

Present: Bill Nutting, Spencer Welch, Anna Hoxie, Celina Rodriguez, David Riddle, Henk Kruithof, Jennifer Larson, Pam Lammon, Amelia Guerrero, Kelly Johnson, Michelle Reneau, Mary Polley, Maria Valerio, Grace Arnold

Spencer welcomed committee members; Bill introduced Kelly Johnson, transportation supervisor, replacing Jim Hinckle who retired in January. Kelly lives in Mount Vernon and was a special education bus router in the Edmonds School District and most recently transportation supervisor in the Ferndale School District.

Bill also introduced Celina Rodriguez, public information specialist for the district. Formerly this position was contracted; pleased Celina is part of the district. Her expertise will be key in messaging to parents and community regarding meetings and boundary proposals.

The committee reviewed the committee shared agreements; in addition the committee approved the September 26 meeting notes.

Bill provided a review of activities since the last committee meeting. Boundary option maps A and B and information was shared with the community and district parents during parent/teacher conferences in October; in addition, maps and survey on the district website was promoted via automated notification, social media messaging as well as a community meeting at LaVenture School in late October. Each of the efforts was successful in reaching a broader audience. At the LaVenture meeting, important questions were raised primarily because of the visual appearance of the maps as well as concerns about needing more engagement by community/parents in the process.

At the same time, the high school capital projects planning work was unfolding and consideration of how to house high school students when the campus is under construction. Originally, Lincoln School was planned as the swing space when it became vacant; as high school staff became engaged in this consideration, there was concern regarding the size of Lincoln. The focus then turned to looking at new Madison as the swing space—more classrooms and larger commons areas—however, this option would then delay the work of instituting new boundaries for two years. A third option was to keep students on the high school campus during construction. Following lengthy and thoughtful deliberation, it was decided that the timeline of projects at the high school could be adjusted to allow for students to remain on campus.

Demographic information was also updated based on 2018-19 data; very quickly it was apparent that the overall enrollment at Harriet Rowley exceeded 570 students in both Option A and B which made the options no longer viable. Bill shared four (4) variations of Option B with demographic information for committee review. Following review, the committee shared the following observations and questions:

- B-1 and B-4 are good options
- B-1 is better because the migrant population is more equal
- Larger enrollment at LM in B-4; B-1 keeps higher enrollment at Jefferson
- Discrepancy in percentage of economic and migrant students between Centennial and Rowley in B-2 and B-3 (should be the same since no changes were made in those schools)
- Eliminate B1 and B2 because of high enrollment at Jefferson
- Favor B-3 or B-4 - the difference is Mobile Manor (N 30th)

- Mobile Manor - still will be a perception to greater population if it remains in Centennial boundaries; what do the parents think that live there?
- While ethnicity is a determinate, another consideration is the number of elementary students who qualify for the state's transitional bilingual program.
- Where is waiver sent to? Could the waiver include a second school choice?
- B-4 map is cleaner.
- Next year students will be going to different schools across the district; carving out Centennial to remain at Centennial isn't a good option because of perception.
- From a transportation perspective, B-4 works.
- Do we know how many students will change schools?

Bill added that the map option enrollment information does not include the 118 out of district elementary students—it only includes students with a Mount Vernon address. We will still have the waiver process, however, he anticipates that waiver decisions will not be made until summer. Waivers could create an imbalance in enrollment again.

Spencer asked if the map options address safety, equity (represent overall district demographics equally in each school) and efficiency in transporting students. Does it change the committee's analysis of the maps?

Next steps:

- Fix data error
- Include Transitional Bilingual data
- Schedule public information meetings for parents/community to view the maps (March)—what are the key questions? B-1/B-2 (Jefferson/Little Mountain enrollment); B-3/B-4 (Mobile Manor)
 - Centennial
 - Little Mountain, Lincoln and Jefferson (revisit since map options have changed)
- Employ other strategies to invite feedback (website, survey, etc.)
- Skagit Valley Herald article

Additional suggestions/questions:

- Could only the changes in the maps be highlighted (overlay)?
- How many students who live in Highlands waiver to Sedro Woolley? *(Answer: 57 total K-4 waiver to SW; 21 Gr K-4 reside within H Rowley attendance area based on B-4 map and attend either Big Lake or Clear Lake Elem)*
- How many students who live in Sedro Woolley waiver to Mount Vernon? *(Answer: 35 elementary)*
- What is the deadline for decision? Ideally, for transportation, a recommendation to the School Board should be made by March 20. This will allow time to finalize elementary school enrollment and staffing projections, develop routing, etc., however, we will likely need more time for community engagement.
- How to map options affect middle schools?

Bill and Grace will let committee know when community meetings will be held and invited committee participation. Following community input and final analysis, the committee will meet to prepare proposal for school board consideration.