

December 10, 2019

Superintendent's Boundary Review Committee Minutes

6-8 p.m., *Midtown Meeting Center*

At 6:00 p.m. Jed Roberts called the meeting to order.

Approval of minutes: Motion by Deanne Clifford to approve minutes of Dec. 3, 2019, committee meeting, second by Constance Bond. Passed unanimously.

Follow-up Items: *Jed Roberts, Project Manager, FLO Analytics*

- Residence-attendance matrix for magnet overlay zones: Mr. Roberts displayed the new matrix showing the areas of magnet school overlay zones and how they overlap with other attendance zones.
- Residence-attendance matrix with force transfers included: Mr. Roberts displayed the matrix showing the total number of student transfers out of each school, including the number of forced transfers; and the total number of transfers into each school, including the number of forced transfers.
- Mr. Roberts provided a couple of potential reasons that family members may have selected “Don’t know/refused to answer” in the online Boundary survey conducted in October.
- Given the low survey response rate for Borah families, Mr. Roberts highlights how to get a sense of what issues are important to them (such as diversity/demographics) based on the surveys that were completed.

Update on Board of Trustees work: *Jeff Voeller, Director of District Operations*

- The Board held listening sessions at both Ramsey and Sorensen magnet schools regarding how those schools are populated with students and options for how that system may work in the future. The District collected feedback in person and via email.
- Earlier in the day on Dec. 10, 2019, the Board met in a special meeting and decided:
 - Sorensen would retain an overlay zone with a goal of capturing 50% of its student population from within the overlay zone and the rest through a District-wide lottery.
 - The District will remove the overlay zone for Ramsey and replace it with an attendance zone with a goal of capturing 50% of its student population from within the attendance zone and the rest through a District-wide lottery.
- At the same meeting, the Board generally was comfortable with a springboard proposal but asked FLO to consider how to delineate unbuildable federal land on the eastern edge of the District; and to consider modifying the Fernan, Borah and Bryan boundaries somewhat.
- The Board also discussed the possibility of delaying implementation of the middle school and high school boundary changes until the 2021-22 school year, in part because of other potential changes (later start times, high school schedule changes) that the District may want to implement concurrently; as well as to consider the potential impact of potential new schools that may open in the next few years.
- The Board and District plan to address the question of how to accommodate the transfer of students who are placed in new attendance zones once this process is completed. That discussion, scheduled to begin in January, will include whether any students may be allowed to remain at their current schools for a certain length of time. This issue is not part of the Boundary Review Committee’s charge. The District will produce information about this to share with families later.

(Continued)

Maps: District geography, existing boundaries and student attendance patterns: *Jed Roberts*

- For orientation, Mr. Roberts displayed a District map showing elementary, middle and high school attendance zones. He explained how these maps look and function, with boundary lines, color schemes, major dividers such as US 95, I-90, 15th Street, Ramsey Road, Prairie Avenue and Government Way.
- He also displayed heat maps showing distribution of students by free/reduce lunch (28.6% of total population), students of color (7.6% of population), and students in the special education program (9.2% of population). He noted that many from all three categories are clustered in the same areas.
- Mr. Roberts also talked about magnet school attendance: 71% of Ramsey students come from within its overlay zone, while 44% of Sorensen students are from within its overlay zone.

Springboard proposal: *Jed Roberts*

- Mr. Roberts reviewed the committee's guiding principles/direction from the Board of Trustees:
 - Assume a new elementary school and new middle school in the western part of the District by 2025.
 - Plan a new attendance zone for Ramsey to provide half of the student population.
 - Do not plan an attendance zone for Sorensen (continue with overlay-lottery model).
 - Avoid crossing US 95 and I-90, if possible.
 - Do your best to create a school feeder system.
 - Don't worry about how the boundaries look in the unpopulated federal lands to the east.
- He presented the map of the Board's selected springboard proposal, noting it was still very much in draft form. He pointed out smaller blocks within zones that can be used to make potential revisions, noting that the number of students residing in each block is listed.
- Mr. Roberts fielded several questions from committee members regarding their initial impressions, including socioeconomic considerations and the long, north-south orientation of some elementary zones.
- He then showed the springboard statistics matrix (also in draft form). This shows the attendance area, the number of students living in those areas now and anticipated to reside there over time, and the springboard numbers. The statistics matrix also shows capacity/overcapacity figures.
- The springboard statistics matrix was shown with socioeconomic indicators.
- The springboard statistics matrix was shown with the number of students potentially affected by changes.

Logistics of updating the maps: *Jed Roberts*

- Mr. Roberts showed the mapping workgroup assignments (5 teams, color-coded).
- He talked about the process of workgroups developing proposed boundary scenarios:
 - Step 1 – Agree on a scenario with your workgroup
 - Step 2 – Draw it on your paper map and let a FLO team member know
 - Step 3 – FLO team member snaps a picture of your scenario
 - Step 4 – FLO team member runs the scenario and prints results
 - Step 5 – Have a discussion on the scenario among the entire committee
- Mr. Roberts presented a consensus model for decision-making: thumbs up (agreement), thumbs sideways (have reservations), thumbs down (oppose/standing aside), fist (blocking).
- He then outlined the process for accepting a proposal as the group's new working scenario.
- Jenna Putnam with FLO demonstrated how it looks to make changes to the springboard map.

Next Meeting:

- The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 7, 6 PM to 8 PM at Midtown Center.

Submitted by Scott Maben