



## **Attendance Areas PreK-12 Standing Committee**

Jan. 19, 2017

### **Reconnect and Overview - Rob McElroy/Steve Clarke**

Co-Chair Rob McElroy (Executive Director) welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided a brief overview of today's agenda.

### **Review Jan. 12, 2017 Minutes – Rob McElroy**

He asked that a few minutes be spent reviewing the minutes from the Jan. 12, 2017 meeting. Ron Cowan, Executive Director of Capital Projects and School Facilities, asked for a clarification of the response to inquiry question 4 relating to services available to schools within the Bellingham city limits. The minutes will be changed to indicate that the services referred to are City of Bellingham services (sidewalks, police, etc.), not Bellingham Public Schools services. A motion was made by parent representative Emily O'Connor to approve the minutes as amended; the motion was seconded and there was a unanimous affirmative vote to approve.

### **Respond to Inquiry Questions – Team**

Rob directed everyone to the inquiry questions at the end of the Jan. 12 meeting minutes. The team of Rob, Steve Clarke (Assistant Superintendent, Department of Teaching and Learning) and Chris Behee (City of Bellingham Planning Department) took time to respond to those questions:

1. As Dr. Baker stated at the opening meeting of this committee, the district owns property near King Mountain off of Bakerview Road. It is possible that this property could be used for a school site following a future bond. However, for our short-term work, we may not want to operate on that assumption and should not consider tiles in that area for potential moves, as this would be several years out if it were to happen.
2. Chris indicated that we do not have a way to specifically determine family income levels in order to assist with socio-economic balance, so we will use free/reduced data as an indicator. He did have some maps with generalized home values.

### **Tools Available Today – Chris Behee**

Chris presented the large maps that table groups will be working with today and explained the data that is contained in the maps.

Steve made an overview of the contents of today's notebook additions, as well as some elementary school capacity and student enrollment projections for 2017-2026. Questions included:

- How do you get the numbers for the enrollment projections?  
*Steve indicated that Simone Sangster, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, worked with City of Bellingham and independent demographers to obtain the information.*
- Would annexation increase the student numbers?  
*Chris indicated that some residential properties may re-develop, but that will not necessarily increase the student population.*
- What might have caused the growth for Carl Cozier from Oct. 15 to Oct. 16?  
*Chris indicated that some small subdivisions have been built and sold over the past year. There are also people moving around within Bellingham, which will cause some fluctuation.*

### **Elementary – Small Work Groups**

Approximately 20 minutes was spent in work groups of 5 or 6 using the elementary maps and other data, for the purpose of coming up with possible scenarios that could help to alleviate the high enrollment numbers at Cordata and create room for future growth. Each work group then shared with the large group some of the ideas that they had generated.

### **High School – Small Work Groups**

Approximately 20 minutes was then spent in work groups of 5 or 6 looking at the high school maps and data, for the purpose of coming up with some scenarios that could help to balance the enrollment numbers at Bellingham High and Squalicum High. Those work groups then shared with the large group their ideas that had been generated.

### **Wrap Up**

Rob stated that there will be a small planning meeting in the morning on Jan. 25 where the ideas generated will be reviewed more closely in order to come up with recommended scenarios for consideration at the Jan. 26 committee meeting. He invited those who are interested to attend (8:30-12:00 at Central Services).

Rob thanked everyone for their work today. Executive Director of Communications and Community Relations Tanya Rowe shared that there is a possibility that a message may be going out to families next week, updating the work of this committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

### **Inquiry Questions:**

1. Can we monitor month-to-month transience at each school?
2. Can we look at the number of elementary transfers? Do projections take into account the transfers?
3. Reminder that it is important to ensure the breadth of poverty at schools versus the imbalance of mostly low and high incomes. How would we know income level while making these decisions if we are only looking at free/reduced meal rates?