



Internal Attendance Boundary Committee Sept. 4, 2019 Meeting Summary

Call to Order

The 10th meeting of the Internal Attendance Boundary Committee was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

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

Committee member not present: Jenna Boyd, Meghna Kuckreja, Marina Probasco.

Others present: Drew Howick, Mark Roffers, Colette Spranger, Dana Monogue, Sherri Cyra, Lori Ames, Rainey Briggs, Jessica Taylor, Jeff Fedler, Jessica Schwartz, Annette Ashley, Bob Green, Katy Morgan, Todd Smith, Perry Hibner.

Welcome and Orientation

Facilitator Drew Howick noted that the meeting was moved from the Kromrey community room to the cafetorium due to a conflict and to provide more space. He briefly reviewed the agenda. He also reviewed the comments and suggestions from committee members from the last meeting.

Deputy Superintendent Sherri Cyra noted the committee asked if PTOs or PTAs could share funds across schools to address equity challenges. She said it is a possibility but that it wasn't something the committee will decide.

Director of Perry Hibner then shared 26 pages of redacted feedback from approximately 110 individuals the District has received from residents regarding the boundary process and options. He also reviewed the neighborhoods that have submitted the most feedback and the concerns from each of those neighborhoods. He noted the feedback was cut off on Aug. 26 to provide enough time for redaction. Feedback since then and through Sept. 18 will be shared at the meeting on Sept. 25.

Consultant Mark Roffers then briefly reviewed Options A1 and D1, which were presented and evaluated at the Aug. 5 meeting. He also reminded the members the eight criteria they should use when evaluating the options. He noted Option A did very well in every area except enrollment vs. capacity based on members' evaluations. He noted members thought Option A1 addressed all of the criteria better than Option A did. He noted Option D did very well in every area except enrollment vs. capacity based on members' evaluations. He noted members thought Option D1 did better although members were still split on enrollment vs. capacity.

Roffers noted Options A, A1, B, D and D1 have each had some support by members but usually only if further variations were made to them. He then reviewed suggested changes made by members to

Option A1 and noted many members noted that to improve Option A1 would tend to turn it into Option D1. He noted there were seven suggested variations by members to Option D1, which is why there are two new variations to Option D1 they will review tonight.

The District's Transportation Department was asked to evaluate the impact of Options A1 and D1. It was noted much of the Blackhawk neighborhood becomes a walking zone to Pope Farm with some sidewalk improvements, while Neighborhood 16E east of Park Street in Middleton becomes a walking zone to Sauk Trail in those options.

The Transportation Department noted there are 30 elementary bus routes for the 2019-20 school year and each one costs about \$46,000 annually. Option A1 would require five more elementary bus routes in 2025 with some of this due to sending Neighborhoods 54-58 to Sunset Ridge in that option. Option D1 would require three more bus routes in 2025.

Building New Variations

Roffers then reviewed members' suggested changes to Option D1 based on the last meeting.

- **Move Neighborhoods 68-69 to West Middleton:** That would put West Middleton over capacity unless other neighborhoods nearer to West Middleton were sent to a different school (see Option A1 as an example).
- **Move Neighborhoods 10-11 back to Northside:** Northside gets closer to capacity but wouldn't projected to be over, while the Sauk Trail free and reduced population increases from 44 to an estimated 47 percent.
- **Move Neighborhood 7 to Sauk Trail and keep Neighborhoods 10-11 at Northside:** Sauk Trail would then be projected to be over capacity by 2020, requiring another neighborhood to be moved out of the school. These changes reduce the free and reduced population there to an estimated 37% at Sauk Trail.
- **Move Neighborhood 9 to Sauk Trail and keep Neighborhoods 10-11 at Northside:** Sauk Trail would be very close to capacity, while its free and reduced population would be an estimated 47%.

Roffers noted that moving Neighborhood 25, which is in west half of Blackhawk, from Sauk Trail to Pope Farm, creates a challenge because Sauk Trail would lose approximately 80 students and put it more than 130 students under capacity at about 280 total students (3 sections per grade). He noted not replacing Neighborhood 25 with one or more others at Sauk Trail would not address Sauk Trail's under-utilization. He suggested a few different criteria that have been used when suggesting replacement neighborhoods at Sauk Trail, which have included closer proximity to Sauk Trail than the school currently assigned, a location near the edge of the District and/or with limited connects to other MCPASD neighborhoods, and/or comparable characteristics to Neighborhood 25.

Options D2 and D3 Overview & Evaluation

In Option D2, the Pope Farm attendance area would include all of Blackhawk (Neighborhoods 24-25) and Elderberry (62-65). The option attempts to improve enrollment balance between Sunset Ridge and Park. Roffers noted that some students who would go to Pope Farm currently attend Sunset Ridge, thereby requiring some "backfilling" at Sunset Ridge. Also, Park is projected to be over capacity.

Option D2 also has Neighborhoods 10, 11 and 16E going to Sauk Trail. Roffers noted it will have been a decade since 16E's last boundary shift. The Elm Lawn attendance area would stay the same as today except for 16E. Elm Lawn would keep 16W in D2, which would help enrollment balance, Roffers said.

No school is projected to be over capacity in 2025 in Option D2. In the option, Park is projected to be 44 students over capacity in 2030, the least of the options to date. As the committee has heard previously, the school site is large enough to add space and increase capacity when needed. Pope Farm is projected to be 25 students over capacity around 2030 but will be a growth school during the 2020s.

In Option D2, Sauk Trail is projected to have the highest percentage of students eligible for free and reduced lunch at an estimated 44 percent. Nineteen percent of elementary students would change schools in Option D2, while 16 of 76 neighborhoods would change with eight going to Pope Farm and five going from Park to Sunset Ridge. About 84% of 2025 students would attend their closest school. Like in D1, the option would require an estimated three additional buses.

In Option D3, Pope Farm attendance area would also include all of Blackhawk and Elderberry, but Brassington Plat in Neighborhood 65N would stay at West Middleton. Neighborhoods 8, 10 and 11 would shift to Sauk Trail, while Neighborhood 16W would move to Northside, and 16E would remain at Elm Lawn in D3. A small part of Neighborhood 37, which includes Don's Mobile Manor, would shift from Sunset Ridge to Northside.

In Option D3, no schools are projected to be over capacity in 2025. Two schools, Park and Pope Farm, are projected to be over capacity around 2030. Elm Lawn also gets closer to its capacity. Sauk Trail's free and reduced lunch population would drop to an estimated 39%. Eighteen percent of elementary students would change schools, while 15 of 78 neighborhoods change. About 83% of 2025 students would attend their closest school.

Howick then reviewed how to review and evaluate the two new option variations with members. Each of the four tables had 40 minutes to use the dashboard to evaluate the options against the criteria and discuss before sharing out.

Each table thought the two options met some of the eight criteria but not all of them. A majority of members at each table thought the options were worth pursuing as is or with variations.

The members had more than 10 potential variations to the two new options. There were five suggested variations for Option D2 – and all suggested changes are differences compared to Option D2:

Variation 1: Neighborhood 7 to Sauk Trail, Neighborhood 16E to Elm Lawn, and Neighborhood 16W to Northside. With these variations, Elm Lawn and Sauk Trail would remain under capacity, while Sauk Trail's estimated free and reduced lunch population would decrease to an estimated 34%.

Variation 2: Neighborhood 16W to Sauk Trail and Neighborhood 16E to Northside. Every school is projected to be under capacity in 2025. Sauk Trail's free and reduced lunch population is estimated at 46% with this variation.

Variation 3: Neighborhoods 67 & 70 to Elm Lawn and 16W to Northside. Elm Lawn's capacity gets tested. West Middleton's enrollment declines and becomes less diverse. This potential variation generated substantial committee discussion, with some suggesting it may lead to a better middle school solution and others expressing concern over its suggested elementary school relocation of a marginalized population of students.

Variation 4: Neighborhoods 68-69 to West Middleton. West Middleton would be over capacity in 2020, 2025 and 2030 by at least 55 students.

Variation 5: Neighborhoods 10-11 to Northside. Northside gets closer to capacity. Sauk Trail's free and reduced lunch population is an estimated 47%.

The committee didn't have time to see the impacts of six suggested variations to Option D3. The committee asked if they could get the variations, including projected enrollment and diversity numbers, in advance of the next meeting and Roffers said that could be done.

Conclusion

One member asked if the committee could revisit Option B. Other members noted that option had been vetted and had less support than Options A and D. There were also concerns with sending Elver Park (Neighborhood 70) students to Elm Lawn after hearing about the supports in place at West Middleton and the feedback from families in that neighborhood and from principals. Howick noted that Option B wasn't removed from further consideration, just tabled to enable more supported options to be explored.

Howick noted at some point committee will need to start deciding which options are the best to share with community. The District has planned to hold two forums in October for the committee to hear from the community.

Roffers suggested having the committee vote on each remaining variation and option at the Sept. 25 meeting to determine which ones would be shared with the community. However, he and Howick stressed more changes can, and will likely, be made after those community meetings.

Howick noted the next meeting is Sept. 25, which conflicts with the Middleton High School Homecoming parade that starts at 6 p.m. The committee voted to move its starting time to 6:45 p.m. and end at 8:45 p.m.

Members were reminded to fill out the meeting evaluation form and submit before they leave.

The meeting adjourned was at 8:30 p.m.