



Attendance Areas PreK-12 Standing Committee

March 2, 2017
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Welcome

Co-Chair Rob McElroy thanked everyone for coming to this abbreviated meeting. He explained that this additional meeting was called because he and Co-Chair Steve Clarke felt there may have been some ambiguity at the last meeting regarding two issues and whether the committee was prepared to send the recommendation pertaining to the high school attendance area changes to the superintendent.

Review/Approve Feb. 16, 2017 Meeting Minutes

After review, there was a suggestion to make one minor change to the Feb. 16, 2017 meeting minutes. A motion was then made by committee member Sharece Steinkamp to approve the minutes as amended. Committee member Brad Swanson seconded that motion and there was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes as amended.

Confirm High School Recommendation

- Northeast Boundary
- Transfers

Rob clarified the northeast boundary of the Birchwood neighborhood that is contained in the proposed high school attendance area recommendation. Recognizing that high school course registration is in process, the committee agreed that it is ready to move forward with the original recommendation to the superintendent. Families who live outside of the area included in the recommendation are welcome to submit a transfer request under the district's transfer policy and procedure. It was suggested that there be some outreach to the families that live outside of the Greenwood Avenue line, as it could be that families are not clear about the possibility of future additional phases of attendance area changes. Executive Director of Communications and Community Relations Tanya Rowe spoke to some possible messaging that could occur to families nearby, which would alert families that additional changes may occur in the future.

Squalicum High School Principal James Everett and Bellingham High School Principal Linda Miller stated that there should be clarity about the criteria for requesting a transfer. Steve Clarke talked about the amended transfer process for those living at an address affected by the attendance area change. Students from Squalicum who will be in 12th grade in the fall of 2017 will be able to attend Squalicum for their senior year if they submit a transfer request. All other current Squalicum students living within the area affected by the recommendation will attend Bellingham High School, unless a transfer request is approved. This year's 8th grade students

living within that area will be expected to attend Bellingham High School for their 9th grade and subsequent years. A committee member suggested that there be some clarification regarding which transfer requests will be automatically approved and which will only be considered. The written recommendation addresses transportation. Linda asked Transportation Director Rae Anne Thon if there is an estimate of the number of seats that would be available to transfer students on the Squalicum school bus. Rae Anne stated that those numbers will not be available until re-routing occurs. She cautioned that families should not make a transfer request on the assumption that district transportation will be available.

Rob asked committee members if they were ready to submit the recommendation once the changes discussed today are made. All committee members were in favor of moving forward with the recommendation.

James Everett and Linda Miller then gave an update on how students are receiving the news of the changes. There was also some discussion about equity and the future work of this committee to continue to look at equity.

Elementary Boundary Adjustment and Process

- Cordata-Alderwood
- Cordata-Parkview

Because there were some clarifying questions asked after the Feb. 16 meeting had adjourned, Rob referred committee members to the map that Cordata families received. Some adjustments were made to that map, and there has been some input from families east of Northwest Road who were not included originally and now are. The input that is being received will be brought to this group at the next meeting. Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Simone Sangster talked about the specific number of students who live within specific tiles. There will be feedback taken at the March 9 meeting at Cordata Elementary and the committee will process that feedback, as well as survey results, at the March 16 meeting.

Cordata Community Meeting

Rob invited committee members to attend the Cordata Community meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 9 (at Cordata Elementary), to hear feedback from families affected by the elementary attendance area changes.

The next meeting of this committee will be Thursday, March 16, 3:00-5:00, in the Central Services Board Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m.