



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

February 28, 2019

3:30 - 5 p.m.

### **Welcome**

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

### **Review Objectives and Norms**

Steve shared the objectives for this meeting: look closely at each of our three scenarios and identify plus/delta for each; continue to provide feedback for our dashboards and identify connections to Policy 3130. Steve shared the team norms for the committee and brought forward the importance of being respectful and hearing and considering all opinions and perspectives.

### **Consideration Factors - Policy 3130**

The committee again referred to Policy 3130, Student Attendance Areas, which guides our work. The committee members use these as a filter when considering each scenario. It is important that we are in alignment with these considerations as they connect to policy 3130. Consideration factors should all be considered and are not in priority order. It is likely that the scenario brought forward will not adhere to each consideration factor, as some are contradictory.

### **Review and Approve January 31, 2019 meeting minutes**

Steve asked that committee members review the minutes from the January 31, 2019 meeting. A motion was made by committee member Dustin Heaton to approve the minutes as written and there was a unanimous vote to approve. A committee member asked for clarity around process of posting meeting minutes prior to approving them. To help update the webpage more quickly, we will post minutes as "draft minutes pending approval" and/or send a draft to committee to approve via email.

### **Updates from Neighborhood Visits**

Steve and committee co-chair, Jay Jordan, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, were invited to several PTA/school parent group meetings and individual parent meetings since our January meeting. All committee members are invited to engage in the neighborhood meetings.

Steve and Jay have met with Silver Beach parents twice. When they met with them in December, they heard about concerns related to the distance between Shuksan Middle School and residents who live on the far side of Lake Whatcom, whose children currently attend Whatcom.

When Jay and Steve met with Silver Beach parents on Feb. 25, more parents attended, and they had different concerns to share, based on the new scenarios posted on the committee webpage.

Steve shared concerns and questions they heard from families who live in the Tweed Twenty neighborhood and on Academy. Dozens of parents had circulated a petition against changing attendance areas.

Here are some of the comments and questions from Silver Beach residents, which committee members discussed:

- I don't want to change schools.
- Silver Beach is too big. We need to make a change with Silver Beach's school boundaries.
- Concerns from Tweed Twenty residents centered around safe walking routes. They are concerned there are no sidewalks or street lights and that they have to cross McLeod Rd. if they were to go to Northern Heights.
- We feel connected to Silver Beach.
- If we have to go to Northern Heights, we would like to have a bus to address safety concerns around walking. We do have multiple bus stops in the area.
- Some residents feel they are being targeted for economic reasons. Tweed Twenty is an affordable neighborhood (not affluent).
- Some expressed concerns related to bussing time to get to/from Shuksan from Tweed Twenty or Academy.
- In the scenario G, there was worry about a "double disruption" with families having to change both elementary and middle schools.
- From Academy residents: We are an isolated neighborhood. If you're going to move us, please don't do a double disruption. We will not have connection to our neighbors.
- About 70 students live in the Academy area. About 120 students live in the Tweed Twenty neighborhood.
- Is it a consideration to convert an elementary school to a middle school? Vice versa?
- Could district property on Cougar Road be a middle school as opposed to an elementary school?
- What about other areas in the district? Some asked about the travel time from Sudden Valley to Fairhaven Middle School.
- What are the longest bus rides in the district? How long is too long?
- During the phase out/phase in process, will we provide transportation for those who want to be grandfathered?
- Wonders about free and reduced population changes by moving students who live on Academy or Tweed Twenty to/from Silver Beach and Northern Heights.

### **Committee Feedback on Options**

The majority of the meeting was spent reviewing each of the three scenarios (A, F2 & G) in more detail and identifying strengths and challenges for each map scenario.

Feedback and wonders:

#### SCENARIO A:

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- *Parkview and Columbia students stay together at middle school (no split)*
- *Helps with middle school equity*
- *Cleaner elementary-to-middle school feeder patterns at the north end of town.*
- *Accommodates growth in the north end more efficiently with more schools having capacity to take in extra growth (Shuksan, Whatcom).*

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- *Need to address walking routes for Columbia walking to Shuksan (note: Birchwood currently accessing similar routes by foot/bike)*
- *Columbia has no capacity for increased enrollment*
- *Parkview may not be able to house Columbia transfers (until new Parkview opens)*
- *Roosevelt split (unless Wade King boundaries are changed, which might create room for all Roosevelt students at Kulshan)*
- *Wonder: do tiles 86, 87, 88 become unintended split? (Shuksan is small in numbers with more going to Whatcom)*

#### SCENARIO F2:

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- *Fewest families disrupted*
- *Moving Academy to Whatcom would address the concerns at Silver Beach meeting, but it creates other problems - a very uneven split from Northern Heights into Whatcom and Shuksan.*

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- *Whatcom won't absorb future growth*
- *Whatcom numbers are too low / Fairhaven numbers are too high*
- *Elementary attendance areas have little change - for example, does not address growth in Cordata neighborhood, and doesn't increase numbers at Parkview*
- *To reduce numbers at Fairhaven, we need to move the line for Wade King families between Kulshan and Fairhaven (south at Yew Street).*
- *Concerns with moving Regency park residents from a closer school (Kulshan) to a school farther away (Fairhaven)*

#### SCENARIO G:

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- *Academy / Hillsdale to Silver Beach and then Kulshan*
- *100% of Sunnyland / Part of Roosevelt to Whatcom*
- *Fix for SB – Academy to go SMS/WMS – include Sunnyland. 3-way switch to make that happen. Steve and Chris to work on this.*
- *Puts Shuksan at the lowest numbers and they are going to continue to increase in numbers.*

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- *We've lost focus of our priorities. Shuksan will be at 750 next year with 260 incoming sixth graders. There isn't time to keep holding off. We need to focus on relieving capacity at Shuksan, not elementary lines.*

Steve and Jay will take feedback from today and begin to identify the implications for our current high school attendance areas against these scenarios.

***Next Meeting: March 28, 2019***

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