



Attendance Areas PreK-12 Standing Committee

January 21, 2020

4 - 5 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 recommendation and proposed change

Co-chair Steve Clarke, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Teaching and Learning reviewed the recommendation the committee submitted to Superintendent Greg Baker in June 2019. Based on current data and enrollment projections, our numbers came in higher than anticipated for Kulshan and lower for Fairhaven. The district held off on sending messaging to families about their attendance area changing until we were able to learn more and work with the committee to amend our original recommendation.

The number of students attending Fairhaven over the next few years continues to look smaller than anticipated. Whereas the number of students attending Kulshan predicted to rise. After refining attendance numbers with City of Bellingham Analyst Chris Behee, we predict that Kulshan would support over 700 students in the fall of 2021 and Fairhaven's enrollment would be around 600. By leaving the partial tile 104 at Fairhaven, we would support Kulshan staying under 700 students; Fairhaven would have about 630 students.

The committee reviewed and compared the enrollment numbers from June 2019 with new numbers from October 2019. Based on these new numbers, the committee was brought together to consider *not* moving a portion of tile 104 from Fairhaven to Kulshan, which is the area off Yew Street Road, south of San Juan Boulevard and north of Douglas Avenue. These students currently attend Wade King, Fairhaven, and Sehome, and their enrollment path would not change.

One drawback is that we do not improve the middle school split from Wade King. This would shift the split of students from Wade King going to Kulshan from 41 percent to 26 percent. This is lower than we would like, but still within the recommended split percentages. The committee feels a 75/25 split is a minimum.

Some committee members wonder if we are leaving Fairhaven's enrollment too small. Some suggest that moving other tiles from Carl Cozier Elementary attendance area could increase numbers at Fairhaven. If we get to the fall of 2021 and our numbers are still low at Fairhaven, we may need to consider these.

Approve adjustments to recommendation

Jay asked committee members to show either a thumbs up, thumb sideways or thumb down to indicate whether they are in agreement, neutral or against the committee moving forward with the recommendation. The committee expressed collective interest in keeping a portion of tile 104 at Fairhaven and adding an addendum to the recommendation to the superintendent.

Update on communications

Jay and Steve have been working with the Department of Communications to message families affected by new attendance areas in fall of 2021 and 2022.