

Meeting: Demographic Trends & Facility Planning Committee

Date: July 11, 2019

Time: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Administration Building, Room 123C

Attendees:

Committee Members:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alicia Arnold	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nic Ashman	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh Clements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Margot Dahling	<input type="checkbox"/> David FitzGerald
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Goings	<input type="checkbox"/> Heather Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> Liwei (Amanda) Guo	<input type="checkbox"/> Anne Hartman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caro Johnson
<input type="checkbox"/> Caitlin Lee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phil Lyons*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zoe Roberts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Weichelt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim Nordin
Resource (non-voting) Members:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kim Koller	<input type="checkbox"/> Abby Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darryl Petersen	<input type="checkbox"/> Heidi White	<input type="checkbox"/> Jim Schmitt
<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Hardebeck	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Knutson	<input type="checkbox"/>		

*Chair

Notes: Jennifer Knutson

The meeting was called to order by Phil Lyons at 4:34 p.m. Roll call was performed.

- **Public Comment**
 - No comments.
- **Approval of Minutes from May 16, 2019**
 - Caro Johnson moved to approve. Zoe Roberts seconded the motion.
 - All in favor: all voting members. Opposed: none.
- **Election of Chairperson**
 - Alicia Arnold nominated Phil Lyons for another term as committee chairperson. Ryan Weichelt seconded the nomination.
 - All in favor: all voting members. Opposed: none.
- **Review of Boundaries**
 - One member requested time to refresh the committee of key questions regarding boundaries to which the committee agreed. What about grandfathering those currently at Roosevelt? What about their siblings? What about transportation?
 - The committee reviewed the presentation shared at the June Board meeting. A reminder was mentioned to the Board that beginning in 2020-21, the move will be made to 7 elementary sections with one of them being a 2-section (Roosevelt). The next step is to wait for the Board’s decision on elementary boundaries to then be able to discuss how that will impact the middle school boundaries. What about the other half of the elementary concerns? What about 4K?
 - The Board requested this committee create answers for questions that might arise. Whether the Board uses the committee’s recommendation or not, they will consider any and all recommendations. It was stated that when this happened at the secondary level, the committee had provided the Board with actual boundary suggestions.

- As a reminder, a committee member mentioned the Board's open enrollment practice of placing within a northside feeder school.
- One committee member thinks the Board is close to approving based on the committee's details. That member asked the rest how they feel about #3 on the working document: All students in the boundary change area to choose to attend elementary school if they have concurrent enrollment with a sibling. Another member pointed out #6 on the working document: Transportation be provided to students affected by the boundary change to during a transition timeline.
- Committee members need to know if 4K is involved in any of these recommendations. Will they be in a new building or a southside school or not affected by this decision? One member agreed to check on the issue. A member stated concern about #3: concurrent enrollment with siblings due to years of impact. For the next 5 years, all the schools that boundaries are moved will be hands off. Another committee member said when the Board approved dual immersion, Roosevelt's fate was sealed. The committee wondered if Roosevelt is an option at all. Would a new school need to be built, or add a section to Sam Davey? What options are still on the table for the committee to review?
- A question that was frequently asked is how will this impact the high school boundaries? Lines that were just set will remain as they are, especially in the third ward. Students will go to the high school that they are currently assigned. With 4K students, it was noted that information wouldn't be available for two more years. A committee member commented we shouldn't penalize northside but don't want it off the table. It's the best for the town and no movement towards changing boundaries should happen for at least five years. A member asked if it was possible to ask direction from the Board on what they are expecting this committee to provide. A decision? Recommendation? The question needs to be addressed before anything permanent happens. It was decided to stay clear of boundary issues until they are asked to do something about them. On another note, if Roosevelt is staying around, it would be an opportunity for construction.
- A committee member said it would not make sense to move to Delong if the student if they were going to Northstar. Another member said that was #2 on the document: Students currently attending middle school will be allowed to remain at the middle school until they move onto high school.
- Referring to the boundary change map draft, there are maps with boundary change are #9 that are currently going to Sherman and boundary area change #10 that are currently going to Roosevelt.
- Both sides of 11th Street currently attend Lakeshore. Check into where the boundary line is drawn on Cameron Street (which house is the cutoff). The discussion and decision from the members were to make it clear that all students on 11th Street (both sides) go to Lakeshore.
- A committee member asked if it would make more sense for all 11th Street students to attend Sherman. The response was for clarity purpose only. The discussion and decision from the members were that both sides of the street will go to one school regardless of which school is ultimately chosen. If the boundary is 11th Street, it will continue to be a straight line.

ACTION ITEM(S)

- Need feedback from the board regarding 4K.
- Both sides of 11th Street will go to Lakeshore.
- **Development of parameters from Board**
 - A committee member mentioned there was some discussion before and after the Board meeting about what would happens to elementary students in the boundary affected areas that didn't have siblings in high school at the time of the high school boundary change?
 - If the district grandfathered everyone that had a sibling coming later, the transition clause could go on for a very long time. For example, say I attended as a Kindergartner, my mom had a baby in July. That child would be in Kindergarten when I'm in 5th grade. Is that child who was not born permitted to go to Roosevelt? The

response to this example was that grandfathering can set up an 18-year chain reaction. One committee member said it's affect was more long-term in elementary school vs middle school (being only three years). The high school boundary change was cognizant of that concern with transportation having a 2-year transition timeline. Once two years elapsed, the district no longer transports for boundary change exceptions. Another member used the following example: if my boundary is getting moved to Lakeshore from Roosevelt, as a 4th and 5th grader I could continue to go to Roosevelt. If Lakeshore is my new school, a 4th grader could go to Lakeshore with younger siblings. It's much harder to change the exceptions to the boundaries with siblings. If you want to stay with your sibling(s), you will need to go to the new school.

- There was much discussion about grandfathering siblings, limiting transportation, quick vs slow transitions, causing a disadvantage to families who can't transport, and many other issues when changing school boundaries.
- **Ryan Weichelt motioned to make boundary changes effective in 2020-21. Caro Johnson seconded the motion.**
 - The question was asked if anyone spoke to Student Transit about possible problems. Student Transit's concern was if this transition goes on forever, there would not be a feasible transportation solution. If ECASD asks Student Transit to provide transitional boundary change transportation with an actual end date, Student Transit could find a way to make it work.
 - A committee member asked if the middle schools are changing. Two middle schools (DeLong and Northstar) will be impacted by the boundary change. Students changing from Roosevelt to Sam Davey will go to Northstar instead of DeLong. Students changing from Longfellow to Northwoods will go to Northstar instead of DeLong.
 - The aforementioned motion was essentially to move everyone. Everyone attending right now will get moved. Concern was brought up that it is irresponsible to make students move. This is their education. Elementary is when their family is engaged. This could have a severe impact on the school, PTA funds, engaged parents, and could create a toxic environment. Additional discussion brought on the sentiment that if everyone gets moved, we all feel pain at once, and will get through it together. For cost effective purposes, if we start grandfathering everything and transportation routes then what's the point? With Alternate School Requests, the district honors continuous enrollment when one of the siblings is in fifth grade. The younger sibling can stay with the older sibling through the older sibling's fifth-grade year only but then the younger sibling must go back to their resident neighborhood school. The oddities that happen occasionally are with younger students that have 4th and 5th grade siblings. How does something like this sit with the committee? Better with this clarification. This year's 5th graders not impacted. Fourth graders have two years of transition. It really impacts Kindergarten through 3rd grade. The incoming Kindergarten class of 2020-21 would then need to go to their neighborhood school within the new boundary. Students going into 5th grade will stay at Roosevelt for 1 year. If they had siblings, the family could choose to leave kids in Roosevelt for one year. At the start of 2020-21 school year, they would go to their new school. What would the school enrollment numbers be? For clarification, this is the district model currently in place for alternate school requests. Agreed that it would be wrong to separate siblings. It was suggested to offer a one-year grandfathered grace period. It is best to use an established district policy.
 - Should we vote against current motion to go with the one-year grace period instead? Right now, we say the boundaries are set. Students could still go to the school district and get an alternate school request for continuous enrollment as a fifth grader. At the high school level, the grandfathered older sibling does not have to fill out an alternate school request, but the younger siblings will need to fill out the form. We agree that the district will not split siblings up into two separate schools unless the parents choose to split the siblings into separate elementary schools.
- **Caro Johnson calls to Ryan Weichelt's motion of including everyone (no grandfathering) into question.**
 - Aye; Caro Johnson, Mark Goings, Dave Fitzgerald, Ryan Weichelt
 - No: Phil Lyons, Zoe Roberts, Margot Dahling

- Abstained/Didn't Vote: Alicia Arnold
 - The committee likes the original motion but wants to include a grace period.
- **Margot Dahling motioned for a one-year grace period for fifth graders as per district policy [alternate school request guidelines]. The motion was seconded by Zoe Roberts.**
 - Committee members emphasized that the motion is with the option for families to request continuous enrollment for their student's 5th grade year and their siblings. In 2021-22 school all students attend neighborhood school. Fifth graders will move to Northstar as part of the new boundary change and not their former (prior to boundary change) neighborhood middle school. After attending Northstar, the transition would be to their neighborhood high school. Some may go to Memorial and some may go to North depending on the location of their residence. Make it known that under no circumstance the Board of Education will not split up siblings into separate elementary schools. If families split siblings, it is the parents' choice. Should we amend the motion to say under no circumstances should the school split siblings between two same level schools? Yes
- **Margot Dahling included in the motion to keep families together during middle school.**
 - Incoming 5th graders along with their siblings have the option to stay at their current elementary school until the 5th grader enters middle school. Will we have the continuous enrollment for the sibling if the sibling is still at the original school? During the one-year transition period, 5th graders have the options to choose. The families can stay together for middle school regardless of geographic location. Boundary change area #1 and #8 are the only areas affected. Keep it separate. It is important to communicate with the public that we are not splitting up families.
- **Margot Dahling: Motion to accept? Motion seconded by Zoe Roberts.**
 - All in favor: All.
 - Against: No one.
 - Regarding transportation and if a student is a 5th grader this year, in 2020-21 the student is going to Northstar unless the student has a sibling at DeLong. Do we provide transportation for the two years we have the sibling but do the parents provide transportation for the third year? We stay consistent with district policy where parents provide transportation. Do we need to make a decision, or can we follow the district's alternate school request policy?
- **Margot Dahling repeated the motion. The motion was seconded by Phil Lyons.**
 - All were in favor to keep families together.
 - No one opposed.

ACTION ITEM(S)

- Switch boundary change descriptive language to state that all students on 11th Street will go to Lakeshore.
- **Future Agenda Items**
 - None noted.

Caro Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Margot Dahling. The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.