



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

October 25, 2018

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

### **Welcome**

Co-Chair Steve Clarke, Assistant Superintendent Director of Teaching and Learning, welcomed the committee members and provided an overview of today's agenda.

### **Introductions**

Steve asked everyone to introduce themselves and share if they are a returning or new member of the committee.

### **Review Objectives and Norms**

Co-chair and Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Jay Jordan shared norms for the committee: Be respectful, be productive and be stewards of the process. We are coming together because we need to bring balance to our schools. Overcrowding, growth and an interest to balance our student population including those who qualify free and reduced meals, all play a factor. These crucial conversations need to happen in order to offer options or recommendations to the community.

**Approval of the Sept. 13 Minutes** – Steve asked that committee members review the minutes from the Sept. 13 meeting. A motion was made by committee member April Barker to approve the minutes as written. Committee member Sharece Steinkamp seconded that motion, and there was a unanimous vote to approve.

### **Policy 3130**

Policy 3130 guides our work. These factors are considered when making attendance area recommendations. No one factor is more important over the other.

### **Map Scenarios**

The majority of the meeting was spent reviewing draft scenarios and maps. There has been a lot of data collected, and the committee is looking more closely at two elementary and two middle school scenarios and how they impact each other. Each draft scenario shows stats including enrollment, free and reduced lunch, number of kids moved and how they are split into middle schools.

Each group analyzed each of the four scenarios (options A, B, C & D). These scenarios were developed through the committee last year and a subcommittee over the summer that continued this work. These scenarios are not complete and require more input before finalizing.

Each group listed strengths and challenges for each map scenario while thinking of ways we can engage the broader Bellingham community about the committee work.

Steve and Jay encouraged each group to think about what works or what doesn't work for the scenarios, and how things could be done differently.

**Feedback and wonders:**

**Option A** – Alleviates large numbers at Shuskan. Students from multi-family housing currently have access to after-school activities and services at Shuksan. There is interest in making sure families and students have those services if they go to Whatcom.

**Option B** – This option could balance out middle school numbers, but it doesn't fully solve all issues. It is a scenario that has allowed for more flexibility. Does it provide support at Shuksan for planned growth on the north side?

**Option C and D** – Could limit the number of attendance boundaries for middle schools.

**Option C** - Provides flexibility for Shuksan growth. Could cause challenges on transportation including bus ride times and bus capacity. Traffic plays a significant role in decisions as well.

**Option D** – **Creates** balance of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch of any of the scenarios. Could put a significant strain on northern schools if there is continued growth of the northern part of the city.

The Attendance Areas PreK - 12 Standing subcommittee will meet between 15 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Nov. 15. All committee members are invited to attend.

Next Meeting: Nov. 29, 2018 – Steve and Jay concluded the meeting and thanked everyone for their time and work. They will take the feedback from today and finetune these scenarios for our next meeting.

***2018-19 Meeting Dates: 11/29, 1/31, 2/28, 3/28, 4/25, 5/23***