



Boundary Adjustment Committee (BAC) Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom, adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

FACILITATORS:

Mark Anderson
Craig Numata

Phil Crocker
Ryan Rowe

Harium Martin-Morris

ATTENDING BOARD AND STAFF MEMBERS:

Greg Forsyth
Nikki Lockwood
Beth Nye
Joe Phipps
Jerrall Haynes

Sandra Jarrard
Steph Lundberg
Andre Wicks
Clint Price
Kale Colyar

Shawn Jordan
Matt McFarland
Cindy Coleman
Andee Atwood
Steve Fisk

ATTENDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chris Barton
Rob Dennie
Katrina Hawker
Molly Merkle
Kathleen Murray
Keith Reilly
Julie Shepard
Gary Teale

Brent Christensen
Aaron Dingfield
Scott Harmon
Brian Vandenburg
Amber O'Connor
Peter Richter
Heather Stratton
Ginny Kleman

Kristin Day
Corina Fletcher
Kristin Markham
Jamie Traeger
Megan Read
Alex Evans
Rod Tamura

Dr. Mark Anderson opened the meeting with a reminder of the committee's task to develop boundary adjustments to present to the Spokane School Board of Directors for approval by May 2021. Dr. Anderson went over the Boundary Planning Guidelines utilized by the BAC to draft proposed boundary adjustments.

The goal for the BAC is to complete the first draft of the school boundary adjustments by the 3rd week of March. The drafts will be used during community forums to gather input from community members during April. The community forums will consist of a presentation followed by a Thoughtexchange. All community members will be able to select into one of three Thoughtexchange breakout rooms. The breakout rooms will provide boundary adjustment recommendations for the NW, NE, and South regions. Once the region-specific breakout discussion is completed, all community members will come together for an all community Thoughtexchange. The data from the Thoughtexchange sessions will be used as guidance for any needed edits to the draft boundary adjustments. The SPS Board of Directors will have a work session on the boundary adjustment recommendations towards the end of May, with 1st, 2nd readings of the recommended changes in June. The final SPS board adoption of boundary adjustments will occur at the end of June.

The purpose of the BAC meeting for March 3rd was to begin the discussion on the proposed middle school boundaries. The BAC reviewed scenarios 112 and 114. Scenario 112 provides the most walkability for middle school students. However, scenario 112 increases the number of cohorts that would be split for high school attendance. Scenario 114 was drafted in response to the BAC's draft elementary school boundary adjustments. Scenario 114 will allow for all elementary cohorts to remain together from elementary to high school – only one cohort in scenario 114 has one cohort split to high school. The facilitators conducted two polls for the preferred scenario for middle and high school attendance. The BAC preferred walkability for south region with 53% in favor of walkability and 18% on limited cohort splits, with 29% preferring to move the options forward for the public. In the north region, 79% of the BAC preferred to not split the cohorts with 12% preferring walkability and 9% voted to move both options forward to the public.

The BAC spent the remainder of the meeting analyzing how often cohorts will split and worked through questions that would provide for equitable solutions. For example, ensuring there is a bus to provide transportation to and from school. Dr. Anderson mentioned that it was always anticipated that there would be tension between the guidelines and that BAC would need to determine which scenario would be the best fit for students. The BAC will continue to focus on middle school boundaries during the next upcoming meetings.

The next committee meeting will take place on March 18th at 6:30 p.m. Please note the BAC meeting scheduled for 4/15 has been cancelled.

Additional meeting to place on calendars (6:30 p.m.)

- March 30
- April 29
- May 6
- May 13

Community Webinars and ThoughtExchange (6:30 p.m.)