

Present: Dave Riddle, Basilia Quiroz, Anna Hoxie, Larry Otos, Grace Arnold, Bill Nutting, Spencer Welch, Amelia Guerra, Maria Valerio, Pam Lammon, Tosha Phillips, Jennifer Larson, Jim Hinckle, LuAnne Burkhart, Mary Polley

Motion was made by Pam and seconded by Amelia to approve the April 9 meeting minutes; unanimously approved.

Spencer reviewed the evening's agenda which will involve the review of the suggested amendment to Map Option #2 in an effort to balance school size and address demographic issues. The committee will also look at the final three (3) options, agree on how many and what options to present for community input, begin discussion on impact to middle schools and then discuss presentation and dates for the community meetings

Jim distributed the Option #2B map which shifts 18th Street (Place and Loop) as well as Riverside/Urban/Hoag to the Meadows (former Lincoln Attendance area) to Jefferson Elementary School. Bill distributed the handout which compares demographics for Option #2B with the other map options.

After review of Option #2B map, Anna wondered how many students that live in the Highlands neighborhood are choice transfer to Big Lake Elementary in the Sedro Woolley School District. Will that affect Rowley's student enrollment if they choose to remain in Mount Vernon? She will review addresses in her choice transfer report. *(Following review of a report, Anna reported later in the meeting there are approximately 20 students that are choice transfer to Big Lake Elementary.)*

Spencer reminded the group that at the last meeting Map Option #2 was the group's bottom choice and asked if the changes made in Option #2B changed that choice. Tosha noted that the change does improve the balance in size. Pam stated that the parents in the Meadows area would not like the change to Jefferson Elementary especially when Centennial Elementary is within walking distance—they have been isolated for 20 years and to be 'sectioned' out again would not be favorable.

Bill noted that in the past, when new families move into the area, we have been able to assign them to their neighborhood school, but there have been many instances where because of a high grade level/lack of space, we have had to assign them to a school outside of their attendance area. In those cases, the district will transport students. This creates challenges for the transportation department, but once you start with that practice, it is perpetuated from there. Kids don't come in perfect bundles in every grade level—some grade levels are small and some at capacity. We do offer additional support to that particular grade level. To the degree possible, the new attendance areas should clean up transportation. The interest is to look at the attendance areas so there is capacity from school to school no matter what option is selected.

Spencer asked for a vote by the committee:

- **How many want to take two (2) options to the community? Unanimous (14)**
- **How many want to take Option #1 to the community? Unanimous (14)**
- How many want to take Option #2B to the community? Yes (1); No (13)
- **How many want to take Option #3 to the community? Unanimous (14)**

Bill reported that he and Jennifer looked at the middle school current feeder pattern and projected a feeder pattern that recognizes the programs at LaVenture Middle School (Dual Language and Hi-Cap).

- LaVenture - Centennial, Madison, Rowley
- Mt Baker - Jefferson, Little Mountain, Washington

There are three (3) drivers behind this

- Size - keep LaVenture on the larger size because of classrooms that will be added to the campus; Washington to Mt Baker because of size (and would be efficient especially on early release days)
- Geographically - location of elementary schools; the one difference is historically Washington has gone to LaVenture and Madison to Mt Baker.
- Program - Madison Dual Language to LaVenture Dual Language; Hi-Cap students are scheduled to attend LaVenture. These programs transcend transportation because we transport children to the programs from all over the district. Approximately 350 of LaVenture's student population will be Dual Language or Hi-Cap.

Amelia noted the Jefferson attendance area is in close proximity to LaVenture. Tosha asked about students who are already attending the middle schools who may now not be in the feeder school attendance area. Do they finish at the middle school they started in or do they change because of their address? Pam asked why we do feeder to middle school and not geographic. Bill responded the feeder pattern to middle schools is a product of opening Mt Baker and making decisions about what students' transition to middle school.

He anticipates that at the time we talk with the community about the two options, we will also share information about the middle schools. Basilia expressed interest in having her children who are currently enrolled at Washington attend LaVenture, rather than Mt Baker because of the program benefits. Dave assured her that the program benefits (transportation, food, etc.) are the same across both middle schools. Basilia asked about the waiver process if a family requests to attend a school that isn't in their attendance area. Bill responded that waivers are dependent upon space and parent must provide transportation.

Bill distributed a draft copy of the Boundary Adjustment Update brochure that can be used as an information tool in the community meetings. The brochure outlines the committee's goals, primary consideration, committee progress to date, parent survey and demographics reflecting Option #1 and Option #3 (as an example).

Pam suggested that under 2019-2020 the reference to Lincoln Elementary School should say *Lincoln Elementary closes as an elementary school.*

Amelia suggested that the 'linear' picture of Safety / Equity / Efficiency be displayed differently. Committee members also questioned the need to show the demographic information for the map options; discussion followed. The demographic information shows the transparency in reviewing the 'equity' concern since 88% strongly agree/agree that they want student populations that are similar in size and makeup in each school. How can Safety and Efficiency be quantified? Instead of a chart, could the information be displayed differently (bullets, how improved from current, anecdotal rather than numbers, add enrollment, not just school capacity). ELL information is limited by the confines of the routing software program, however, it is possible the Federal Programs office could assist—problem is identifying student addresses tied to the map options. Spencer also suggested shifting from identifying the maps as Option #1 and Option #3 to Option A and Option B.

It was agreed that the district will work on the middle school issue as well as revise the community meeting information; another committee meeting date will be established (Monday) and communicated by email.