



Internal Attendance Boundary Committee June 5, 2019 Meeting Summary

Call to Order

The sixth meeting of the Internal Attendance Boundary Committee was called to order at 6:08 p.m.

Committee members present: Alejandra Adame Barcenas, Cecilie Ballard, Jenna Boyd, Carrie Brooker, Joanna Cree, Kathleen Franzen, David Goeddel, Julie Johnson, Elizabeth Kemp, Meghna Kuckreja, Allison La Tarte, Lisa Labissoniere, Katherine McCallum, Kathy Nieber-Lathrop, Debra Pickett, Marina Probasco, Brian Shaw, Tami Shaw, Ryan Sippel, Kim Sloan, Justine Wegner, Julie Winklemann.

Committee member not present: Gretchen Collins, Julie Colmar-Davis, Scott Neville.

Others present: Drew Howick, Mark Roffers, George Mavroulis, Sherri Cyra, Lori Ames, Jeff Fedler, Jessica Schwartz, Perry Hibner, Bob Green, Anne Bauer.

Welcome and Overview

Drew Howick briefly reviewed the agenda for the meeting. He reminded members the various ways they can provide feedback to administration. He noted positive feedback from the last meeting included seeing more options and the wish to see more. Members also expressed a desire to learn more about the process moving forward and next steps.

Howick then reviewed a timeline for the committee's work. He reminded them the Board of Education approved the committee's charge and makeup in February and will review final option recommendations in October or November. The committee spent the first few meetings getting background information and has spent the past three meetings looking at options. Tweaks and refinements to options will occur shortly and the committee will start to identify which options they prefer later this summer. The plan would be to rank their top three and plan for community meetings in August. The community meetings would take place in September and refinements taking place after based on what the members learned and heard.

Assistant Superintendent Sherri Cyra then led the members through a briefly inclusion activity.

Consultant Mark Roffers indicated he has no more options to share after tonight's meeting, but noted members may have other options they want him to present. He noted Option D showed what boundaries might look like based on the fewest number of students shifting to accommodate an attendance area at Pope Farm, while Option E tried to balance socio-economic characteristics more evenly across the seven elementary schools.

Roffers also briefly reviewed what he will cover at the meeting on June 19. He will share updated enrollment projections based on 160 acres north of Middleton being purchased by county and not being developed. He will subdivide four neighborhoods because of expected future housing growth there. He expects to have variations for Option A based on member ideas.

He also wants members in one of next two meetings to begin testing variations to options and see what happens by moving neighborhoods to different attendance areas.

Option D Overview

Under this option, the Pope Farm attendance area includes all of Blackhawk and Elderberry neighborhoods, Roffers said. He noted Elm Lawn, Park and Sunset Ridge would have no attendance area changes.

By shifting the west side of Blackhawk from Sauk Trail to Pope Farm, another change would have to occur otherwise Sauk Trail's enrollment would drop to 270. The shift would move Northlake Neighborhood from Northside to Sauk Trail in part because the demographic makeup of Northlake is similar to the Blackhawk area that previously attended Sauk Trail.

Roffers noted Elm Lawn would be over capacity in 2020, while Elm Lawn and Park would be over capacity in 2025. Pope Farm would be slightly over capacity in 2030 along with Park, although Roffers reminded members there is the ability to expand capacity at the Cross Plains elementary school.

The free and reduced enrollment would range from 6 percent at Pope Farm to 37 percent at Sauk Trail. Pope Farm would have the highest percentage of English Language Learners at 16 percent. Pope Farm (49 percent) and Sauk Trail (42 percent) would have the highest percentage of students of color.

Seventeen percent of elementary students would change schools and 81 percent of those students would move to Pope Farm. Roffers said the only way to get that percentage lower would be to have Pope Farm significantly under capacity when it opens. Seven of the 71 neighborhoods would change schools, and 79 percent of 2025 students would attend the school closest to them compared to 71 percent currently.

Howick then reminded members about process to evaluate options using their dashboard. Members were given 5 minutes to fill out the dashboard evaluation tool. They were then asked to share out at their table and record results. They then discussed how the option rated with each of the nine criteria. Howick also reminded members the goal isn't consensus but to understand the option as best as possible.

One table questioned about under-utilization of Northside and Sauk Trail. Members liked that the option limited movement, especially among marginalized populations. Members also liked that it kept students in schools where relationships have been built. Some thought slight tweaks could ease overcrowding at Elm Lawn and add students to Sauk Trail and Northside although that would lead to more movement.

Roffers noted there have been discussions about splitting Neighborhood 16 by east and west along Parmenter Street, which could also help with over-capacity challenges at Elm Lawn.

Option E Overview

Mark said Option E was developed based comments by members about how the District could better balance socio-economic conditions. He said the option focused on the free and reduced numbers and results in non-contiguous attendance areas for most schools. There are also changes between Park and SSR attendance areas. Some walking zoned neighborhoods would also be bused to other schools.

Under this option, Neighborhood 25 (west side of Blackhawk) stays at Sauk Trail. The option also takes two areas in the City of Middleton and assigns them to Pope Farm. There are also shifts between Sauk Trail and Northside to achieve more balance.

Every school is expected to be under capacity in 2020. Park and West Middleton are projected to be over capacity in 2025, while Park, Pope Farm and West Middleton are projected to be over capacity in 2030.

The free and reduced enrollment ranges from 13 percent at Sunset Ridge to 25 percent at West Middleton. The English Language Learners enrollment ranges from 1 percent at Park to 17 percent at Pope Farm. Park (11 percent) would have the lowest percentage of students of color, while Pope Farm (49 percent) would have the highest. The other schools would be between 26-35 percent

About one-third of elementary students would change schools and 50 percent of those would go to Pope Farm. Eighteen of the 71 neighborhoods would change, while 65 percent of students would attend their closest school in 2025. Three current walking zone neighborhoods would be bused to another school.

Roffers also noted that since no school reached 30 percent free and reduced lunch eligibility, no school would be eligible to receive Achievement Gap Reduction funds. Sauk Trail currently receives those funds.

Members were then asked to evaluate Option E using the same process they used previously. Howick also reminded members that options aren't any one person's plan but rather an attempt to achieve certain criteria.

Members wondered if there was a way to not have any schools over capacity in 2025 or 2030. Members were concerned about the number of children having to change schools. One member noted it seems equal but wondered if it was equitable. Another wondered if this option would hurt family engagement. Members thought making students who could walk to one school take a bus to another was a negative. Multiple tables wondered if variations to other options might achieve somewhat greater balance between free and reduced numbers, even if the degree of balance shown for Option E could not be met.

Roffers reminded members projections are less certain the further out they are. His goal with projections by 2030 were to make sure no school was 150 or so over capacity. He also said there is bit of guessing because some developments haven't been proposed and are just in the planning stages.

Members noted many of the options have West Middleton over capacity. Roffers noted it is challenging dropping West Middleton's enrollment further without removing children who are already there. He thinks subdividing a couple of neighborhoods where there will be more children in the future may help.

Requests, Considerations & Closing

Howick asked members at each table to identify requests and considerations for Options A-E or any further ideas for original options. Members then spent 20 minutes discussing and placed their suggestions on flip charts. That information will be shared at the next meeting.

Cyra shared an update on family engagement with neighborhoods members wanted to hear from. District officials worked with principals and family engagement specialists to identify events to attend. E-mails and letters were sent that included current boundary attendance area maps and questions in advance to families. Representatives attended the Hot Dog Picnic at Sauk Trail and ice cream social near The Crossings at Elver Park for West Middleton and Glacier Creek students on Wednesday. Representatives will attend another ice cream social near Don's Mobile Manarin in the Sunset Ridge attendance area after school on Thursday. General themes and trends and share will be shared at the next meeting.

Cyra also noted principals from Sauk Trail, West Middleton, Glacier Creek and Kromrey will also attend the June 19 meeting and respond to members' questions. Cyra said she has invited other principals to attend in case other questions come up.

The meeting adjourned was at 8:26 p.m.