



Internal Attendance Boundary Committee Nov. 20, 2019 Meeting Summary

Call to Order

The 14th meeting of the Internal Attendance Boundary Committee was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

Committee members present: Alejandra Adame Barcenas, Cecilie Ballard, Carrie Brooker, Jennay Boyd, 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, Marina Probasco, Brian Shaw, Tami Shaw, Ryan Sippel, Kim Sloan, Justine Wegner, Julie Winkleman.

Committee members not present: Gretchen Collins, Meghna Kuckreja.

Others present: Drew Howick, Mark Roffers, Colette Spranger, Sherri Cyra, Lori Ames, Dana Monogue, Jeff Fedler, Jessica Schwartz, Bob Green, Katy Morgan.

Welcome and Orientation

Facilitator Drew Howick welcomed members and others in attendance. He reviewed the agenda for the meeting and the key objectives. He noted the bulk of the meeting would be spent reviewing the middle school scenarios and determining a recommendation as this was the committee's final meeting.

Assistant Superintendent for Operations Lori Ames reviewed the online feedback and other resident comments since the last meeting. A summary of the feedback was provided, while the redacted emails were shared with the members in advance of the meeting. She noted any feedback received after this meeting will be shared with the Board of Education.

Ames noted some residents had requested that only one elementary option be forwarded to the School Board. The committee had decided last time to forward two options. Ames also noted there has been some feedback from Neighborhood 37E about moving from Sunset Ridge to Northside.

Deputy Superintendent Sherri Cyra also noted there have been questions about Title I funding. She noted MCPASD receives funds based on the free-and-reduced percentage across the entire District. MCPASD then decides how funds are allocated based on the percentage at each school. She noted that means Sauk Trail would continue to receive Title I funds. She also noted Sauk Trail would reduce achievement gap reduction funds if the school's free-and-reduced population drops below 30 percent.

Later in the meeting, Ames and Cyra reviewed the middle school feedback from attendees at the community forums. They also shared feedback from committee members about the middle school scenarios, which was provided after the last meeting. They noted online feedback was supportive of the Blackhawk Neighborhood going to the same middle school, although Neighborhood 24 preferred that it be Glacier Creek, while Neighborhood 25 wanted it to be Kromrey.

Neighborhood 38 residents had expressed interest in remaining at Glacier Creek if they are moved from Park to Sunset Ridge. There has been lots of feedback about Neighborhood 70 and if it should move from Glacier Creek to Kromrey, although many of the responses have been from residents who don't live in that area.

Preferred Elementary Options Review and Confirmation

Howick then briefly reviewed what was accomplished at the meeting on Nov. 6. He reminded members they made variations to Options A1, D3.1 and D3.7 and ended up with Option A1.4, Option D3.1.3 and Option D3.7.2. The three final options were voted on by members, who decided, based on those results, to forward Options D3.1.3 and D3.7.2 to the School Board for consideration. He then reviewed the updated dashboards for each of the two options to also make sure they reflected what the committee had voted upon. There were no concerns from members with the maps or dashboards.

Howick briefly reviewed the revised maps of the options being forwarded based on the suggestions members made to make sure they were correct.

Review of Middle School Scenarios

Consultant Mark Roffers reviewed suggestions committee members had regarding the middle schools, including having dashboards for each scenario, providing multiple variations that might shift Neighborhood 70 to Kromrey, asking if families in Neighborhood 70 could pick which middle school they attend – which District administration noted would be very challenging -- and exploring a Sunset Ridge-West Middleton scenario.

Roffers then reviewed why middle school attendance areas need to change. He noted neither Glacier Creek or Kromrey has enough capacity to take students from four elementary schools so with the District adding seventh elementary school at least one of those schools would need to send students to each middle school. He also reminded the members that Glacier Creek is already over capacity and much of the anticipated enrollment growth at the middle level over the next few years is expected to be in that current attendance area.

Roffers briefly reviewed questions regarding a third middle school, which could be built on the Pope Farm site. He noted the District would need time to plan for a referendum and it would likely take two years to get a school built even if the referendum was successful, which means a third middle school likely wouldn't open before 2024-25 at the earliest.

In each of the middle school scenarios presented on Oct. 7, Park students would move to Glacier Creek, while Elm Lawn, Northside and Sauk Trail students would move to Kromrey. Roffers then reviewed five scenarios for the three remaining elementary schools, noting if two elementary schools feed the middle schools it could result in fewer shifts from the current assignments, but also smaller groups from each elementary school feeding each middle school.

Roffers also noted middle school boundaries would be the same regardless of whether Option D3.1.3 or Option D3.7.2 is selected.

Sunset Ridge Scenario: Neighborhoods 23, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 33 would attend Kromrey, while the remaining Sunset Ridge neighborhoods would go to Glacier Creek. Twelve percent of middle school students would change schools, although it was noted the shifts are relatively close to Pope Farm should a third middle school go there and students might eventually move to that school. It was also noted that Neighborhood 25 would shift from Kromrey to Glacier Creek.

Pope Farm Scenario: Neighborhoods 24, 25 and 26S would attend Kromrey, while the remaining Pope Farm neighborhoods would go to Glacier Creek. Five percent of middle school students would change schools. It was noted those same neighborhoods would likely shift when a third middle school is built.

West Middleton Scenario: Neighborhoods 60, 61, 63S, 65S, 66, 67, 70 and 71 would attend Kromrey. Roffers noted it was necessary to go farther west to balance enrollment between the two middle schools. Ten percent of middle school students would change schools. Neighborhoods 59-61 would be divided with longer rides regardless of middle school. It was also noted that Neighborhood 25 would shift from Kromrey to Glacier Creek.

Pope Farm-West Middleton Scenario: Neighborhoods 25, 66, 67, 70 and 71 would attend Kromrey. Four percent of middle school students would change schools. This scenario also would likely result in a lower probability of neighborhoods facing two shifts when a third middle school is built.

Sunset Ridge-West Middleton Scenario: Neighborhoods 23, 27, 28, 29, 66, 67, 70 and 71 would attend Kromrey. Eleven percent of middle school students would change schools. It was noted Neighborhood 25 would shift from Kromrey to Glacier Creek. There was a reasonable chance there would be neighborhoods, especially No. 25, shifting again when a third middle school is built.

It was also noted in each of the five scenarios Glacier Creek's projected enrollment in 2025 would be over capacity, although Roffers projected that the combined middle school enrollment starting in 2020-21 will be over the combined capacity of Glacier Creek and Kromrey.

Members had a number of questions related to busing and drive times. Transportation Services coordinator Jeff Fedler did note the scenarios should be close to cost neutral as routes would likely just be shifted from one middle school to another.

Identifying Middle School Scenario Preferences

Members were then given approximately 25 minutes to have discussions at their respective tables about the pros and cons of each of the five scenarios. Representatives from each table shared out to the entire committee and individual members also had an opportunity to share their thoughts.

Among the prevailing themes at most tables was that the scenarios that involved splitting two elementary schools further marginalized students. There were concerns raised about the free-and-lunch disparity between Glacier Creek and Kromrey in the West Middleton, Pope Farm-West Middleton and Sunset Ridge-West Middleton scenarios. There was also concerns about transportation and longer commutes for neighborhoods other than 70 with the West Middleton scenario.

It was noted that positives for the Pope Farm scenario included only 5 percent of students switching schools, very few marginalized students impacted, neighborhoods involved are close to where a third middle school would go, balances capacity, keeps Blackhawk together, and only splitting one school. Negatives included it seems strange to split a new school community and then divide it into two middle schools and that they could be going to a new middle school down the road.

Positives for the Sunset Ridge scenario included balanced free and reduced numbers, and a fairly even split involving the percentage of fourth-graders feeding into each middle school in 2020-21. Negatives included 12 percent of middle school students would change schools, Neighborhood 25 would like move twice when a third middle school opens, and wonderings if it makes sense for the elementary school second closest to Glacier Creek to send any students to Kromrey.

Members then ranked the five scenarios. Pope Farm had the most support (1.86) and Sunset Ridge finished second at 2.55, while West Middleton finished third at 3.09. When Howick asked for preferences between the top two scenarios, 14 members indicated they preferred the Pope Farm scenario, while six preferred the Sunset Ridge scenario and two didn't indicate a preference.

Howick then asked members if they wanted to offer any modifications to either the Pope Farm or the Sunset Ridge scenario. One suggestion was to move Neighborhood 26S to Glacier Creek. The committee voted in favor of making the modification. The committee decided to only forward the Pope Farm Scenario to the School Board. The committee also said it was fine having the District develop the final dashboard for the middle school scenario.

Board president Bob Green thanked the committee for all of their hard work on this process and due diligence. Green also noted it is unlikely the District would pursue a middle school referendum before 2022, in part because of building plans the City of Middleton has. Ames handed out a form with three questions that members were asked to fill out and get back to the District about the boundary committee process.

The meeting adjourned was at 8:11 p.m.