



Boundary Adjustment Committee Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2020

START TIME:

6:30 p.m., Thursday, March 12, 2020

FACILITATORS:

Mark Anderson, SPS Associate Superintendent
Harium Martin-Morris, education specialist
Alex. Evans, communications consultant
Craig Numata, SPS data master

ATTENDING BOARD AND STAFF MEMBERS:

Andra Atwood	Jennifer Keck	Theresa Meyer	Joe Phipps
Greg Forsyth	Steph Lundberg	Kevin Morrison	Michael Warnecke
Dani Galvez	Linda McDermott	Beth Nye	Andre Wicks
Shawn Jordan	Matt McFarland	Jeremy Ochse	

ATTENDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chris Barton	Scott Harmon	Megan Read	Gary Teale
Brent Christensen	Katrina Hawker	Keith Reilly	Jamie Traeger
Kristin Day	Lacie Magin	Peter Richter	Brian Vandenburg
Rob Dennie	Kristin Markham	Lindsey Shaw	
Cassidy Doohan	Molly Merkle	Julie Shepard	
Corina Fletcher	Amber O'Conner	Rod Tamura	

WELCOME AND EXERCISE

Dr. Mark Anderson welcomed the committee, recognizing we are in unusual times as we deal with the Coronavirus outbreak. Mark noted that going forward, it is possible that the committee will meet online via Zoom in lieu coming together in person. More details will follow as the situation evolves. Harium Martin-Morris then set the scene for the work of the evening – coalescing around one of three scenarios for the south side of Spokane. But before embarking on the boundary work, Mark and Alex. Evans, communications consultant, presented the campaign for naming the three new middle schools and the On Track Academy. Alex. took the group through a series of exercises to develop recommendations for names. The goal was to both engage a diverse and representative group in recommending school names and to connect the work of the committee to the new schools around which the boundaries are being drawn. The naming initiative will start on March 16 and be available until April 30, 2020. A screening



committee will recommend three names per school to the School Board who will name the new schools in June 2020.

LOOKING RADICALLY AT BOUNDARIES

Harium Martin-Morris began the boundary discussion for the evening by returning to a committee member's comment from the last meeting about thinking more radically about the work of setting boundaries. What if we did not limit ourselves with geographical boundaries and instead prioritized diversity and equality when looking at scenarios? Craig Numata presented a scenario that solved for near-equal free and reduced lunch (FRL) rates across middle schools. People were intrigued when looking at the FRL numbers on a graph. Then Craig showed the boundary map for the scenario, and committee members expressed that the scenario was not feasible. The map had boundaries spanning from the south edge to the north edge of the district. Harium pointed out the need for balance and reminded the group of the tension between the goals of creating diversity and equality between schools and keeping kids in their neighborhoods.

CONSIDERING SCENARIOS – SOUTH BOUNDARIES

Building off the work at the previous meeting, Craig created three updated scenarios to present to the group for discussion and direction for a starting point. The goal of the evening for the committee was to narrow down to one scenario for the south side that could be a place to move forward from and further refine. The main variables being considered in the scenarios were diversity/socio economic equality and neighborhoods/feeder schools. The committee looked at the scenarios and discussed as a large group. Discussion centered around drive times, keeping neighborhoods together, proximity to schools and projected growth. The group first decided to rule out scenario B. Then, after further discussion, the group decided to move forward with scenario C as a starting point, understanding it is imperfect and will need more modification.

CLOSING AND NEXT STEPS

New scenarios will be shared with the committee via BaseCamp. Committee members should please continue to review and leave comments on the scenarios.

Again, upcoming meetings may be conducted via Zoom – more information to come.

ADJOURNMENT:

8:15 p.m.