



Boundary Adjustment Committee Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2020

START TIME:

6:30 p.m., Thursday, May 28, 2020

FACILITATORS:

Mark Anderson

Phil Crocker

Harium Martin-Morris

Craig Numata

ATTENDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

The meeting was attended by approximately 40 committee members, including SPS staff and Board directors, via Zoom.

WELCOME AND LEGACY POLICY UPDATE:

Dr. Mark Anderson began by reminding the committee of its purpose and guidelines. He then provided an update to the committee on the Legacy Policy. The Legacy (formerly Grandfathering) Policy allows students who are enrolled in a school when the boundary changes take effect to request to remain in their same school if assigned to a new school. Currently, the school district has a draft recommendation into the Board for the Legacy Policy, which the Board plans to take up when they are back to in-person sessions.

The draft recommendation focuses on avoiding sequential school transitions for students, which research has shown can have negative impacts on student learning and well-being. At the high school level, all rising 10-12th graders assigned to a new school could request legacy status in order to remain at their current school through graduation. For middle schoolers, no students would start at a school and then be required to change schools. This is in part due to the opening of the two new middle schools which will only include 6th and 7th graders in their opening year. At the elementary level, the recommendation is to have legacy status available for rising 4th and 5th graders, allowing them to stay at the same school they have been attending for grades K-3. Rising 1st-3rd graders affected by boundary changes would need to use the Choice Policy to request to stay at their current school. A consideration behind only extending the Legacy Policy for 4th and 5th graders, and not 1st-3rd graders is to have the boundary changes



take effect sooner, while still allow students in their final two years to remain at the same school. There will be opportunity for the public to comment before a policy is adopted. There is also a parallel Choice Policy adjustment recommended to the Board. The recommendation is that all Choice students reapply when the boundary changes go into effect in order to appropriately prioritize neighborhood, legacy and choice students at each school. If approved after reapplication, students would remain at that school through the highest-grade level, similar to the existing policy. Choice admittance will be determined on a space-available basis, which will be defined by SPS and applied consistently across the district. Utilizing the Choice Policy is not necessary when choosing an Option program. The choice priority for the reset year is recommended as follows: 1. Legacy students, 2. Neighborhood students attending the school but assigned to a different elementary school with the boundary change, 3. Prior choice students attending the school, 4. New choice students.

TRANSITIONS

Harium Martin-Morris, one of the boundary consultants and a member of the State Board of Education, along with Dr. Adam Swinyard discussed research on transitions with the committee. Director Martin-Morris began by saying that both the transition from elementary to middle school as well as that from middle to high school are viewed as equally challenging and important. He applauded SPS's creative and hyper-local approach to supporting transitions. Dr. Swinyard framed transitions as a process versus an event. The emphasis in transitions is on connectedness – culture, community and relationship. Dr. Swinyard shared research on the importance of touch points with students – engaging them with their new school community before the first day of school. SPS has been intentional with getting students into the buildings early and creating mentor groups to create community.

BOUNDARY SCENARIOS

Since the committee has selected one scenario for each region of the district to be a starting place, the committee will now shift to looking at full-district scenarios. Moving forward, scenarios will now be titled by number to align with the Guide K12 system. The committee looked at scenario #77, which brings together the three committee-selected scenarios. Craig Numata showed the map and the demographic data for the scenario. There are still elements unbalanced across the schools, but these mostly reflect the unique neighborhood demographics that exist between the regions. The feeder patterns that split are Hutton and Finch elementaries and the new south middle school going to two high schools. Also in scenario #77, Lewis & Clark decreases in size. There is still a question about the West Hills/River Run area moving to schools on the north side for the committee to continue to discuss.



CLOSING NEXT STEPS

The committee decided by poll to move the next meeting time to 6:15-8 p.m. and also decided to add one more meeting in June before breaking for summer. The next two meetings will be **TUESDAY, June 9, and TUESDAY, June 16 – 6:15-8 p.m.**

In addition to the brief overview of Scenario #77, there are three more scenarios for the committee to consider before breaking for summer. The committee will discuss two next week and two the following week. Maps are being generated and made available to the committee through Base Camp. Committee members are asked to please review these ahead of the next meeting, focusing on Scenarios #76 and #77.