



Attendance Areas PreK-12 Standing Committee

April 18, 2019
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Welcome

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

Review and Approve March 28, 2019 meeting minutes

Jay asked that committee members review the minutes from the March 28, 2019 meeting. A motion was made by committee member Tom Gresham to approve the minutes as written and committee member Lynn Heimsoth seconded that motion and there was a unanimous vote to approve.

Processing Our Options

Option A Modified

The committee focused first on Option A Modified as it received considerably less support than the Option B Modified and Option G Modified at the March 28 meeting. Steve Clarke, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Teaching and Learning, reviewed some plus/deltas for this scenario.

Option A Modified:

- + Free/reduced lunch population was evened out more than other options.
- + Fewer elementary schools splitting into middle schools.
- Δ Whatcom picks up all the growth on the north end. There is no way to share the growing population with Shuksan.
- Δ Silver Beach (Tweed Twenty) neighborhood has changes at both elementary and middle school.
- Δ It ties our hands for any future growth.

Committee member Matt Whitten made a motion to eliminate Option A Modified, committee member Jeff Coulter seconded the motion and there was unanimous vote, by show of hands, to eliminate Option A Modified as a scenario to bring forward.

Option B Modified and Option G Modified

Steve provided an overview of the remaining options: Option B Modified and Option G Modified. Jay asked committee members to look closely at these options and consider the potential changes to some of our attendance areas. Jay asked committee members to think about community input and try to anticipate how our families will react to the modifications. Share out from the group included the following plus/deltas:

Option B Modified

- + 100% of Columbia goes to Shuksan as opposed to splitting between two middle schools.
- + Carl Cozier students that are moved go to Fairhaven and Sehome. There is strong interest to provide an activity bus to transport students after school.
- + All Roosevelt students will go to Kulshan (currently it splits down Alabama (Kulshan/Whatcom).
- + With Birchwood and Columbia at Shuksan, a higher percentage of students from Shuksan will go to Bellingham.
- + Columbia is in close proximity to Shuksan. There is currently a bus that transports some Columbia students to Whatcom. It is likely a bus would transport some Columbia students to Shuksan.
- + Decreases Columbia's enrollment by making a boundary change with Parkview.
- + Growth at Cordata is balanced between Shuksan and Whatcom.
- + IB connection between Birchwood, Columbia and Alderwood all going to Shuksan.
- + Shared growth between Shuksan and Whatcom.
- + Shuksan has a more diverse student population.
- + Tweed Twenty/Silver Beach: change only in elementary school (some Silver Beach students will go to Northern Heights).
- Δ: Changes both elementary (to Sunnyland) and middle school (to Whatcom) for tile 69.
- Δ: Columbia families say proximity to Whatcom makes it safer for walking and biking.
- Δ: More elementary splits into middle schools.
- Δ: Fairhaven and Kulshan are near max capacity.
- Δ: Safe walking routes to Northern Heights and/or busing options.

Option G Modified

- + Less disruption for Columbia (stays the same).
- + Free/Reduced population at Shuksan will reduce.
- + Kulshan takes most of Silver Beach. Roosevelt comes out of Kulshan.
- + No change to Roosevelt's current boundaries.
- + Less disruption for Roosevelt (stays the same).
- + Silver Beach has quicker commute to Kulshan.
- Δ: Double switch for Evergreen Apts.
- Δ: Long commute for parts of Silver Beach neighborhood.
- Δ: Tweed Twenty has double change-elementary & middle.

High School Attendance Areas

The committee members looked briefly at scenarios showing what we think the high school attendance areas might look like over the middle and elementary boundaries. Some potential hot spots were identified for each:

Option B Modified - Parkview splits /Kulshan splits three ways (1/3 for each high school).

Option G Modified – Kulshan splits three ways. Smaller contingent of Kulshan going to Squalicum.

Next Steps for Feedback

Community neighborhood meetings: The committee will go out to Carl Cozier, Roosevelt/Wade King, Columbia and Cordata communities to receive feedback on the two options brought forward (Option B

Draft notes pending committee approval

Modified and Option G Modified). Steve and Jay will schedule community meetings and share out dates with the committee members.

A committee member asked if we could look at data that shows the number of families involved in each of the proposed moves. Chris Behee will provide that information to the committee prior to neighborhood meetings.

It was proposed that we cancel the April 25 meeting and reschedule for May 9 to allow time to gather input from neighborhood meetings.

Next Meeting: May 9, 2019

2018-19 Meeting Dates: 5/9, 5/23