

## *A Message from the Attendance Area Committee*

Dear Larrabee, Happy Valley and Lowell Families,

Our [Attendance Area Committee](#) is comprised of parent and staff representatives from all of our three schools. We have been meeting since October and have spent many hours researching, exploring and developing options for how to best revise Happy Valley and Lowell attendance areas to serve Larrabee students and families starting in fall 2014. Attendance areas for current Happy Valley and Lowell students will not change.

At this time, we want to share a draft attendance area proposal that represents our committee's best thinking. Please take a moment to read the brief information enclosed in this email, view the draft map and then take the online survey to give us your feedback by Friday, Jan. 10. Also for those families who want to hear more about our work in person, ask questions and give verbal feedback, our committee will hold a parent input session from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9 in the Larrabee Elementary School gym. Please save the date!

Our committee used the following criteria to develop our attendance area draft for your input:

- o Minimize disruption of student's established learning programs.
- o Provide overall balance of student numbers that relates to facility size and taking into account future growth patterns.
- o Provide a reasonably balanced socio-economic relationship in these schools.
- o Provide the most efficient and feasible means for student transportation to and from schools, including walking routes, and minimizing travel time as well as transportation costs.
- o Wherever possible, keep neighborhoods together.
- o Whenever possible, follow natural boundaries and utilize existing physical boundaries such as major roadways.

We walked the neighborhood and our committee paid particular attention to keeping families together, walkable routes, limiting bus ride time for students, and trying to achieve some balance of socio-economic diversity and parent engagement for both schools without disrupting tight-knit communities that depend on one another for support.

[Please click here](#) to view our proposed attendance area beginning in fall 2014. (Page one of the PDF is a full view and page two is a more detailed view.) Print copies are available at the schools and were sent home on Dec. 18 with Larrabee students, along with the survey.

After viewing the draft map to find your proposed school for fall 2014, **please [click here](#)** (survey closed) **to take the online survey and provide your feedback to our committee by Friday, Jan. 10.**

**Next Steps:** Our committee will hold a parent input session from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9 in the Larrabee Elementary School gym for those who want to hear more about our proposal, ask questions and give verbal feedback. We'll then meet as a committee in mid-January to review and consider the feedback before forming a recommendation to the superintendent by the end of January. The superintendent will then consider our

recommendation, communicate with families and make a decision in February. The district's regular transfer process begins in March and would be applicable for any family considering a request to attend a school outside of their designated attendance area. Current transfers into both Happy Valley and Lowell will continue to be evaluated on an annual basis, according to our [policy 3131/P](#).