



Attendance Areas PreK-12 Standing Committee

March 16, 2017
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Welcome

Co-Chair Rob McElroy welcomed everyone and thanked them for being here. The goal today is for the committee to review input gathered at the Cordata community meeting, as well as the survey results with regard to the elementary portion of our work.

Review/Approve March 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Rob asked that everyone take a few moments to review the minutes from the March 2, 2017 meeting. A motion was made by committee member Umar Nadeem to approve the minutes as written. Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Simone Sangster seconded that motion and there was a unanimous vote to approve.

Update High School Recommendation & Process

Co-Chairs Steve Clarke and Rob McElroy gave an update on the high school portion of the committee's recommendation. Dr. Baker has accepted that recommendation and communications have been sent to families who are impacted by the high school attendance area adjustment. The principals and staff at Bellingham High School, Squalicum High School and Shuksan Middle School have also been communicating with families. Bellingham High School Principal Linda Miller shared that the staff members at Squalicum and Shuksan have been great to work with. Principals are in the process of reviewing transfer requests and planning welcoming/transition activities for students. Steve also noted that a communication has gone out to families who live in close proximity of the affected area, and a handful of transfer requests have been received by those families.

Review Elementary Proposal Feedback/Input

- March 9 Cordata Meeting
- Survey
- Small Group - Themes

Rob thanked the committee members who were able to attend the March 9 meeting at Cordata. He asked those who were in attendance to share their takeaways from the meeting:

- Families love Cordata. The team did a great job of listening to concerns of families.
- Because Cordata does not have established neighborhoods, it is difficult to get families to participate.

- Two families expressed concern about the adjustment as they live close enough to walk to Cordata.
- One family shared that they started at Sunnyland, were moved to Cordata, and will now go to Parkview – all due to attendance area changes. Rob talked about the establishment of the attendance areas of both Cordata and Birchwood and how those moves occurred.

Rob noted that approximately one-half of the families participated in the survey, which is a high level of participation. He asked that the committee members review the survey summary data provided, and they broke into small groups to take a closer look at the input. When this was complete, Steve then asked if anything had surfaced that would lead to making a change in the proposed recommendation. The following was shared:

- It may be helpful to include an explanation regarding why certain areas were/were not included in the recommendation (such as the Fruitland area). Discussion followed.

Rob asked the committee if they are comfortable going forward with this phase of the recommendation, and it was a unanimous decision to move forward. Rob indicated that a draft of the recommendation will be sent to the committee next week for review, and Dr. Baker will receive the recommendation prior to spring break.

Updates

A notification recently went out regarding the formation of a Facilities Planning Task Force. That task force will take a look at where the district is with the current bond projects and will start looking at facility work that will be needed in the future. This committee will be pausing its work until the Facilities Planning Task Force is further along in its work. It may be that the Attendance Areas PreK-12 Standing Committee will meet with the Facilities Planning Task Force in May.

In closing, Director of Transportation Rae Anne Thon thanked Steve Clarke, Rob McElroy and Executive Director of Communications and Community Relations Tanya Rowe for helping this group to work through this process. Linda Miller also thanked the committee for their thoughtful work.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.