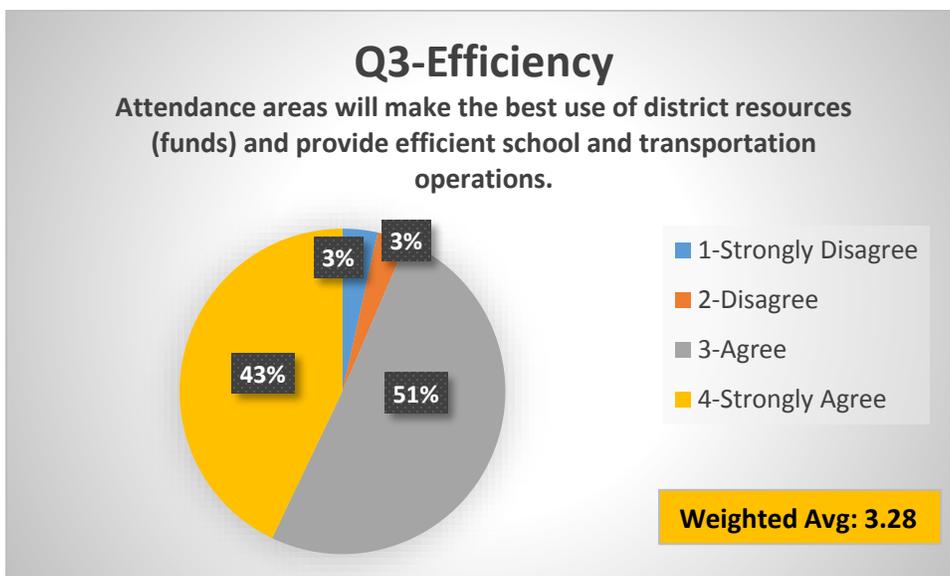
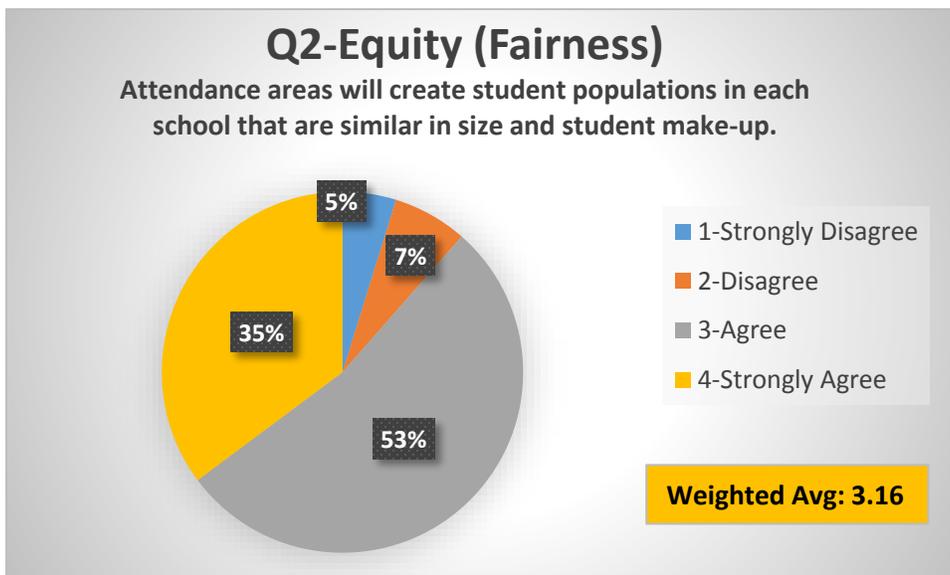
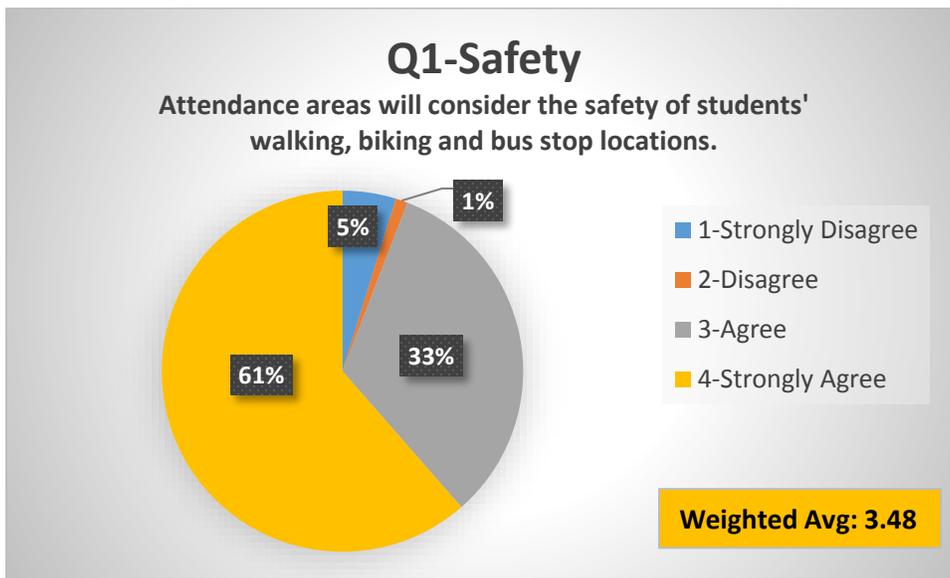


Boundary Adjustment Survey Results - December 2017

As of 12/18/17 - Total Responses: 379



Q1 Safety: Attendance areas will consider the safety of students' walking, biking and bus stop locations.

Comments:

- No roundabouts, please, simply because it causes more speeding and less cautious driving near pedestrian walkways
- Although school make up of population type should also be considered, as in question #2.
- Safety should be balanced with the practical, reasonable and affordable
- Children should be allowed to walk from the Skagit Highlands to the new school
- I feel the age of the child should be taken into consideration as well not only that they need to walk if within 1 mile. During fall and winter it is dark out still and very dangerous, this should be lowered to ½ or ¾ mile.
- Safety first in all things with my dear child.
- I believe that Washington Elementary watches their kids like their own.<sup>2</sup>
- Safety for the students is the upmost importance.
- Safety should be the first priority.
- Safe walking to school is so important. Encouraging kids/families to walk by having safe crossings is so important for the kids' health and activity level.
- Kids in walking distance should be able to attend neighborhood school.
- As long as boundaries and routes consider developing traffic patterns.
- No, I do not want Lincoln. Please do not do it, please.
- Haven't seen the new boundary proposal.
- My child rides the bus. I am a single parent and rely on the bus system to get her to and from school.
- Lots of kids are walking, waiting on buses and some riding bikes at least between LaVenture, Mount Baker and Jefferson.
- Safety should always be priority.
- Strongly agree.
- Thank you
- Safety of the students should be the most concern (x2)
- Some bus stop locations are very dangerous.
- Student should be encouraged to walk/bike to/from school. Make it easy for them.
- Also make sure to have a high level of security at the school because of all massive shootings that have been happening around America.
- This form gives me no information that I could base a decision on. It is worthless. How would these answers change anything? Who is the committee? Are names public? How were they chosen?<sup>10</sup>
- As of now my child has a straight to school, no turns, side walked path to school.<sup>11</sup>
- These have NOT been valid concerns for the school district. The school district just buses students to whatever school the district's desire regardless of the student's home location.<sup>12</sup>
- It seems to me that it is good that you are thinking about the safety of the children.

- It seems to me like a good proposal that way it will be more secure/safe and our children will be safer.
- Yes, safety is very important for all pedestrians including the school zone.<sup>14</sup>
- It seems good to me to build a school.
- I agree.
- As a parent, the children's safety is very important.
- Here at this county we work as a team to report bad things and vandalism.
- The point is to distribute the children among different schools.
- The bus stop has to be respected.<sup>15</sup>
- Yes, so that it is obvious that there is more responsibility in school rather than being the best school.<sup>16</sup>
- Whatever you give for the students is fine.
- Flashing signs for cross walks is a must!
- I completely agree in that student safety in those areas is of high importance.
- I agree because by taking attendance we know if our children are in school especially those who have to walk to and from school.

Q2 Equity (Fairness): Attendance areas will create student populations in each school that are similar in size and student make-up. In other words, each school's student population will reflect the student population of the whole district.

Comments:

- We chose to attend our local school because it was small and healthy. There is a point where child herding becomes unhealthy for the children. Generally the SPI dollars filtered back to communities keep our children herded into the largest possible groups so they can keep more \$ for the state department and administrative branches to bloom. If her class is very large, we will find an alternative for all of our upcoming children.
- You should attend the school closest to your home.
- I think it would be better to keep kids in their own neighborhoods for elementary school unless there is a reason for them to attend another school (example: the spectrum group at Washington).
- I like the idea, but I also think kids should go to their neighborhood school. They shouldn't be bused across town.
- Great idea, but certain exceptions should apply.
- I do not think this should be a factor.
- Equity is imperative! The school's student population should be diverse and we should be striving to balance student population size based on staffing (student-teacher ratio for class size should be similar in all schools).
- I don't know what this means. Are you referring to race?
- Kids should go to closest school.
- This is what I perceive to be the most important.
- I feel that this is important but also feel that kids should not have to spend extra time on bus to go to a school closer than nearest one especially if in walking distance.
- Geographical boundaries don't take into account differing socioeconomic pockets around town.
- Haven't seen the new boundary proposal.
- Thank you
- Keeping the students in the area should be good but some exceptions should be considered (x2)
- The student makeup will change in each area of the district over time. Will the attendance areas be re-done again? No. So this is a short-term idea and will not be sustainable in the long run.
- We cannot fully answer this question due to lack of definition.
- The schools can have different focuses (art, bilingual, etc).
- Size should match facility size, not equal between schools. Cultural diversity would be great if it can be done with other priorities—like exercise/walking.
- If one school in an area is surrounded by a general ethnicity (mostly one ethnicity) and said school fills with maximum for that ethnicity, then the "extra" would have to be bused elsewhere, that does not seem fair.<sup>5</sup>
- What are they basing their decisions on? What are they doing to ensure equal division of socio-economic situations? Do parents have any input? What is the

plan to communicate usable information to parents? Will there be a public forum? What changes do they anticipate? Give me information I can use.<sup>10</sup>

- Yes, I agree. My point of view is that the size must be taken into consideration.<sup>14</sup>
- I do not understand the question.
- Schools have to be made larger than necessary for future generations.
- If this is necessary, then go ahead.
- Yes, there must be more safety.<sup>15</sup>
- Of course, we prefer our school embrace and reflect the diversity of the Skagit region, but NOT at the expense of pushing our children to schools farther from our home in the name of this. It's harder on the kids to not live in the neighborhood of children they go to school with and we have had the experience thus far of diversity in these classrooms so far.
- Kids should go to the nearest school.
- What is more important is that students are safe.
- Diversity is important to (for) all.
- Students should not be bussed out of their neighborhood areas to balance population.
- I don't understand well how those arrangements work but I am sure that the attendance areas will make the best decision.
- This is a good way to show the school population.

Q3 Efficiency: Attendance areas will make the best use of district resources (funds) and provide efficient school and transportation operations.

Comments:

- May want to adjust school start and stop times as well to maximize cost and efficiency since many parents rely on older children to look out for elementary students. It doesn't make sense that they have a 2-hour early release on Fridays—they get home 30-40 minutes before middle school students.
- Boundaries should reflect the community, not the transportation budget.
- The way transportation is run now is somewhat of a joke. With early release every Friday, no one has taken into consideration that MBMS has to wait around for a bus after school is out. And Middle School starts WAY too early for kids during that growing time in their life. So really to answer this question fairly, the entire transportation system should be looked at again and redone. And the school start times should be looked at. Elementary school should start earlier and middle school should start later. A 7:30AM START time for 6, 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> graders is horrible.<sup>1</sup>
- This will help build community pride and togetherness.
- Decrease salaries of the administration and distribute it to the teachers and students. 'Attendance areas' will only effect transportation operations if you are bussing kids from the outside edges of west side MV up to the new school.
- I don't think buses are necessary; they cost a lot of money for the district. Do they really help with attendance?
- Attendance areas are important, but so is curriculum, teachers and materials. I am between Agree and Disagree on this. I feel that it is necessary, but not the highest priority.
- Won't affect anything besides transportation costs.
- Haven't seen the new boundary proposal.
- So if the attendance isn't going so well, will there be funds cut?
- Please continue staggered start/end times so fewer buses can drive multiple routes.
- Thank you
- Less time on the buses would be great for the students (x2)
- Busing should be available to all students regardless how close they live to the school. I have to help pay for that with taxes and any additional cost, but my son can't use it!
- If walking/biking are easy and encouraged, then less busing will be needed.
- Also security.
- This survey basically says: changes are being made by some people you don't know. Do you think they'll do a good job?<sup>10</sup>
- While efficient school and transportation operations should play a role, education of the students should come first.<sup>12</sup>
- It's good that you are thinking about using school funds in that way.
- In my opinion as long as the children are safe, I have no problem as long as everything is for their benefit. Thank you.
- It is the best way, transportation operations.<sup>14</sup>
- I do not understand the question.

- That children do not arrive late to school.
- I think it is illogical to take away transportation to children that live a mile away from school since school buses 'unavoidably' must go through those one mile zones. The only thing you get is that you are putting at risk the children that live within the one mile zone even more so when registered sex offenders live around the school area. Please consider my comment and bring back school transportation to children that live within the one mile school zone.
- That there is transportation for all the areas where we live.<sup>15</sup>
- School district funds cannot be used nor school resources.<sup>16</sup>
- Ok, you know more and whatever the population decides is fine.
- Maybe host an out of district stop. General pickup/drop off site. Conway School does this.
- I agree that schools need to take attendance so that they get the funds they need.

Q4 Please share any additional factors the committee should consider prioritizing in addition to the three listed above.

Comments:

- Classes should be better balanced so that children who speak English are not pulled down by a disproportionate [sic] amount of non-English speakers. This also puts undue stress on the teacher. If children with special language needs could have concentrated efforts, their success rates may even be better.
- The acceptance of a certain percentage of students needing to apply for a variance, to attend the school out of preference within the district.
- Not sure if this is feasible, but possibly additional surveys to all families with their street name only and their preferred school - a map could be created from that and may help with deciding the boundaries.
- While all are important, my belief is safety first, followed by consistency, then cost (knowing that cost always drives the conversation, so last as much as is possible).
- Lincoln is a small community school; the people we see at the talent show are the people we wave at out walking after dinner. It's one of the few places still like that. Don't know how you can help if this is all about growing the district space for more kids, but keep it in mind to preserve as much as possible. Many decisions that get made are said to be for kids, but we'd actually rather have community than nice buildings.
- More teachers to provide safety for the children.
- Intersections and dangerous crossings should be minimized. I live in the Meadows and it would be safer for the bus to pick up the children in a set location within the cul-de-sac vs a street corner with heavy traffic.
- Will it be secure? No, not just with one unlocked door, but with actual security watching the door? Would love to avoid a school shooting if we can...
- It is nice when the whole school filters into one middle school.
- Kids who have one-on-one educators should have option to stay at current school.
- Boundaries should be made to keep schools within their student population maximum.
- I believe that all the schools in Mount Vernon School District keep the kids safe and make it to wherever each student is treated the same and gets an equal opportunity to grow and learn all the same no matter what the situation. They provide services to each individual student based on their own needs.<sup>2</sup>
- I think it's hard on kids to have to adjust to one school and then have to move again the next year. I think the dual language program should stay in the new school and not have to move after that.
- I'm pleased to see these three areas as your main considerations. I think the committee is on the right path.
- HiCap and other special considerations.
- Buses out of district for kids who started school there and want to finish there!<sup>4</sup>
- All is good
- Take into consideration the current method of transportation (both mode and distance) of the children when developing proposals. Also an effort to maintain

general familiarity with school population as to avoid an anxiety or nervousness for children who are being shifted to new locations.

- Enforcing anti-bullying and being aware of children that are being bullies to other children; certain teachers being rude to children.
- If child has siblings, the two should attend the same school.
- “Equity” should also include class/economic status considerations.
- As a parent it’s been so important to have our kids walk to school and to go to school with neighbors. It promotes friendly neighborhoods.
- It would be nice to offer special programs in all schools such as dual language. Kids who live next to a school should be allowed to attend that school. Class size should also be considered.
- My concerns are regarding the social foundations my 6 year old is building. Hate to see those relationships broken.
- Showing boundary proposal before asking.
- Looking at the boundaries because my kids ride the bus past two schools closer to where we live doesn’t make sense.
- A change in class sizes could be beneficial to many children.
- I just think long-term growth of the school district is important.
- Safety of children, convenience for parents, make sure all kids can get to school with no issues.
- With the change of boundary lines, I want to make sure allowances are made for the kids already attending a school. I don’t want to have to enroll my son into another school.
- If you live adjacent to a school property, please don’t send to a different school!!
- Ability of student to walk to school or bike—proximity. Reduces busing and driving.
- Consider best options for pickup/drop off lines. Hire parking meter maids full-time. Accidents are bound to happen because nobody reads the signs or cares.<sup>6</sup>
- I think it is best to have families attend the school that is most easily accessible to their home (i.e., walking) as much as possible! This creates a close-knit community.<sup>8</sup>
- Need to see the new proposed boundaries before any decisions can be made.<sup>11</sup>
- Our son lives a few blocks from Madison but is forced to attend Washington. We were not allowed to attend Madison or any other school close to home.<sup>12</sup>
- Students that are finishing their 5<sup>th</sup> grade year at a school they have attended since kindergarten should not have to change.
- I would like to mention that we bought a house at 14678 SR 9, Mount Vernon, 98273 and I do not understand why that belongs to Sedro Woolley.<sup>13</sup>
- I really like the changes that are going to take place that will help the children more.
- All that is necessary.
- That everything that is planned to be done goes well.
- Add more surveillance during class time, not only when children begin and end school.
- Have more caution in pedestrian areas.
- It seems good to me what you are considering and what you do. Thank you for taking us into consideration.

- That there is transportation for all children because my child rides his bike and I cannot take him to school because I do not know how to drive and I get very concerned that he rides his bike. <sup>15</sup>
- Please be sensible in how far kids will need to travel to go to school and attend any after school events. The day is long enough as it is without having to factor in a commute. ☺ Thank you for your thoughtfulness in the process and for considering parent concerns.
- Until today I have noticed that everything works well. My daughter is learning a lot and all of the school personnel is friendly and efficient.
- Make the new boundaries make the most sense based on geography, not demographics.
- Lincoln 4<sup>th</sup> graders transitioning to new schools for one year only—how to make it the best possible transition given that it is only for one year.
- How to relocate some student groups together (so students maintain friendships).
- The amount of sidewalks available for student use to and from school (sidewalk on one side of the street, how many safe crosswalks, etc.)

Q5 Please share any questions, comments or concerns you would like the committee to hear.

Comments:

- I heard that the new school will be a dual language school since Madison is closing. For families with kids residing in the Skagit Highlands who go to Little Mountain or Lincoln and would like their kids to go to the new school as it will be closer, how will this affect the children with no dual language knowledge? Will they instead have to go to their current school?
- Not an easy job. Good luck!
- We really don't want this. Lincoln School is the kind with wait lists because it is small. Not because it's up to code and state of the art. If it were really about kids, small would be the priority.
- I am concerned that you have not listed as a consideration the impact to families and their schedules and convenience. Safety should absolutely be the #1 concern, and efficiency a close 2<sup>nd</sup>, however gerrymandering the boundaries in an attempt at social engineering seems wrong. And while I'm sure it seems petty, convenience to parents and students alike is important.
- Thank you for all the hard work ahead with this project.
- How can we as parents become more involved in what is going on with our children at school?
- Will the new school be teaching classes all in English or dual language while Madison is being rebuilt?
- Seems like a representative from all the elementary and middle schools should be present at the meetings. Is there a reason Little Mountain, Mt Baker and Madison don't have a rep present at the meetings?
- Please put out a map of the boundary areas that are proposed before finalizing it.
- My adopted daughter has been moved around so much in her little life. I was sad to have to bus her across town from our neighborhood school so she could learn English (for her speech delay) and was happy to find a school where she could feel loved and stable through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, only to have her moved again. I'm super excited for a beautiful new building, but she's already crying to lose the place she'd come to see as her home away from home. Mount Vernon is doing so many amazing things—I just wish my child didn't have to switch elementary schools twice in order to accommodate them. That's where we're coming from, anyway. ☺ Thanks for giving us a chance to weigh in. ☺
- I think that at the middle schools that the students should have a chance to express what is going on and also control the bullying and fighting between most students—especially at LaVenture.<sup>2</sup>
- This might not be a popular opinion, but I am happy to see that current boundaries are not the top of the considerations being focused on. I think we need to focus on the future of the district and what makes sense in those regards as opposed to trying to make everyone happy about how placements might affect them for a couple of years if it places them into a different school.
- My child is transported to school via daycare as his dad and I both work early. I am concerned about the possibility that he will not be allowed to attend a

school his daycare transports to. What are the plans for special circumstances such as this?<sup>3</sup>

- The communication regarding this effort is confusing. I had a challenging time understanding the point of the question. I needed additional support to complete and I am an English speaker.
- All good.<sup>9</sup>
- Washington School is the best one for my children.<sup>4</sup>
- Just keep in mind the best interests of the children and the goal of insuring their continued success as they grow within the walls of the Mount Vernon School District's various buildings.
- Concerns about children being treated different from other children. Having teachers that are being mean about certain questions when being asked about.
- I currently have my child attending a school due to where I work. Will those requests still be possible?
- Would be great to have language program at all schools.
- What does the new boundary proposal look like?
- As a single parent with no help, it is hard to get my child to school or home without the bus system. It is a must for our home that transportation is available.
- For young kids, K-6 who live less than a mile away, they can't take a bus, but for safety, bus routes should be provided. My 5 year old son is in walking distance because we live 0.8 of a mile away from school (that's almost a mile!).
- The proper attendance and care of the children on field trips/school outings is included, I hope?<sup>5</sup>
- After experiencing our current lockdown, I felt fear for my child. I have three children in different schools. Maybe education for parents how to handle situations like lockdowns. Can we have direct contact with teachers?<sup>7</sup>
- What school will hold the dual language program? If we fall within that school, but would not like to be a part, what are the options?<sup>9</sup>
- I will drive my children to school before I would want them going to another school.<sup>11</sup>
- Our son has been in three school districts due to job transfers. Mount Vernon has by far been the worst of the three districts. We requested an in-person meeting with the district superintendent shortly after school started. We have still never received the promised call back for scheduling the meeting. Granted we were told by his executive assistant he has no control over the schools. So I'm not exactly sure why the school district is paying him a salary?<sup>12</sup>
- Get it done early.
- I am very happy that my child is attending that school. I have nothing to worry about because my child is happy and is doing well.
- My children go to Centennial and LaVenture School. They have attended MV schools since kindergarten and they are used to that area even for us as parents it is more comfortable and close to go pick them up.<sup>13</sup>
- Caution with pedestrians.
- There should be a traffic light between N. 30<sup>th</sup> & E College Way since I have seen kids cross and I think it is dangerous.
- If there is going to be more children at Centennial, they should not fight with the children.

- What is important to me is my children's safety.
- Caution with traffic in school bus areas.
- Our #1 concern is the quality of education and the care in which teachers/admin provide this. Safety and education are our two main concerns.
- Pulling all the high cap kids from Lincoln wasn't a great idea.
- How to relocate some student groups together (so students maintain friendships)
- How to best transition students educationally and socially
- Big moves=real challenges for youth.
- We live in Skagit Highlands and my hope is that all of my children will go to the new school and not be zoned for somewhere else. I want them to safely walk to school and be as close to home as possible.