



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

November 29, 2018

3:30 - 5p.m.

### **Welcome / Introductions**

Co-Chair Jay Jordan, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, welcomed everyone. Jay provided an overview of today's agenda and asked the committee to introduce themselves.

### **Review Objectives and Norms**

Jay reviewed the objectives for this meeting: analyze each of our attendance area options for elementary and middle school attendance areas, engage in a process to prioritize our options for feedback and plan how to engage the broader Bellingham community about the committee's work. Jay shared the team norms.

### **Consideration Factors**

The committee again referred to [Policy 3130](#), Student Attendance Areas, which guides our work. All factors should be considered when the district develops and adjusts attendance areas, boundaries, and considers student transfers. Consideration factors are not in priority order and may in fact contradict another.

### **Review and Approve October 25, 2018 meeting minutes**

A few minutes were spent reviewing the minutes from the Oct. 25, 2018 meeting. A motion was made by committee member Tommy Lingbloom to approve the minutes as written. Committee member Lillian Harris seconded that motion, and there was a unanimous vote to approve.

### **Review of Options A through E**

Co-Chair Steve Clarke, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Teaching and Learning, reviewed additional options, including the latest options that were recently refined by the sub-committee.

### **Inquiry Questions/Concerns:**

- Boundary changes can affect schools with Title 1 funding. What are the implications for those schools who would lose funding? The district receives Title 1 funding and can designate the free and reduced percentage to identify Title 1 schools and allocate funding. Do we want to keep some schools Title 1 to maintain funding?
- Concern: The committee identified a low-income section of town that does not have a scenario which offers them alternatives for middle school. In all current draft scenarios,

they will be going to Fairhaven. Committee members feel it is important for them to have an option and the ability to advocate for themselves.

- Travel times and transportation concerns were also discussed.
- Should students living in Sudden Valley have an option to attend Fairhaven Middle School? Are they limited to Kulshan or Whatcom Middle School?
- It is important to look at more than percentages to address equity; our focus needs to always be on doing what is best for students. It is important to bring diversity to Fairhaven Middle School, and also consider the impact on the disadvantaged.
- What happens when diverse populations transition into high school where there is less diversity?
- The committee wondered about the importance of fewer boundary lines and/or contiguous lines (as opposed to geographic splits) on our new attendance area maps.
- It is important for both Shuksan and Whatcom to have continued capacity for the future to deal with growth in the north.
- The committee asked for clarifying detail on each of the scenarios – positive/negative- to help keep the scenarios clear.
- Buildings are just buildings and can be used in a variety of ways. Could we have conversations around the current use and potential use of each building?

### **Develop a Communications Plan to the Larger Community**

The committee feels that input from the community is necessary prior to next steps. We need to continue to be more informed; we don't have full representation at the table.

Typically, feedback has been gathered from the schools. The committee expressed interest in tapping into other areas to gather feedback. Our scenarios were developed as viable options with the intent of going out into the community with these scenarios for feedback.

A decision was made to share scenarios specific to the neighborhood as opposed to presenting multiple options and gather feedback before making further adjustments to the scenarios.

Jay and Steve will work with Executive Director, Communications and Community Relations, Jackie Brawley to design a plan to go into neighborhoods with a communication structure. A date and time will be identified and communicated to committee members. All committee members are invited to engage in the neighborhood meetings.

The committee decided not to revise, prioritize, eliminate or set aside any scenarios before receiving feedback from the larger community.

**Next Meeting: January 31, 2019**

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