

Present: Dr. Carl Bruner, Spencer Welch, Kim Reavis, Anna Hoxie, Pam Lammon, Basilia Quiroz, Ana Arellano, Dave Riddle, Jim Hinckle, Bill Nutting, Grace Arnold, Jennifer Larson, Rosalina Cardenas-Bermudez, LuAnne Burkhart, Maria Valeria (interpreter)

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Dr. Bruner shared the purpose and scope of the Boundary Adjustment Committee. Boundary adjustments were made in the district 20+ years ago in preparation for the opening of Little Mountain Elementary and Mt Baker Middle Schools. He acknowledged the task is not easy and will take the two years to determine and implement the boundary changes. The committee is charged with looking at a variety of solutions, communicating possible solutions with our different school communities, obtaining feedback and ultimately identifying two or three different options that will be presented to the School Board. The School Board will make the final decision. He asked the committee members 'take their parent hat off' and think about the big picture.

He acknowledged that twenty years ago Mount Vernon had school boundaries that made good sense, but since then, the boundaries have changed because of growth in some schools and the need to balance enrollment between the schools.

Bill provided an overview of the committee's work:

2017-18

- Construction of East Division elementary school
- Boundary work begins

2018-19

- East Division elementary school opens for Madison program
- Construction of Madison Elementary School
- Boundary work is finalized

2019-20

- Madison Elementary reopens; Lincoln Elementary goes 'offline' for students
- Boundary adjustments implemented

At the October 16 Boundary Adjustment Committee meeting the work will center on developing a list of important considerations (filters) that need to be kept in mind when looking at boundary adjustment options. In addition, a survey will also be developed and shared with district parents regarding the considerations.

During the winter months, the results of the survey will be analyzed and work will begin on developing boundary options. Next spring, the committee will evaluate the options and develop proposals; proposals will be shared with parents during open houses.

Boundary adjustment committee work will continue into the 2018-19 school year. It is anticipated that the proposals will be presented for School Board review/adoption fall 2018. This will allow time for Jim Hinckle, Transportation Supervisor and his team to build bus routes. The waiver process will also be initiated.

Dr. Bruner reminded the group that construction influences the timeline and may impact the committee's work.

Ana Arellano asked how the boundary adjustments will affect Madison Elementary which is Dual Language.

Bill responded that as the Dual Language program has grown, Madison serves students throughout Mount Vernon; transportation is provided for students who live outside the one mile walk zone. Madison Elementary does not and won't have an 'attendance' area because of Dual Language. The boundary adjustment work will address the other five elementary schools. Most students in the DL program stay at Madison for the duration of elementary school and then move on to LaVenture Middle School, which is also DL. The only unknown is where entering kindergarten students live who will attend Madison, but that information is available well before school begins in September.

Ana also expressed concern that some families are split because of attendance area vs space—families do not want their children separated. Bill assured the group that the district's interest is to keep families together, but there have been some instances where we have to separate family members.

Pam Lammon asked if the district is also considering the middle school boundaries.

Bill responded that at some point middle school boundaries (and 'feeder' school patterns) will be reviewed. The committee may need to engage in that discussion and make a recommendation regarding middle school as well. For example, Madison used to feed to Mt Baker Middle School, but since Madison students are Dual Language, they now attend LaVenture Middle School, because it is Dual Language.

Pam asked if it was safe to tell parents at Lincoln School they should know more in the spring 2019 regarding waivers.

Carl again cautioned that things can happen in school construction. Right now there is no state capital budget and the district is relying on state funding to finish the two elementary projects as well as high school projects. We anticipate it will get resolved and not slow the projects, but if it did, then things could get pushed out further.

Committee Team Member Introductions:

- Bill Nutting - Assistant Superintendent; has worked in Mount Vernon School District for 23 years both as building principal (Lincoln Elementary & Washington Elementary) and district office administrator
- Spencer Welch - Consultant; helps school districts do similar projects throughout Washington State. He expressed appreciation that the district is taking enough time on boundary adjustments that allows for community input and discussion. These processes are difficult because there are no easy answers. It is important to find a way to work together and include the community so that when we get through the process not only will we have arrived at what is best for children and families but have also built a stronger community. He added that we want to make certain the committee can communicate well with one another; part of the evening's activities will be to engage in building a community within this group that will continue to strengthen.
- Kim Beavis - Parent; 2 children at Washington Elementary, PTO member for past 4 years.
- Anna Hoxie - District Registrar
- Jennifer Larson - Finance Director, last child is a senior this year.
- Pam Lammon - Paraeducator at Lincoln, parent and president of PTO at Lincoln Elementary

- Rosalina Cardenas-Bermudez - Parent; 2 children at Centennial Elementary, 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Primary language is Spanish. Currently studying English in college and preparing for her GED. Also volunteers at Centennial and likes to be involved with her children and helping the teachers; wants to support Centennial.
- Basilia Quiroz - Parent; 3 children--2 in Washington Elementary and 1 at LaVenture Middle School. Likes to participate in the schools.
- Maria Valerio - School/Home Liaison at Jefferson Elementary; will provide interpretation for meetings
- Ana Arellano - Community Member; no children in school, but second parent to sister's children. Grew up in this community; attended Madison, Washington, Mt Baker and Mount Vernon High School; graduated from WWU and likes helping the community and helping parents be involved in their child's education so they graduate high school and go on to college.
- Dave Riddle - Principal/LaVenture Middle School
- LuAnne Burkhart - former School Board Director for 12 years; three children went through Mount Vernon schools.
- Jim Hinckle - Transportation Supervisor responsible for overseeing safe transportation of students to/from school; background is an educator; has gone through boundary adjustments in prior employment.
- Grace Arnold - HR Specialist; MVHS graduate.

Bill distributed the committee roster and asked team members to verify contact information and indicate best way to communicate information.

Grace will take notes; notes will be distributed prior to the next meeting and will be sent electronically or attached to a text. Hard copies will also be available at meetings as well. Binders will be available for committee members for the October 16 meeting. In addition, the district will have a dedicated webpage for Boundary Adjustment Committee work for public information.

Future meeting schedule:

- Monday, October 16
- Monday, November 6

Meeting time was discussed and adjusted to **6 p.m.-8 p.m.** (October 16 and November 6). The district will invite absent committee members to the October 16 and November 6 meetings.

Ana Arellano shared a concern regarding 30<sup>th</sup> Street traffic and walking students. Is there a way for the city to improve the intersection with roundabout, light?

Bill shared that with both the construction of the new elementary on East Division Street and rebuild of Madison Elementary School, traffic patterns have been a big part of the planning. Unfortunately, the school district doesn't have a lot of sway over the city in concerns of traffic patterns, roundabouts, lights, but we are in constant contact with the city about problematic situations. He added, however, one of the items under this committee's prevue is to talk about attendance area boundaries from a safety perspective for bus riders and walkers to try to manage/minimize risks.

Spencer distributed a handout “Your Highest Aspirations” and asked committee members to individually fill in answers to the questions.

- As you think about our shared work together over the next several months, what are your highest aspirations about what we can accomplish?
- What can you do in order to make these outcomes most likely?
- What will you need from the facilitator and the group in order to make these outcomes most likely?
- What might get in the way of our accomplishing these goals?
- What would be some warning signs of these things that might get in the way?

The committee separated into small groups and shared their responses to the first question and then shared out in the large group:

### **HIGHEST ASPIRATIONS**

Come up with 2 or 3 viable options that work

Identify and address all concerns of community

Process where all are heard and respected

Commonsense outcomes

Options that create/maintain balance and equity

Positive community support

Solutions that are safe for all students