

## 2013-14 Happy Valley/Lowell Attendance Area Committee

### November 5, 2013 – Meeting #3 Minutes

1. Rob welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m.
2. Ron Cowan presented the Minutes from the October 22, 2013 meeting, as well as additional handouts of today's agenda and October 2013 Free/Reduced Data for Bellingham Schools.
3. Rob reviewed the anticipated timeline for this committee.
4. In reviewing the October 2013 Free/Reduced Data, it was noted that Happy Valley's free/reduced rate is a little lower than 2012, and Lowell's stayed about the same. The percentage for Title I support in our district is currently 50%.
5. Question: Has there been any reaching out to Larrabee school population with regards to suggested boundaries?  
Answer: Ron and Rob indicated that initial conversations regarding boundary adjustments and safe walking routes took place during the Larrabee community school closure process. Both stated that it is now the work of this team to develop scenarios and provide drafts to the Larrabee community for their input.
6. There was a question regarding whether walking routes will be looked at. Ron assured that all scenarios will investigate safe walking routes. Kim Brown (City of Bellingham Transportation Options Coordinator) can provide maps with sidewalks identified.
7. Rob reviewed the top 5 considerations that the committee should keep in mind during this scenario development process.
8. Steve Walker presented handouts of a Power Point presentation and started reviewing draft scenarios. Of note:
  - The majority of Larrabee students live within 1 mile of either Happy Valley or Lowell.
  - The "tiles" or sections of neighborhoods are not official boundaries, but were developed using committee criteria for planning purposes.
  - There was a question regarding the accuracy of the projected 17 kindergarten students for 2014-15.
  - Question: Could we use the 2012-13 Larrabee student enrollment in the proposed scenarios to see if the trends would stay the same?
  - Steve toggled between the maps for Options A, B, C and D, and then looked at student numbers for each draft scenario at each Happy Valley and Lowell.

- Question: Do we want to think about the transfer students? Ron stated that those 11 students could be added into the draft scenarios. Steve cautioned the committee to not get too caught up in trying to be exact with regards to the difference of a few students and to remember that the team can only use best estimates at this point. Rob added that the team should be thinking in terms of scenarios, not strictly on numbers.

9. Comments from the committee:

- A committee member cautioned that the committee needs to keep in mind the space issues that Lowell would have. Lowell can only handle 2 additional classrooms with their current facility.
- A committee member stated that in her opinion Option C should not be considered.
- One committee member would like to take a close look at an option that would make Lowell less affluent.
- Lowell's principal said the school has 19 of the most vulnerable, impacted students in a special program.

10. Ron stated that he likes the discussion that is happening. His suggestion is to end this meeting on time and come back to the next meeting with more information on walking routes. He can also do some additional investigation with Lowell and Happy Valley principals on what the staffing implications are for each scenario.

11. There was a comment that perhaps the preschool program at Happy Valley and Bridges program at Lowell could be looked at and factored into the scenarios.

12. Rob asked that each committee member look at all options and generate a list of pros/cons for each scenario prior to the next meeting. Questions, comments or information regarding additional scenarios can be emailed to Rob and Ron. Because the scenarios are in draft form at this point, Rob recommended that they not be copied for distribution to anyone outside of this committee until we have had the opportunity to process each scenario as a group.

13. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

**Next Meeting November 19, 2013 3:30-5:00 pm  
Central Services Board Room**