



Attendance Areas PreK-12 Standing Committee

May 9, 2019
3:30 - 5p.m.

Welcome

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

Approval of the April 18 Minutes

Jay asked that committee members review the minutes from the April 18 meeting. A motion was made by committee member Tom Gresham to approve the minutes as written. Committee member Linda Miller seconded that motion, and there was a unanimous vote to approve.

Review Objectives and Norms

Jay reviewed the committee's objectives and norms: Be respectful, be productive and be stewards of the process. Jay provided some initial data from the school attendance survey that went out to all families in our school district through a community message on May 6.

Jay recognized Executive Director of Communications and Community Relations Jackie Brawley and her communications team for their hard work getting the survey out to families.

We are preparing for four community meetings. We would like committee members to sign up to help facilitate and take notes at these meetings.

5 - 6 p.m. Mon., May 13 at Columbia Elementary School
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Mon., May 13 at Silver Beach Elementary School
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Tues., May 14 at Whatcom Middle School
5 - 6 p.m. Thurs., May 16 at Kulshan Middle School

Review Monday communication/Early Survey Results

Jay reviewed the established committee timeline and where we are on the continuum. The committee will meet again on May 23 after the community meetings to reflect on where we are with narrowing down the scenarios prior to making a recommendation to the Superintendent. Co-chair and Assistant Superintendent Steve Clarke mentioned the plan to host community meetings, receive input, bring feedback back to the committee and begin fine-tuning a recommendation.

The committee has received great input from the survey. The survey officially closes Friday, May 17 at noon. In some of our feedback we received, people are wanting to know how these options were going to promote balance. There were also questions about "grandfathering" some students to allow them to stay at a school.

Draft Notes Pending Committee Approval

We want to align the boundary changes with the opening of new buildings for Parkview and Alderwood in 2021, and with a new Sunnyland opening in 2022. Steve reviewed some possible moves in 2020 and 2021, with full implementation in 2022. Hot spots to potentially address in fall of 2020 are Shuksan and Silver Beach.

The committee discussed how a slow staggered implementation could work, as well as some of the challenges, specifically with regards to Silver Beach and/or Roosevelt families moving to Kulshan.

A committee member commented that both options help to distribute those who qualify for free and reduced lunch. There was a concern among committee members that they have not heard from all families and wonder how we can reach out differently. Jackie said they are using a phone survey and translating the survey to better reach families.

A committee member asked to include a timeline in the recommendation to Dr. Baker. Another committee member thought it would be a great idea to include the amount of time that has gone into coming up with a recommendation; i.e. the hours of time spent in meeting and emails. The complexity of all of this might be very helpful for the community as they review our final recommendation.

Jay mentioned that there are currently no plans to increase or decrease the transportation budget with the implementation of attendance area changes. Transportation Director Rae Anne Thon has been part of this committee process and has brought up any concerns she saw when planning routes. Rae Anne redesigns bus routes every year to accommodate the number of students riding buses.

The committee spent the remainder of time planning for the community meetings, including format, process and the roles each committee member can take.

Steve and Jay concluded the meeting and thanked everyone for their time and work.

Next Meeting: May 23, 2019