, Julie Winklemann.

Committee member not present: Kathleen Franzen.

Others present: Drew Howick, George Mavroulis, Sherri Cyra, Lori Ames, Katrina Krych, Jessica Schwartz, Perry Hibner, Bob Green, Anne Bauer, Colette Spranger.

Welcome and Overview

Facilitator Drew Howick reviewed agenda for the meeting, noting members will get to review two options and use the dashboard evaluation tool for each one. He noted Assistant Superintendent Sherri Cyra and Director of Business Services Lori Ames will seek input on questions that will be used in outreach efforts. Howick also reminded members to avoid comparing options yet because narrowing will occur later in the process.

Howick reviewed the feedback from last meeting. Positives included maps and dashboards and the inclusion activity to start the meeting. Members wanted more group and large-group discussion. He noted an updated Question & Response form has been shared electronically with members and will also be available on the District website.

Cyra then had each table do an inclusion activity. Each table had 10 cards to read and each member at the table was asked to give short answers to each card.

Director of Communications Perry Hibner reviewed the online feedback form that was added to the District website last week and shared some general observations about e-mails and feedback received so far. The committee had a couple of questions about what it could share and discuss.

Option B Overview

Colette Spranger, who works for MD Roffers Consulting, attended the meeting in place of Mark Roffers, who had a prior commitment. She briefly reviewed some of the questions and suggestions members had regarding possible options. She also noted that all elementary options would include a brief explanation about the impact on the middle schools.

She noted Dane County recently purchased 150 acres north of City of Middleton. Original enrollment projections had housing from that area feeding into MCPASD in a few years, with a projected 40 additional elementary students by 2025 and 100 by 2030. However, she cautioned members it is likely the District will still see that growth occur somewhere else. Updated projections based on this development will be provided at a future meeting.

She also said some member had suggested splitting neighborhoods even further. She noted Roffers Consulting has already split some neighborhoods since the last time it did enrollment projections for MCPASD in 2017, increasing the number of neighborhoods from 63 to 71.

She then reviewed Option B. The southeast part of the District would go to Elm Lawn instead of West Middleton. Schools east of Highway 12 would be very near capacity in 2020 but only Northside sees significant change over time. Schools in the western part of the District would be quite a bit under capacity in 2020 but increase significantly by 2030.

It was noted there is a bigger range for free and reduced with Option B than there is currently, ranging from 3 percent (West Middleton) to 50 percent (Sauk Trail). Sauk Trail would also have the highest percentage of English Language Learners at 18 percent, while Elm Lawn (38 percent), Pope Farm (49 percent) and Sauk Trail (51 percent) have the highest percentages of students of color.

Only 21 percent of elementary students would change schools and 63 percent of those students would move to Pope Farm. About 85 percent of 2025 students would attend the school closest to them compared to 71 percent currently. Twelve of 71 neighborhoods would change schools.

Members then received the map and the dashboard. They had 20 minutes to read the criteria and evaluate them with Option B. They then shared out with others at their table. Howick reminded them the goal wasn't consensus or convince others but rather to share information.

Each table then had 1 minute to explain what they liked and disliked about Option B. Multiple tables felt it concentrated too many students of need and in color at certain schools. Members also felt as if people who aren't represented on the committee are being moved and not heard from. A couple of tables felt a benefit for Neighborhood 16 was that they would attend Kromrey, which is closer and has public transportation, for middle school. Some members wondered if Sauk Trail's high population of students in need might be a positive and result in more grants for the school.

Howick also reminded the members the options aren't recommendations, but different ways to view boundaries. "No one option will meet every criteria so we are looking for ones that meet most of the criteria and, hopefully, find a sweet spot," he said.

Option C Overview

Spranger reviewed Option C. She noted students in the District's southeast corner plus a smaller collection of neighborhoods would attend Pope Farm. Elm Lawn, Northside and Sauk Trail would see adjustments to their boundaries to respond to Pope Farm's attendance area. There would be expansion of Sunset Ridge's attendance area to address capacity issues at Park, West Middleton and Northside.

Under this option, Elm Lawn and Sauk Trail would be under-utilized, while Northside, Park and West Middleton would be over capacity by 2030. No school would be over capacity in 2025.

The ranges for free and reduced lunch were not as great as in Option B, ranging from 4 percent (West Middleton) to 36 percent (Sauk Trail). Pope Farm would have the highest percentage of English Language Learners (20 percent) and students of color (62 percent).

About 35 percent of students would change schools, with 53 percent of those going to Pope Farm. Twenty-three neighborhoods change schools and 82 percent of 2025 students would attend the school closest to them.

Members then received the map and dashboard. They had 20 minutes to read the criteria and evaluate them. They then shared out with others at their table.

Members noted lots of children needed to change schools under Option C. Some thought Sauk Trail's demographics would change significantly because losing students from Blackhawk neighborhood without a similar neighborhood moving in. Some members thought students in the southeast area of the District would benefit by going to Pope Farm.

One member noted the current bus route isn't easily accessible to MCPASD schools. Any current route from Elver Park to West Middleton, Pope Farm, Elm Lawn, Sauk Trail or Kromrey takes 90 to 120 minutes, Cyra said.

Members were then given 10 minutes to provide requests and considerations for Roffers and Spranger for future options.

Accessing Other Perspectives and Closure

Cyra noted District administrators have had discussions about the voices not in the room and also reviewed questions members would like those not here to answer. With more than 70 neighborhoods in the District, it isn't feasible to talk with representatives of all of them but do want to hear from those who historically have been marginalized. Principals, family engagement specialists and social workers have also been asked how to connect with those families

The District has identified neighborhoods and families it wants to hear from based on feedback from the committee, Cyra said, and will use staff who already have relationships with them to get the feedback. The plan and more information will be shared at the meeting on June 5.

Cyra and Ames did ask members to refine the questions. Cyra said families won't be asked what school they want to attend, because she believes most who aren't moving to Pope Farm would say they want to stay at their current school. But she said it is important to hear from families about what services they are receiving or needs that aren't being provided.

Principals from Sauk Trail, West Middleton, Glacier Creek and Kromrey will be at the June 19 meeting to answer questions from members about what their respective schools offer.

Howick then reminded members to write down any additional questions they might have about the options presented at the meeting and to add items to the parking lot if needed.

The meeting adjourned was at 8:32 p.m.