

Present: Bill Nutting, Grace Arnold, Anna Hoxie, Spencer Welch, Jennifer Larson, Henk Kruithof, Dave Riddle, Michelle Reneau, Amelia Guerra, Pam Lammon, Tosha Phillips, Jim Hinckle, Larry Otos, Basilia Quiroz, Maria Valerio

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Spencer welcomed the group back and outlined the next steps for the committee: review the feedback from last year's parent/community meetings, conduct additional parent/community outreach efforts, and finalize recommendation to the School Board.

The April 23 minutes were approved.

Spencer distributed the composite feedback responses from the three (3) parent/community meetings held last May/June (approximately 90 attendees). The committee separated into small groups to review the feedback, look for common themes as well as any red flags of concern.

Following the review, the groups shared their thoughts:

- Middle school questions/concerns
- Red flag - parents are unaware of current practices related to waivers, walking zones, etc. Jim noted there is a one-mile walking zone map available for each school.
- Option A responses were more personalized 'my'; Option B responses were broader and provided more generalized reasons.
- Waivers
- Larry shared that there is starting to be some community comments that the new school on the hill is for the rich kids (serving Eaglemont, Skagit Highlands). We know that is not the case looking at the maps and demographics, but it is a red flag that needs to be addressed. We need to get in front of it so that waivers aren't submitted because of that. Either make a statement about it or be prepared to make a statement about it. Dave reminded the committee that we chose to minimize the data around free/reduced, etc. - now might be the time to find a way to communicate that information. That is also the information the School Board will want to see. Spencer added that the committee was very intentional in creating equity across the schools, however, once the comment is made, it can escalate and the 'facts' don't matter. Henk also noted that the second new school (Madison) will be a 'choice' school and will add to the conversation.
- Parents expressed emotion about switching schools; questions about what school if their home was close to the boundary line. Could there be an app where parents could plug in their address to tell them the school they will attend? Anna stated that right now we have a boundary notebook that is referred to. If an address is not listed, then she looks up the address in Skagit iMaps. Spencer has seen an app in another district—he will try to find more information.

Once the School Board has made a decision, it will be important for the district to share information regarding the waiver process. Larry noted how we talk about the waiver is very important—rules and guidelines will have to be shared; is there a process to challenge a waiver. He added we don't want to give a false sense of security that waivers will be approved. We need the new boundaries to fill the schools; equalize enrollment. Waivers will most likely come more into play at the middle school level with respect to siblings.

The group brainstormed ideas to increase awareness of the committee's work and the boundary map options.

- Community Link newsletter
- Elementary parent/teacher conferences in October - post large maps of the boundary options, include an information sheet and feedback form; advertise through conference notifications and school newsletter.
- Send an email with link to maps and survey document to district parents
- Parent/Community meeting late in October at a central location; open invitation.
- Website - maps and feedback form
- Radio station or Channel 10
- Kera/SV Herald
- Reader boards
- Social media - FB, Twitter, parent group posts
- Middle School parent/teacher conferences

What new information should be shared? Waiver process.

Basilia asked if the information will be shared in Spanish; paper and email information will be translated and interpreters will be provided at meetings.

It was suggested that the Russian ELL School/Home Liaison be included in the information so she can communicate with Russian families; specifically where do they live and are they moving?

It will be important for the committee to reconvene in late October/early November (date to be determined) to review feedback and prepare for recommendation to the School Board in November/December.