

2013-14 Happy Valley/Lowell Attendance Area Committee

October 8, 2013 – Meeting #1 Minutes

- At 3:00 pm, Rob McElroy welcomed everyone and introduced himself.

Committee members introduced themselves telling each other about their roles (parent, staff member, etc.), families, and interest in serving on the committee.

- Rob talked about the 'Big Picture' part of our process. He discussed the 2006 Bond Issue which necessitated the need to revise all elementary school boundaries as the result of plans to open two new elementary schools, Wade King (2008) and Cordata (2011).

He also mentioned the Birchwood rebuild project and the reopening in fall 2014 which will impact north side boundaries.

He reviewed the work of the Facilities Planning Task Force and the upcoming bond issue on the November 5 ballot.

- Ron reviewed the 2013-14 Happy Valley/Lowell Attendance Area Committee handout with emphasis on Basis for Establishment, Decision Making (Committee authority), Purpose/Goal, Timeline, and Meeting Information.

The question was raised whether modifying other elementary school boundaries to the point that some non-Larrabee students would change schools was a possibility, i.e. might some current Lowell students move to Happy Valley and vice-versa?

Ron answered that the vision for the committee was to establish new attendance areas that would prescribe where Larrabee students will attend school starting Fall 2014 (Committee Basis for Establishment) and not moving students from other schools. He pointed out that one of the consideration factors, 'Minimizing disruption of student's established learning program' would be negatively impacted by moving more students. Nonetheless, if the committee felt strongly that a scenario which included reassigning non-Larrabee students to a different school should be considered, that was possible.

- Rob and Ron reviewed the Attendance Area Committee Consideration Factors and pointed out that the factors are sometimes in conflict with each other and it is not possible to fully meet any single factor. The committee discussed and asked clarifying questions related to the factors.
- Ron reviewed current information about Happy Valley, Larrabee and Lowell including student enrollment, facility size, existing attendance boundary maps, and 2012-13 free/reduced data for all schools. The committee discussed and asked clarifying questions about the information.

- Steve Walker for Middlefork GIS gave a brief overview about GIS technology and how it will assist the committee with their work.

- The committee asked Ron and Rob to provide:
 - 1) A summary of how many students attend schools outside of their home attendance area.
 - 2) Information on whether pre-school and Bridges students are included in the free/reduced data that was distributed
 - 3) A copy of the Student Transfer Policy/Procedure
 - 4) A map showing free/reduced students

- The committee thought it was a good idea to meet at Happy Valley and Lowell for their October 22 meeting. This would allow Karen and Missy to give a tour of their schools, explain how spaces are currently used and show/explain how additional students could be accommodated at their schools.

The committee will meet at Happy Valley Elementary on October 22 from 3:30-4:00, travel to Lowell from 4:00-4:15 and conclude the meeting at Lowell from 4:15 to 5:00.

- Rob distributed a handout about working as a team and asked committee members to review it for our next meeting.

- The meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.