

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 19, 2020
FROM: Steven A. Sparks, AICP
Robert McCracken
TO: Middle School Boundary Adjustment Advisory Committee
SUBJECT: February 25, 2020 Committee Meeting

Meeting Expectations

The February 25, 2020 committee meeting will be the start of the fourth and final phase of the boundary review project. The committee will review the final working map (attached hereto) that staff have prepared in response to direction from the committee at the February 13th meeting. At the conclusion of the February 13th meeting, a majority of the committee directed staff to do the following:

1. Whitford MS Boundary. All of Montclair ES, Raleigh Hills ES, Raleigh Park ES, and Vose ES will feed into Whitford MS. The portion of McKay ES north and east of Highway 217 will feed into Whitford MS.
2. Conestoga MS Boundary. All of Greenway ES, Hiteon ES, and Scholls Heights ES will feed into Conestoga MS. The portion of McKay ES south and west of Highway 217 will feed into Conestoga MS. The portion of Nancy Ryles ES south of Scholls Ferry Road will feed into Conestoga MS.

The above two (2) items were of preliminary consensus of the committee. While no decision has been reached, the committee understands that Conestoga MS and Whitford MS boundaries as described above are currently acceptable and may be subject to change. Additional edits to the working map are described in the following section of this memorandum.

The goal for the February 25th meeting is for the committee to come to a preliminary consensus on the potential middle school boundaries for the entire district. The final committee meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2020 at which time the committee will issue its recommendation to the Superintendent. A preliminary consensus at the February 25th meeting will allow staff to address any remaining questions of the committee and allow the public an opportunity review and comment on the committee's pending recommendation. The committee will have the ability to revise its preliminary consensus at the March 12, 2020 meeting.

If the committee is unable to reach a preliminary consensus on the middle school boundaries for the entire district at the February 25th meeting, we will discuss and identify an additional meeting time to take place after the March 12, 2020 regularly scheduled committee meeting.

Meeting Materials

Attached to this memorandum, the committee will find a single map entitled February 25 Committee Working Map. The attached map reflects the edits directed by a majority of the committee and can be characterized as a combination of Working Maps A and C. These edits are intended to address questions raised by the committee at the February 13 meeting and to stimulate further committee discussion. The attached map is a working map, not the map which reflects the committee's recommendation to the Superintendent or staff's recommendation to the committee.

3. Additional Map Amendments (2-25-20 Committee Working Map)

Pursuant to the committee's direction at the end of the February 13th meeting, staff have included in the attached map, the following:

- All of Springville ES attendance area is identified as feeding Stoller MS.
- All of Findley ES attendance area is identified as feeding Timberland MS.
- All of Rock Creek ES attendance area is identified as feeding Meadow Park MS.

The capacity numbers illustrate that each of the middle schools could be reasonably enrolled in SY 2021-22. However, there remains an over enrollment at Meadow Park, Stoller, and Whitford at which SUMMA programs are located. The Stoller MS enrollment for SY 2021-22 does not meet the Board Objective of approximately 90% permanent capacity with the SUMMA program at the school. If the Committee were to reach a consensus on this map as illustrated, the District would have to decide on the future of the SUMMA program at Stoller MS.

With respect to all of Findley ES feeding to Timberland, the capacity numbers of resident students are low. However, if the District were to locate a SUMMA program at Timberland with the students from the feeder elementary schools, the total enrollment numbers would be at an acceptable level. The downside of this potential boundary is all Findley ES students would now be transported to Timberland MS.

The Rock Creek ES to Meadow Park MS feeder pattern will result in an enrollment that exceeds the permanent building capacity in SY 2021-22. Like at Stoller MS, this may require the District to relocate the SUMMA program from Meadow Park MS. However, the long term capacity at Meadow Park, even including the SUMMA program, looks acceptable. From a transportation perspective, the Rock Creek ES students will be transported farther than they are currently transported to Stoller MS. Additional transportation analysis would need to be conducted to understand the time, miles, and cost implications of this feeder pattern.

4. Free-Reduced Lunch

A question has been raised about how the district is using free-reduced lunch enrollment as an indicator of poverty in this project. Throughout the process staff have provided the free reduced/lunch % figures for the resident K-12 student population in the proposed boundary areas (2019-20 school year). Please note that this information is for the resident student population and may not reflect the actual attendance at each school. What actually may occur at any specific middle school site may be different depending on option programming (e.g. ACMA, ISB, Rachel Carson) enrollment from those middle school boundaries.

In an effort to provide a better approximation for the committee, staff has adjusted the method for calculating the free/reduced lunch % to reflect the current K-5 resident population; this maybe a better approximation since those students will move into middle school after the new boundaries go into effect.

The table that has been provided is using the SY 2019-20 K-5th Grade student data since it is these students who will be attending middle school when the boundaries are adjusted. For most middle schools, the FRL percentages do not change significantly. Five Oaks and Mountain View middle schools remain high because the attendance boundaries are not changing from the current middle school attendance boundaries.

Cedar Park MS will see the largest increase in its FRL percentage largely due to the relocation of students who would now attend Timberland MS. The addition of the western half of William Walker ES to the Cedar Park MS attendance area is partially off-set by the relocation of the western third of the Raleigh Park ES attendance area to Whitford MS. This increase in the FRL percentage rate can be ameliorated by the District relocating the Rachel Carson program to Cedar Park.

5. Feeder Patterns

The attached materials include a table which illustrates the middle school to high school feeder pattern for the current middle school boundaries and the potential boundaries of the February 25 Working Map. The February 25 Working map eliminates the three-way MS to HS feeder pattern for Highland Park MS. However, the existing three-way MS to HS feeder pattern at Meadow Park MS remains.

The attached materials also include a table which illustrates the elementary to middle school feeder pattern for the current middle school boundaries and the potential boundaries of the February 25 Working Map.

SUMMA and Rachel Carson

Ken Struckmeier, Executive Administrator for Middle Schools, stated at the February 13th meeting that the SUMMA program is a school program, not an option. The location, size, and number of SUMMA programs is a decision of the Teaching and Learning Department. Capacity

of a school facility to accommodate SUMMA programming is an essential factor in determining the location and size of a program. While it is useful to understand the impact of SUMMA programming to building capacity, the committee must focus on the number of resident students that reside within an attendance boundary.

Rachel Carson is an options program. While Rachel Carson has been at Five Oaks MS for approximately 15 years, there is no requirement that the program remain at Five Oaks MS. The location and size of the Rachel Carson program is also a decision of the Teaching and Learning Department. The committee's discussion on a location for the Rachel Carson program is an important consideration for the building capacity and other Policy JC questions under review. A recommendation of the location of the program is acceptable; however, it is not an essential task of the committee.