

## Draft notes, pending committee approval



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

March 28, 2019  
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

#### **Welcome**

Co-Chair Jay Jordan, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, welcomed the committee members and provided an overview of today's agenda.

#### **Introductions**

#### **Review Objectives and Norms**

Jay reviewed the committee's objectives: We are coming together because we need to balance the numbers for our schools. Overcrowding and growth at Shuksan Middle School and Silver Beach Elementary School and the increased capacity of the new elementary schools (Parkview, Alderwood and Sunnyland) factor into this decision. These crucial conversations need to happen to submit a recommendation to the superintendent. Our goal today is to narrow our options. Jay shared the team norms for the committee and brought forward the importance of being respectful and productive stewards of the process.

#### **Approval of the Feb. 28 Minutes**

Jay asked that committee members review the minutes from the February 28 meeting. A motion was made by committee member Linda Miller to approve the minutes as written. Committee member Kate Destler seconded that motion, and there was a unanimous vote to approve.

#### **Neighborhood Visits**

Co-chairs Jay and Steve Clarke, Assistant Superintendent, gave an update on their neighborhood visits. A visit to the Tweed Twenty neighborhood consisted of listening to residents and answering questions. Steve, Jay and a few committee members walked through the neighborhood for 45 minutes. There is a good understanding of the residents' concerns: safety and busing. The neighbors identified several potential hazards. The community has been in contact with the county sheriff's office about the safety concerns and believe this area should be monitored because of blind spots in the area and drivers running stop signs. They were able to see natural boundaries for the neighborhood with another neighborhood. Steve and Jay also answered questions about [Policy 3130](#). The group was concerned about the distance to proposed elementary and middle schools. This meeting was also a way to understand how neighborhoods are connected. This neighborhood wants the committee to know how they think about the disruption factor. These meetings can be intense because residents do not want to leave their neighborhood schools, but they also understand the need to adjust.

## Draft notes, pending committee approval

### **Where Are We in Our Process and Timeline?**

Jay mentioned that the overall goal is to narrow our options down to one and make sure this option allows us to address any hot spots such as the high enrollment at Silver Beach and Shuksan. Shuksan's incoming sixth grade class is predicted at 261. In May, if we get down to one option, we need to continue to meet with neighborhood groups to gather feedback. We are looking at developing a community survey, so the community can continue to provide feedback. We will continue to answer emails and meet with families to hear concerns.

In January, the team met with families who live at Regency Park but is planning on going back to this neighborhood due to the low turnout. We are looking into potentially hosting an event in the Carl Cozier neighborhood.

### **Looking at Our Options for a Recommendation**

Steve recognized City of Bellingham Planner Chris Behee for working so hard at keeping the scenarios updated.

Option A – Steve shared that Option A does share growth, with Shuksan and Whatcom picking up all growth on the north end. But Whatcom Middle School is large in this option at 675. The free and reduced numbers are reasonable. Some don't like this option because it has 27% of Roosevelt going to Whatcom and the rest going to Kulshan. Columbia is too big in this option.

Option A Modified – The committee discussed some modifications to Option A, which has all of Cordata going to Whatcom. It could be challenging to have all the growth going to only one school. The Alderwood area will grow eventually. There are neighborhood concerns about going from Silver Beach to Northern Heights and then onto Shuksan, and this allows students who live on Academy Street to stay at Silver Beach and Kulshan. This fixes the Roosevelt split, with all of Roosevelt going to Kulshan. The committee thinks A Modified is a better option over Option A. The free and reduced numbers are better than any other scenario. The committee eliminated Option A and kept A Modified through a consensus strategy.

Option B Modified – The committee reintroduced Option B with modifications to make it more viable. Cordata splits between Whatcom and Shuksan. Option B Modified helps to share the growth between Whatcom and Shuksan, it sends Tweed Twenty to Northern Heights and keeps them at Whatcom. Columbia moves to Shuksan in this option.

Option F2 - The committee reviewed Option F2 and discussed its challenges. Because it does not allow two middle schools to absorb growth in the north, the committee eliminated Option F2.

Option G Modified – This option splits the area of growth in the north. Columbia would remain at Whatcom, and Tweed Twenty would become Northern Heights and Shuksan. The numbers of Option G Modified are comparable to Option B Modified in size and free and reduced demographics.

Jay asked the committee to discuss the three scenarios brought forward, (Option A Modified, Option B Modified & Option G), to see if there was agreement to eliminate one of the scenarios. The committee voted and did not eliminate any of the three options being considered. Option B Modified received the most support, followed by Option G.

## Draft notes, pending committee approval

The committee agreed to meet before the next scheduled meeting on April 25 to look at the scenarios further and come to a decision. This meeting will take place on Thurs., Apr. 18, from 3:30-5:00 p.m. and will be held at the District Office.

Steve and Jay concluded the meeting and thanked everyone for their time and work. They will take the feedback from today and fine tune the scenarios for our next meeting.

*Next Meeting: April 18, 2019*

*2018-19 Meeting Dates: 4/18, 4/25, 5/23*