



April 11, 2019

Elmonica, Beaver Acres & McKinley Elementary Boundary Adjustment Decision

This is the report of findings and recommendation by the Elmonica, Beaver Acres & McKinley Boundary Adjustment Advisory Committee, and the Superintendent's review of that recommendation and decision. The Superintendent will present this decision to the School Board for consideration and approval, as per Policy JC.

The Superintendent would like to thank the Boundary Advisory Committee members for their service and for their dedication to this difficult task. They were thoughtful and compassionate in their approach and rendered a recommendation that fully considered all the communities of Elmonica, Beaver Acres and McKinley.

Background materials for the Elmonica Boundary Adjustment, including meeting materials and audio can be found here:

<https://www.beaverton.k12.or.us/depts/facilities/boundary/Pages/ELEMENTARYBOUNDARYADJUSTMENTADVISORYCOMMITTEE.aspx>

District Goal: WE Empower all students to achieve post-high school success.

"The District prohibits discrimination and harassment based on any basis protected by law, including but not limited to, an individual's actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national or ethnic origin, marital status, age, mental or physical disability, pregnancy, familial status, economic status, veteran status, or because of a perceived or actual association with any other persons within these protected classes."

Introduction

Elmonica's growth in enrollment is linked to the increase in the general population within its current attendance boundary. The increase is attributable, in part, to new residential development. In response to the increased enrollment over the years, the District has installed 13 portable classrooms on site, two of which were added in 2018. Elmonica has a total building capacity of 713 students (466 seats in the permanent building, supplemented by 247 additional seats in portables). The school serves only general education students and does not house a Self-Contained Specialized Program or Pre-Kindergarten program.

During the same period, Beaver Acres and McKinley Elementary Schools, which are adjacent to Elmonica, have experienced a decline in enrollment. As of this school year, both schools are below 75% of their total capacity.

In consultation with Teaching & Learning administrators and the principals of Elmonica, McKinley, and Beaver Acres, Facilities staff concluded that a boundary adjustment is necessary to relieve overcrowding at Elmonica and balance enrollment at Beaver Acres and McKinley. The Superintendent initiated a boundary review process in consultation with the School Board, as per Policy JC in December of 2018.

Process Overview

As per Policy JC, at the December 17, 2018 meeting of the Beaverton School Board, the Superintendent proposed and the Board approved two objectives for the Elmonica, Beaver Acres and McKinley Elementary school boundary adjustment process:

The objectives for the Elmonica Boundary Adjustment were:

- Objective 1: Create an attendance boundary amendment that will provide overcrowding relief for Elmonica Elementary School for the SY 2019-20 school year.
- Objective 2: To the degree feasible, balance future enrollment with each affected school's capacity.

The Superintendent appointed an Advisory Committee, made up of six (6) parents from each of the affected schools. The Principals for each affected school served as non-voting members of the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee met twice, at Elmonica Elementary School, on Saturday February

Timeline

- December 17, 2018: School Board approves Superintendent's objectives
- January 11, 2019: Boundary Advisory Committee members selected
- February 2, 2019: Boundary Advisory Committee Meeting #1: Overview & study, initial concept
- March 13, 2019: Boundary Advisory Committee Meeting #2: Review results of Meeting #1 & issue recommendation to Superintendent
- March 15, 2019: Direct mailing to all students in areas proposed for boundary change
- April 5, 2019: Public comment period ends
- April 10, 2019: Superintendent issues recommendation to School Board
- May, 2019: School Board consideration and vote to approve or reject
- Summer 2019: Transition planning
- Start of 2019-20 School Year: New boundaries go into effect

2nd and Wednesday, March 13th, 2019. Both meetings were open to the community and included an opportunity for public input.

The Advisory Committee, with the assistance of District staff, studied alternatives for boundary adjustments to meet the Board-adopted objectives. In their evaluation of the alternatives, the Advisory Committee considered the boundary adjustment factors, as outlined in Policy JC:

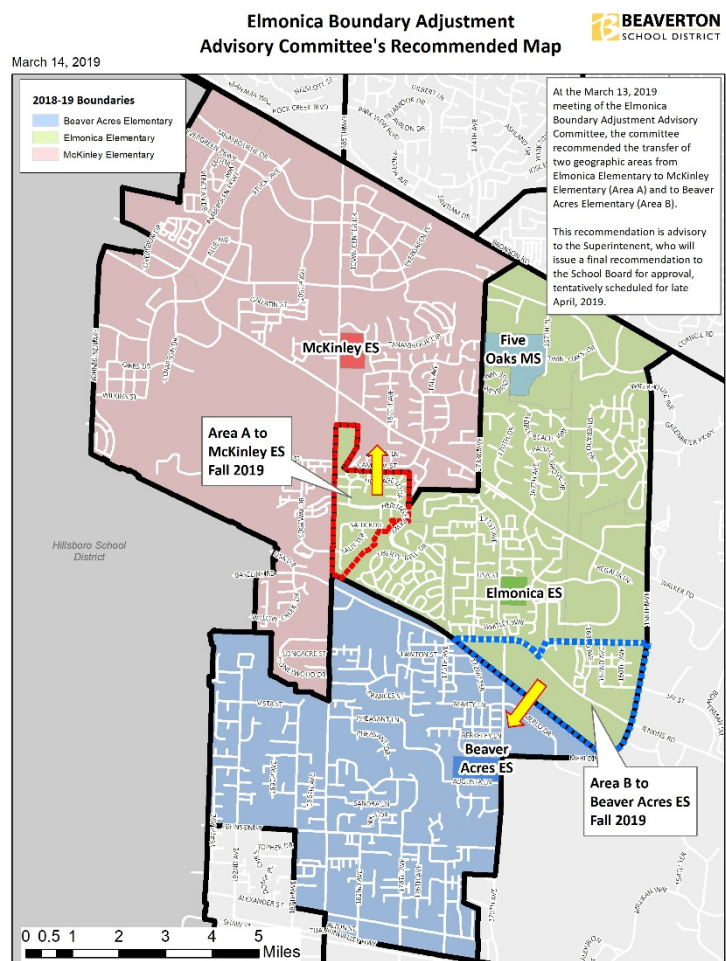
- Student body composition;
- Current and future availability of space;
- Feeder patterns to elementary, middle and high schools; and
- Neighborhood proximity and accessibility.

Over the course of the two meetings, the Advisory Committee studied alternatives and considered input from the public and issued a recommendation on a new attendance boundary map to the School District Superintendent.

The committee's recommendation was as follows:

- 1) Move Area A from Elmonica (generally bounded by SW 185th, the Willow Creek/Salix Park waterway, and SW Cambray Street) to McKinley Elementary School for the Fall of 2019
- 2) Move Area B from Elmonica (generally bounded by SW 158th Avenue, SW Baseline Road, and the Trimet MAX rail line) to Beaver Acres for the Fall of 2019.
- 3) Offer to incoming 5th graders, and to not include younger siblings, the option to remain at Elmonica Elementary for the SY 2019-20 school year (the committee voted on a split decision to not recommend the District provide bus transportation to incoming 5th graders who elect to remain at Elmonica).

After the Advisory Committee issued its recommendation, District staff sent a letter to all families with students in the areas proposed for moving to Beaver Acres or to McKinley Elementary Schools informing them of the Committee's recommendation and invited those interested parties to submit comments on the recommended boundary adjustment for the Superintendent's consideration prior to his taking action.



After reviewing the record including written testimony received after the Advisory Committee issued its recommendation, the Superintendent agrees with the Advisory Committee's recommendation and has decided to accept the recommendation without amendment. The Superintendent also agrees with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that the boundary adjustment will meet the Board objectives. Therefore, the Superintendent recommends the Board acknowledge that the Elmonica Boundary Adjustment satisfies the Board Objectives dated December 17, 2018.

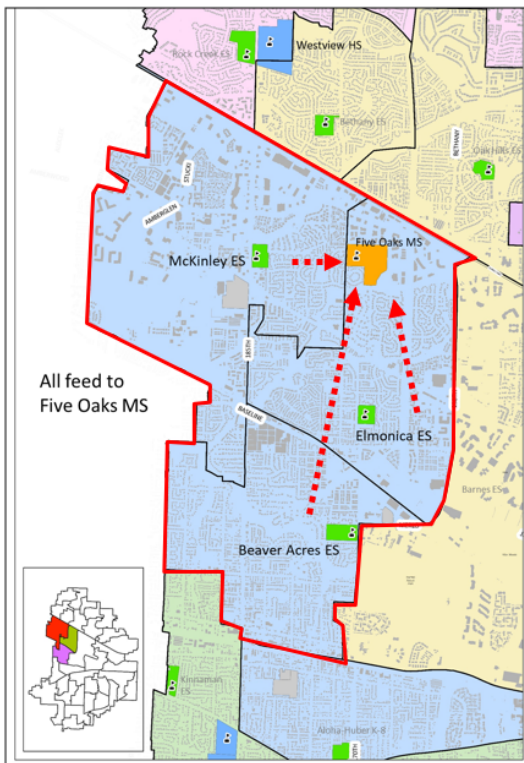
Background Information

The following section outlines the background information provided to the Advisory Committee regarding, middle school and high school feeder patterns, historic and projected enrollment, and demographic information.

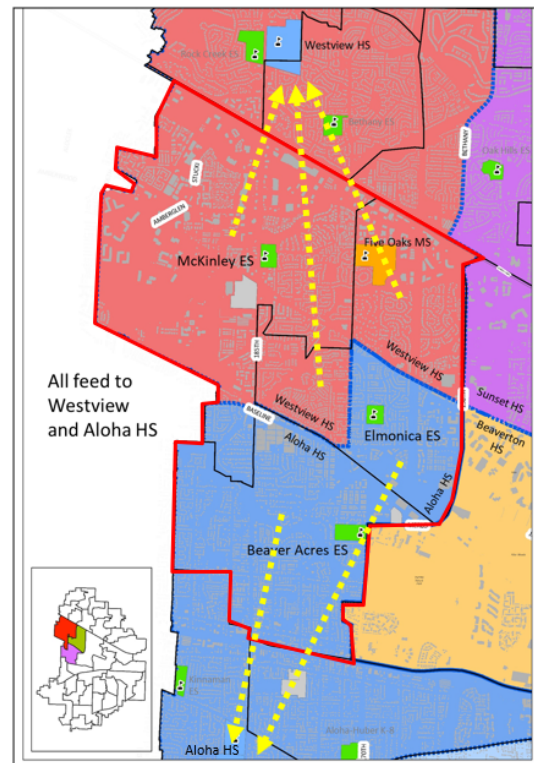
Feeder Patterns

Each of the three schools is within the Five Oaks Middle school attendance boundary, and each feed to either Westview or Aloha High School.

All feed to Five Oaks MS



Portions Feed to Westview or Aloha HS



Historic Enrollment & Building Capacity

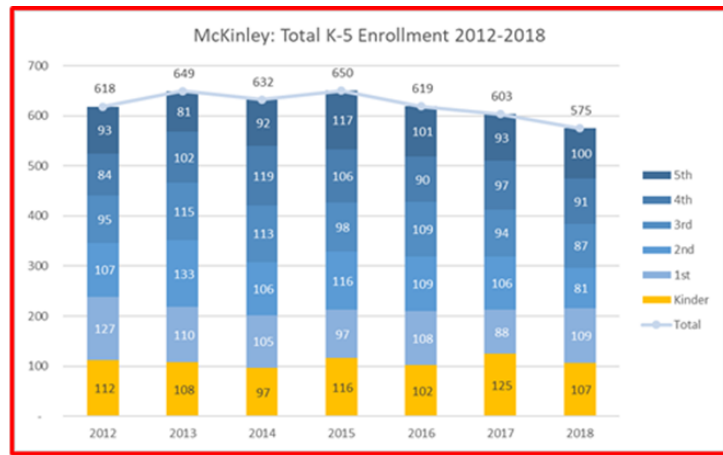
Historic enrollment at each of the three schools is shown below. Enrollment at Elmonica has increased steadily since 2015, driven in part by residential development in the area.

McKinley Building Capacity*

568 (permanent building)

114 (6 portable classrooms)

682 total capacity

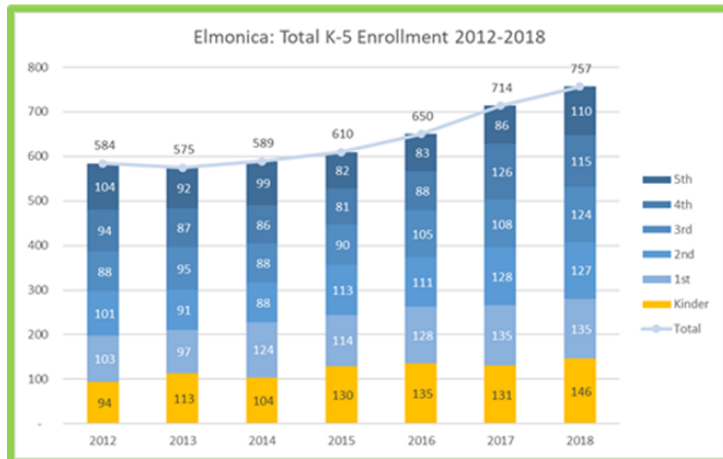


Elmonica Building Capacity

466 (permanent building)

247 (13 portable classrooms)

713 total capacity

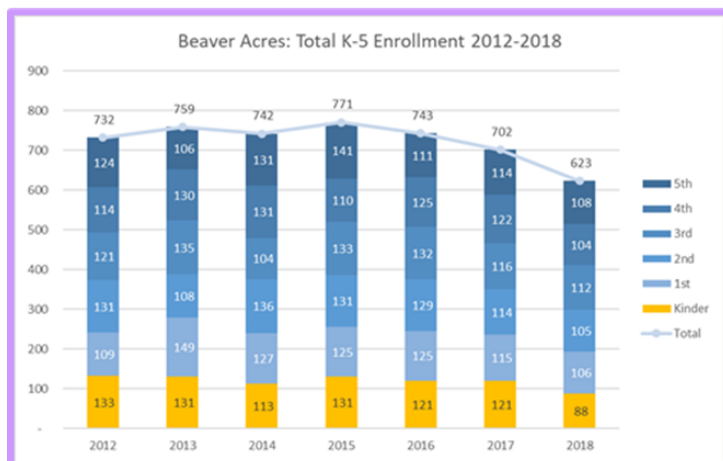


Beaver Acres Building Capacity

741 (permanent building)

152 (8 portable classrooms)

893 total



**Building capacity refers to the general education population; it does not include space for students in Self Contained Specialized Programs (SCSP). Those spaces and programs are accounted for separately and are not affected by the boundary adjustment process.*

Projected Students

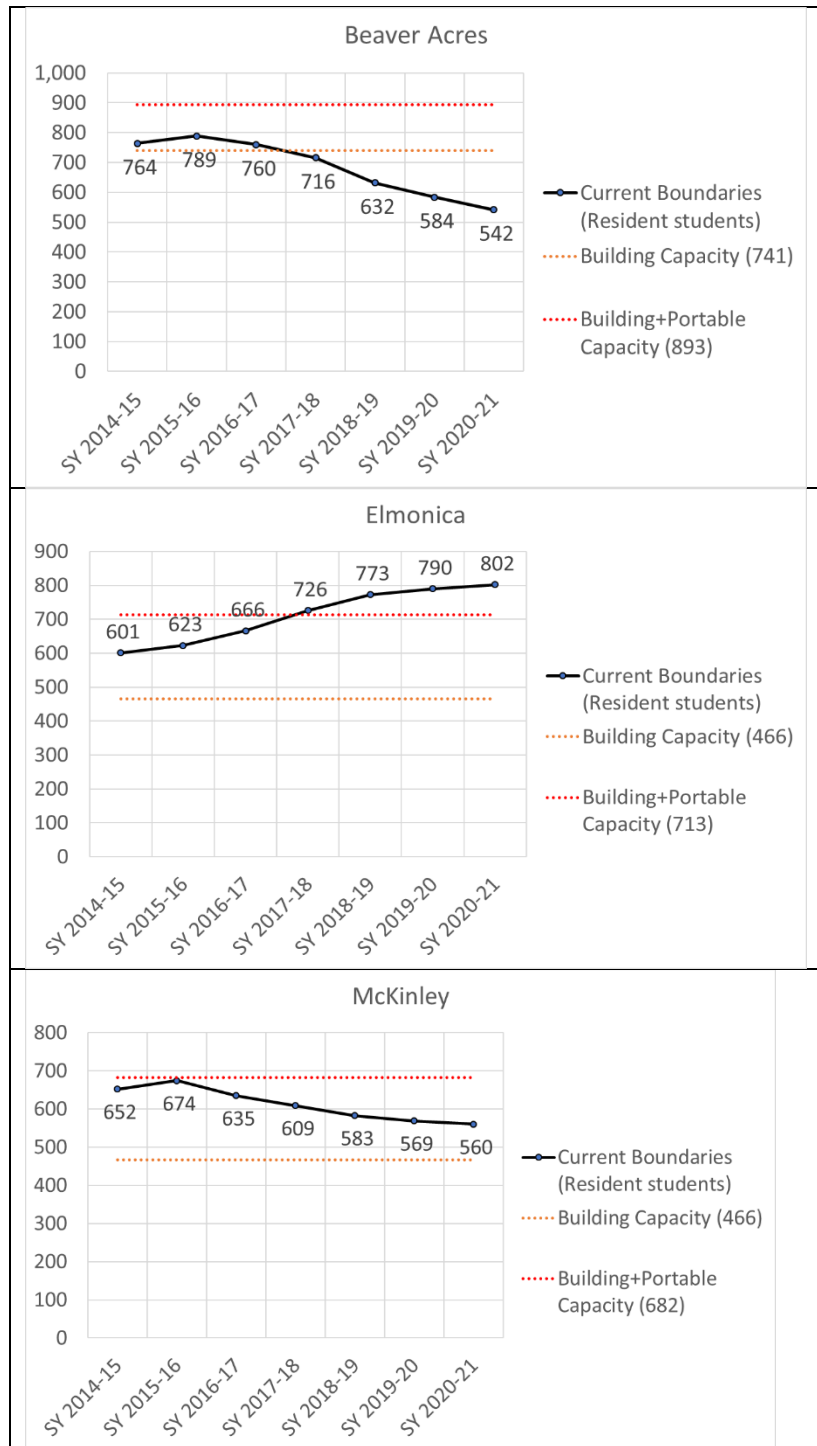
For the purposes of the boundary adjustment process, staff prepared a projection of general education resident students for each of the three elementary schools, out to SY 2020-21.

These figures do not include students in Self Contained Specialized Programs, who are accounted for separately.

In general, there are more students living within an attendance boundary than who attend their home school, due to some students attending other schools on Administrative Transfer or Open Enrollment (usually 1-2% of resident students).

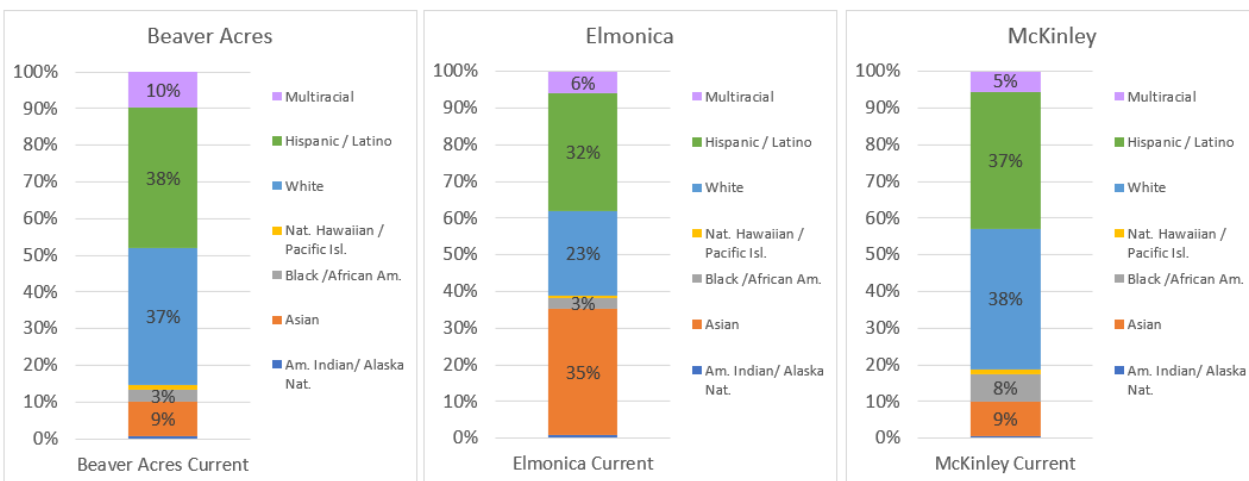
The projection indicated a decrease in the rate of increase at Elmonica, but a resident student population still significantly above the school's building & portable capacity.

The projection showed a continued trend of decline at Beaver Acres and McKinley.



Racial & Ethnic Make-up

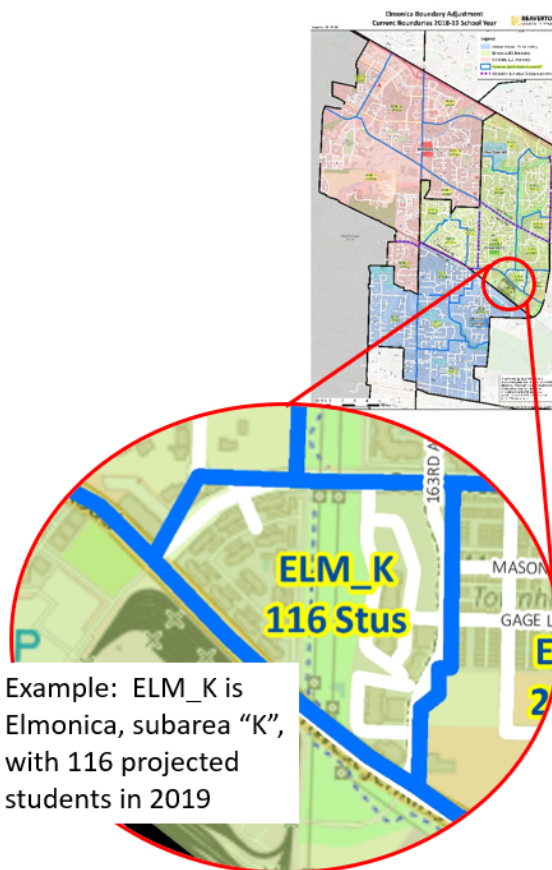
The racial and ethnic make-up of the three schools was provided to the Advisory Committee.



Advisory Committee Workmap

To assist the Advisory Committee in evaluating boundary alternatives, staff created a workmap of the three attendance boundaries. Each attendance area was divided into subareas, comprised of one or more Grid Codes (the building blocks of attendance boundaries and the student transportation assignment system).

Each subarea was given an alphabetical identifier, and the map indicated the number of K-5 students who were projected to be within the area in the Fall of 2019.



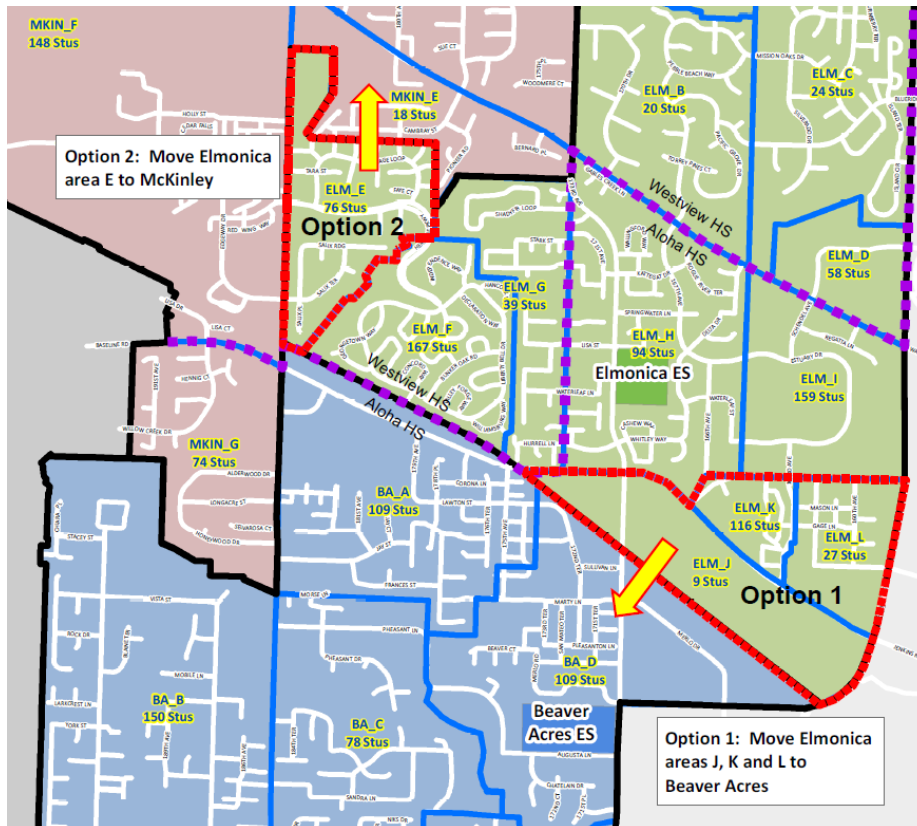
Advisory Committee Process Overview

The Advisory Committee met on Saturday, February 2nd and Wednesday March 13th. Both meetings were open to the public and included public testimony.

At their first meeting, the Advisory Committee received their charge from the Superintendent, as well as background information on the geographic location of the three schools under consideration, historic and projected enrollment, building capacity, demographics and transportation.



The Advisory Committee focused their discussion on two main areas of Elmonica, one in the southeastern portion of Elmonica (Option 1), which includes a mix of multifamily and single-family neighborhoods, bounded by SW 158th, SW Baseline Road and the MAX track. This area has seen rapid student enrollment growth in recent years, in part due to a regulated affordable housing development on SW 163rd Avenue, which has a high proportion of family-friendly units (2-3 bedrooms). This area was considered by the committee for transfer to Beaver Acres Elementary, given its proximity to that school. Most of this area currently is within Elmonica's Non-Transportation Zone, meaning students walk to school. If transferred to Beaver Acres, students in this area would be provided bus transportation.



The Advisory Committee also focused on the westernmost portion of the Elmonica boundary (Option 2). This area is primarily single-family and attached homes. It is bounded by SW 185th Avenue, and Willow Creek, which distinguishes it from the neighborhood to the southeast. Students in this area are provided bus transportation to Elmonica and would be provided bus transportation to McKinley.



The Advisory Committee received spoken testimony from the public and concluded the meeting with a request to staff to provide the projected enrollment, capacity, demographic and transportation impacts of the two proposed changes at the next meeting.

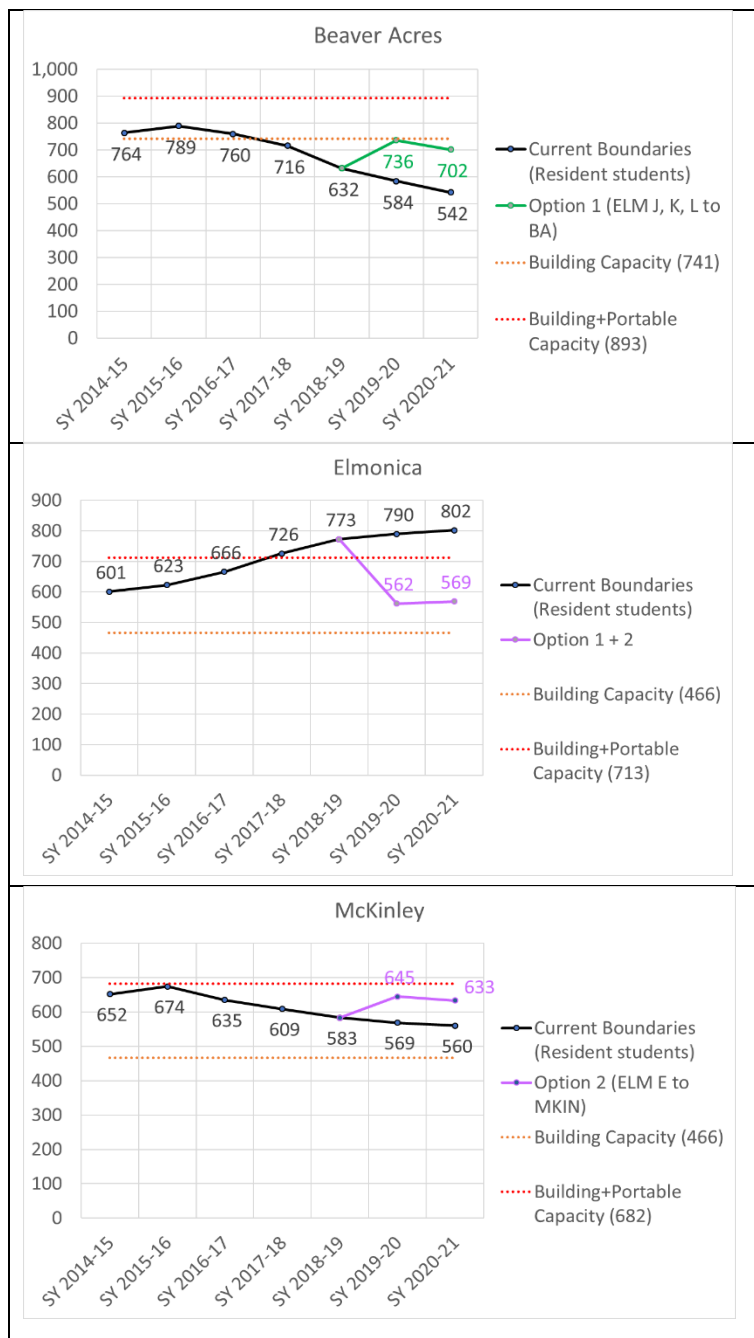
At their second meeting, on Wednesday, March 13th, the Advisory Committee received the results of analysis for the two options under consideration.

The projected effect of both Option 1 and Option 2 will reduce Elmonica's enrollment significantly, below its current maximum capacity of 713 (including 13 portable classrooms), but not necessarily below the total building capacity of 466.

The impact to Beaver Acres would be to increase enrollment above the permanent building capacity of 741, but below the total capacity of nearly 900. Beaver Acres has historically been a larger elementary school.

McKinley would see an increase of students above its permanent capacity of 568, but still below its total capacity of 682.

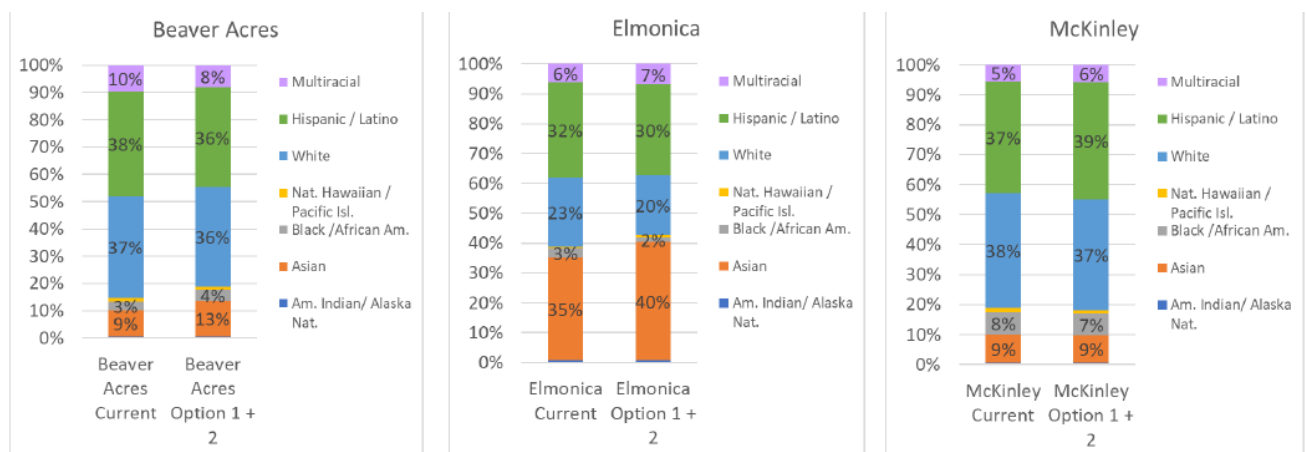
During their deliberation, the Advisory Committee queried the Principals of each school on their view regarding their ability to manage the increase enrollment. The Principals of Beaver Acres and McKinley stated they were able to manage the increases in enrollment due to availability of classroom space, adequate common space such as restrooms and cafeterias, and a desire to help relieve overcrowding at Elmonica.



The Advisory Committee also received information regarding the effects of Option 1 and 2 on transportation. District Transportation staff provided an estimate of the increased cost of transporting students.¹ The majority of the increase in cost would be due to providing bus transportation to an area of Elmonica that is currently in a Non-Transportation Zone. The Advisory Committee confirmed that in the context of the District's \$19 million transportation budget, the increase for the proposed boundary adjustment would be relatively minor.

<i>Effect on Transportation</i>		
	Current Cost	Option 2 Cost
ELM_E	\$6,777	\$9,843
ELM_J	\$1,669	\$2,080
ELM_K	None (Walk zone)	\$5,556
ELM_L	None (Walk zone)	\$11,217
		Net increase: \$20,250

The Advisory Committee was provided estimates of the potential effect on the racial and ethnic make-up of each of the three schools. Overall, the changes would be minor, with a slight proportional increase in the Asian population at Beaver Acres, and a proportionally smaller Hispanic/Latino and White population at Elmonica. McKinley would see a small increase in the Hispanic/Latino population.



The Advisory Committee also requested the effect of the proposed change to each school's level of poverty, as measured by the percentage of students eligible for free & reduced lunch. Elmonica would see a drop in the share of students eligible for free & reduced lunch, with the other two schools seeing a slight increase.

Free / Reduced %	Current	With Option 1 & 2
Beaver Acres	51%	52%
Elmonica	47%	41%
McKinley	55%	57%

¹ The Advisory Committee elected to consider both Options together, so the combined summary is provided here. The appendix of this report includes the individual anticipated effect of Option 1 and 2.

Finally, the Advisory Committee requested information on how each school may differ in terms of students enrolled as English Language Learners (ELL). The following table shows anticipated changes, which are minor for each school.

% of Students who are English Language Learners	Current	With Option 1 & 2
Beaver Acres	21%	22%
Elmonica	29%	28%
McKinley	20%	23%

Superintendent's Consideration of Board Objectives and Policy JC Factors

The School Board adopted two objectives for this boundary adjustment process:

Objective 1: Create an attendance boundary amendment that will provide overcrowding relief for Elmonica Elementary School for the SY 2019-20 school year.

Objective 2: To the degree feasible, balance future enrollment with each affected school's capacity.

Based on the preceding narrative, the Superintendent finds the Advisory Committee's recommendation meets both objectives. The additional enrollment projected for Beaver Acres and McKinley Elementary schools are proportional to their relative capacity and will provide significant relief to Elmonica in SY 2019-20.

Policy JC Factors:

Student Body Composition

The recommended boundary adjustment will result in some minor shifts in the demographic make-up of each school. The Advisory Committee and the Principals discussed the potential implications of lowering the percentage of students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch at Elmonica. This may result eventually in some reduction of Title 1 resources, but the primary objective was to lower Elmonica's overcrowding overall.

Current and future availability of space

The recommended boundary adjustment will significantly reduce the burden on Elmonica's permanent building facilities and allow for the removal of the portable classroom structures located at the front of the school from the site. The Beaver Acres campus has received improvements in prior years that make it suitable for a larger student population, and McKinley has sufficient capacity to assist in reducing Elmonica's enrollment. Facilities staff will continue to carefully monitor enrollment and capacity issues at all three schools, as well as consider long-range facility improvements in the upcoming Districtwide Long Range Facility Plan project.

Feeder patterns to elementary, middle and high schools

The recommended boundary adjustment will not affect students feeder patterns to Middle or High School.

Neighborhood proximity and accessibility

The primary concern for this factor is the area of Elmonica (Area B) that will be transferred to Beaver Acres. This area is within walking distance of Elmonica and was recently designated a Non-Transportation Zone. The proposed change will necessitate resuming bus transportation for students in order for them to attend Beaver Acres. When possible, the District prefers that students are able to walk to school, but in this case, that desire is subordinate to the need to ameliorate overcrowding at Elmonica.

Elmonica / Beaver Acres / McKinley Elementary Boundary Adjustment (2019)

Public Comments Received February to April, 2019

#	Date	Name	Venu e	Comment	Response
1	2/2/2019	Elaine Tronic	Mtg #1	Consider ELM-K, ELM-L and MKIN-G to Beaver Acres. ELM-E to McKinley. In addition to free-reduced lunch percentage, what other demographics are available by subsection? ELL, etc.	The cumulative demographic figures were presented at Meeting #2 for each of the proposed boundary changes.
2	2/2/2019	Brandy Brooks	Mtg #1	Looking ahead to after boundary changes have been determined - Elmonica & McKinley are both currently approved and operating with IB-PYP curriculum; however, Beaver Acres is not. For students who have only been in a PYP program, and are realigned to Beaver Acres, what will the curriculum adjustment look like? What can students anticipate to experience for the change? What plans does the Beaver Acres administration (and educators) have for how to effectively manage that transition?	While there may be some differences in programming, all elementary schools employ an inquiry-based approach to learning. The staff at Beaver Acres and McKinley look forward to welcoming new students into their communities and will work to make those transitions as easy as possible.
3	1/31/2019	Keely Borden	Email	I live in arbor crossing condos on 206th, and as of now the attendance boundaries are split between not only schools, but districts. Half of our condo neighborhood is assigned Hillsboro district at quatama elementary, and the other half is Beaverton school district at McKinley elementary. When I noticed there was a boundary issue being looked into and that some elmonica students may be pushing into a few other schools, it looks like this may be another area to simplify boundaries. Kids living one street over in the same condo complex get on different school buses and go to different schools in different districts. Maybe if the arbor crossing condos were all in one attendance boundary it would allow for some movement within the other overcrowded school and eli minate the splitting of a neighborhood? I'm sure this has already been looked at many times, but thought it was worth bringing up since it's an unusual boundary line. . Thank you for your time.	The District is aware of this Hillsboro/Beaverton boundary issue at this location; however, inter-District boundaries are not currently under review.

Elmonica / Beaver Acres / McKinley Elementary Boundary Adjustment (2019)

Public Comments Received February to April, 2019

4	2/6/2019	Morgan Green	Email	I think it should be intentional trying to keep Elmonica with their Title I. That's funding they will loose and teacher that might lose their Title I financial aid reimbursement.	Any changes to Elmonica's Title 1 status would be implemented over a 1-2-year cycle.
5	3/15/2019	Courtney Carlson	Email	Hello, Our family lives in section L which is proposed to go from Elmonica to Beaver Acres. This doesn't make sense to me because it is a walk zone to Elmonica. If moved to Beaver Acres, more money would be spent on buses. My daughter is also going to be a fifth grader next year, and would be absolutely heartbroken if she was unable to be at Elmonica for her last year. She has been there since kindergarten. Again, please think about this. A zone that does not require a bus due to its close proximity to Elmonica should not be forced to go to a farther away school that would require a bus. Thank you	<p>The proposed boundary adjustment will likely increase transportation costs, but the District must weigh those costs against the burdens of overcrowding at Elmonica.</p> <p>The proposed transition plan will allow incoming 5th graders to choose to remain at Elmonica for their final year.</p>
6	3/15/2019	Amy Gibson	Email	Hello - I live in section L, and I understand we are part of the Option 1 move to Beaver Acres. I find it very strange that a current "walk zone" would be considered in this transfer. Right now, our transportation costs are zero, yet you might be willing to expense \$17K to send our children to a different school. That makes no sense to me. On a personal note, my child just got accepted to the TAG program through Elmonica, and I wonder what a move to another school would do to that status? And, we have a daycare bus that picks my child up at Elmonica each afternoon. This daycare bus does not travel to Beaver Acres. My afternoon pick up and supervision for my child would be in jeopardy if this plan goes through. Please reconsider Option 1. We are a walk zone, and we cost nothing right now to transport ourselves to Elmonica. Thank you,	<p>The proposed boundary adjustment will likely increase transportation costs, but the District must weigh those costs against the burdens of overcrowding at Elmonica.</p> <p>While there may be some differences in programming, all elementary schools employ an inquiry-based approach to learning. The staff at Beaver Acres and McKinley look forward to welcoming new students into their communities and will work to make those transitions as easy as possible.</p>

Elmonica / Beaver Acres / McKinley Elementary Boundary Adjustment (2019)

Public Comments Received February to April, 2019

7	3/18/2019	Amy Gibson	Email	<p>Hello, I sent in a comment last week, but I thought I would again. We are in section L, a walk zone to Elmonica. Knowing there are some massive budget cuts that need to occur for the next school year, to me it doesn't make sense financially to move our walk zone children to a new school. The district would incur an additional cost for busses if we were to move. On a personal note, my son is a TAG student at Elmonica. What will happen if he moves? And, on a serious note, our after school program does not pick up at Beaver Acres. I will be at a loss of what to do in the afternoon for his supervision. Please reconsider the current walk zones. There are many areas that already use a bus, so that expenditure is already in play. Right now, my zone costs the district nothing in transportation, yet we'd be an additional \$17K+. Thank you,</p>	
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Elmonica / Beaver Acres / McKinley Elementary Boundary Adjustment (2019)

Public Comments Received February to April, 2019

8	3/21/2019	Amy Gibson	Email	<p>This will be my 3rd time mentioning my concern regarding the boundary change. My family is in section B [section L] on the latest BSD update to move to Beaver Acres. I also understand from the recent boundary change meeting that my section will cost an added estimate of \$17K or more to bus our children to Beaver Acres. After watching the video today about the budget cuts coming up, this added cost in transportation makes no sense to me. Right now, my section costs the district nothing in transportation as we're in a walk zone. I completely understand that Elmonica is way over capacity. However, there are other sections who already take a bus, who are also right across Baseline, and could also go to Beaver Acres. What would their added cost be to drive across Baseline? I would be surprised if that added cost for children who already bus to school would come close to \$17K. If we're cutting costs here, why would we add such a high dollar amount in transportation to bus our current walk zone children? Which teaching assistant will lose their job just to bus our current walk zone children elsewhere? Thank you for your consideration.</p>	
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Elmonica / Beaver Acres / McKinley Elementary Boundary Adjustment (2019)

Public Comments Received February to April, 2019

9	3/22/2019	Lynda Williams	Email	<p>While I recognize the importance of this effort to adjust enrollment levels with the intent to ensure that each elementary school is operating within its capacity, as a parent of a 3rd grader who is thriving at Elmonica Elementary school, I am concerned that my child's academic and socio-emotional progress will be impeded by a relocation to a school outside of her neighborhood. Our address is such that my daughter is able to walk safely, quickly and independently to and from school each day, which is of critical value to me as a single, working parent. Having to leave behind the stellar instruction, student support, and resources at Elmonica, and also be required to rely on a school bus for daily transportation will have a definite negative effect on my daughter's burgeoning sense of well-being and self-efficacy which has resulted from the gains she has made at Elmonica. If the boundary adjustment is, in fact, a necessary action, I ask that there be put in place some fair measure by which parents of current Elmonica students might appeal their child's relocation and potentially be permitted to keep their child enrolled at the school.</p>	<p>The proposed boundary adjustment will likely increase transportation costs, but the District must weigh those costs against the burdens of overcrowding at Elmonica.</p> <p>Due to the overcrowding at Elmonica, only the incoming 5th grade students will be granted the option of remaining.</p> <p>While there may be some differences in programming, all elementary schools employ an inquiry-based approach to learning. The staff at Beaver Acres and McKinley look forward to welcoming new students into their communities and will work to make those transitions as easy as possible.</p>
10	3/22/2019	Kenta Kimura	Email	<p>It seems the area of my home is categorised in the area B which will be attended Beaver Acres ES. I suppose to many children wish to stay in a same school but I understand change is needed on each of point in our life in order to develop and improve us. However, to see the condition on each of school, Elmonica ES, McKinley ES and Beaver Acres ES, the school rate might be similar but Beaver Acres ES is not an IB (International Baccalaureate). When we decided to move to the address, that is one of factor. If someone would choose the factor, I would like to ask you guys to accept someone who would choose the factor to the school (Elmonica or McKinley ES) which is an IB even it is not within the boundary and provide a school bus service, or Beaver Acres ES would be an IB and provide a school bus service prior to change the boundary.</p>	<p>While there may be some differences in programming, all elementary schools employ an inquiry-based approach to learning. The staff at Beaver Acres and McKinley look forward to welcoming new students into their communities and will work to make those transitions as easy as possible.</p>

Elmonica / Beaver Acres / McKinley Elementary Boundary Adjustment (2019)

Public Comments Received February to April, 2019

11	3/30/2019	David S. March II & Ayako March		<p>Hello Superintendent Grotting, My name is David March. I am the father of current Elmonica Third grader, Ailey March. My wife and I are both educators. Our family only recently became aware of the intention to rezone our neighborhood from Elmonica to Beaver Acres moving forward, and we honestly think this is a terrible plan that needs to be reconsidered. We have general reasons why this would be bad for our neighborhood overall in the long-term, but as concerned parents, we also have objections that are specific to our own daughter and her specific academic needs as a TAG student that we would like you to consider.</p>	<p>The District does not undertake boundary adjustments except when necessary, and this became the case following several years of growth and overcrowding at Elmonica.</p> <p>The Boundary Adjustment committee had to balance several factors in making a recommendation, and in this case, the committee recommended shifting areas that are proximate to Beaver Acres, which included the southern and easternmost portions of Elmonica's current boundary. This was, in part, because Beaver Acres has significantly more student capacity than McKinley and could provide the most relief to Elmonica's overcrowding.</p> <p>The Principals of Beaver Acres and McKinley participated in the process and provided their input to the committee. They and their staff are committed to welcoming new students and easing their transition to a new school.</p>
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Elmonica / Beaver Acres / McKinley Elementary Boundary Adjustment (2019)

Public Comments Received February to April, 2019

11 (cont'd)				<p>The Proposal to shift families from Area B to Beaver Acres is counter-intuitive; ignores two more obvious and natural adjustments; seems to be based on socio-economic motivations rather than the proximity to the school which should be the first consideration. The proposed move violates common sense, and your own district's recent evaluation of how connected this community is to the Elmonica area. Your proposal suggests that it make more sense for children North of Walker road, a road that no young child should ever cross without parental supervision, is more connected to Elmonica elementary than our portion of the neighborhood-- a neighborhood that last year was recognized as being so close to the school that providing bus services to this neighborhood was an UNECESSARY expense due to how close and easy it is for children here to walk to the school. Kids from this neighborhood play at Elmonica after school, on weekends and during breaks from school because that is the school that is a part of this neighborhood. The children that our children can visit freely in the neighborhood just on the other side of the road will continue to go to Elmonica.</p>	
11 (cont'd)		David S. March II & Ayako March (cont'd)		<p>Instead, this proposals places our kids on an island where they are effectively being excluded from both neighborhoods in the ways that matter most: Both Jenkins/Baseline Road itself and the train tracks create literal barriers to kids here visiting or interacting with the majority of kids that attend Beaver Acres: They don't have the option to stay late because they have to ride a bus and cannot choose to walk back to school after classes are over to play; They can't safely choose to meet friends on weekends or during the summers. Ironically, the only children potentially old enough to do so safely-- Current 4th graders next year's 5th graders--- do have the option of being grandfathered into staying at Elmonica. On top of this, the kids here won't be classmates with the kids who do live in the homes and neighborhoods that are closest to the parks that are just across the street .</p>	

Elmonica / Beaver Acres / McKinley Elementary Boundary Adjustment (2019)

Public Comments Received February to April, 2019

11 (cont'd)				<p>More notably and more upsetting is the clear effort that has been extended to justify this counter- intuitive decision: another area south of the train tracks and west of 185th remains connected /attached to McKinley Elementary despite families to the south and east of that same neighborhood already attending Beaver Acres. --- While I accept that 185th would be a boundary children wouldn't cross to the east--- it is much more natural and safe for them to travel through neighborhoods to the south connected to Beaver Acres than it is to cross the train tracks to the North to connect with families in the town homes and apartments located just north of the PCC Willow Creek Facility. Families in that area have to go North across train tracks, and cross Walker Road as well as Head East across 185th to connect with McKinley.</p>	
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Elmonica / Beaver Acres / McKinley Elementary Boundary Adjustment (2019)

Public Comments Received February to April, 2019

11 (cont'd)		David S. March II & Ayako March (cont'd)		<p>Based on the scale provided on the map--- they live over 5 miles away from the school. -- At best, the omission of this choice as an option seems to based upon tradition rather than common sense and needs to be reevaluated. A similar example is the neighborhoods to the North, South and East of 5 Oaks Middle School: They live roughly 4-7-ish miles away from Elmonica. Again, I can understand how one could argue that 170th is not a road that should be crossed, it had much less traffic than Walker Road, and the neighborhoods involved are already connected due to the fact that families there already expect to attend Five-Oaks together. In that area, 5 Oaks Middle School and the Autumn Ridge Parks fill the niche of neighborhood schools/community hubs where children can gather and play. Connecting this officially to McKinley only makes that connection natural earlier for the families involved. -- Again, at best, the omission of this choice as an option seems to based upon tradition rather than common sense and needs to be reevaluated.</p> <p>One reason that I can see to make such an effort to ignore their proximity to the school is that this part of our neighborhood is has no traditional housing of single family homes with yards: We live in townhomes and apartments. I don't like the conclusion, but it really appears that the makers of this proposal have elected to include homes North of Walker Road and physically closer to McKinley than Elmonica because of some explicit or unconscious bias against families from this type of home.</p>	
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11 (cont'd)		David S. March II & Ayako March (cont'd)		<p>I say this because when you look at how close we live to the school, the variable that really should matter most, the proposal looks as absurd as I have described it to be. Either way, it is unconscionable that that you would even appear to be shuffling children in this fashion based on socio-economic factors that these kids cannot control. The plan requires buses to take them to a new school when they live close enough to walk to the school they already naturally view as part of the neighborhood they live in-- This well documented and established as recently as last year-- But I digress... at this point I am just repeating myself.</p> <p>I hope that as you read that, it was eye-opening. That you take a second look at the map and realize what it look like from the perspective of a person that hasn't put months or years worth of effort into it. That would mean that it wasn't a choice you were making intentionally, and that leaves me with hope that you would be willing to read that, and reconsider your position. A bad choice is a bad choice no matter how many man hours went into its creation.</p> <p>The alternative is that you read this, and knew that these specific objections were coming... and had steeled yourself against them. If that is the case, I don't know what I could say that would make a difference since it would be appealing to a sense of fairness and values that had already been dismissed.</p>	
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11 (cont'd)		David S. March II & Ayako March (cont'd)		<p>As for our family in particular: Our daughter is 9, and is going into the fourth grade next year, and your grandfathering in just 5th graders is arbitrary and deserves further consideration. The number of children her age that are in this particular part of the neighborhood is rather low--- All of her friends live in the area that will remain connected to Elmonica. The proposal has determined that she must essentially move, and go to a new school, without any of her friends, without consulting her or us. When she heard this, she literally cried and asked if we could move to avoid it. She has known her friends there for 4 years-- the decision to not grandfather in children that wish to remain is forcing her to make a major life change to compensate for issues she had no part in creating-- and as I note above, the logic of such choices considering how close we actually live to the school is dubious to me: she'd walk, not take a bus if allowed to choose the school she wants to attend. Lastly, and most importantly, the instructional philosophy of Elmonica is the one that will best serve my daughter's needs academically.</p>	
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11 (cont'd)		David S. March II & Ayako March (cont'd)		<p>Our daughter is a TAG student, and Elmonica embraces PYP instruction and Beaver Acres doesn't. Elmonica, as a core tenant of its mission because of this is highly aware of, and embraces and uses its diversity as an asset in ways that schools that are not using the PYP model cannot.</p> <p>This is the instructional philosophy that is in place at the Beaverton International School where her older sister attends school. We intend for our younger daughter to apply there as well as a younger sibling. Forcing her to miss out on 4th and 5th grade in that type of environment means that she won't engage in the bigger projects and critical thinking that the younger grades were building towards, but were not yet ready to engage with.</p> <p>Our daughter should be allowed to pursue an educational path that challenges her, and prepares her for success--- as a TAG student, your obligation to seeing that she is challenged and able to grow based on her intellect and academic abilities is the same, and Beaver Acres will not be able to "replace" what the PYP instructional approach at Elmonica offers our daughter in terms of diversity, academic, and cognitive development.</p>	
11 (cont'd)		David S. March II & Ayako March (cont'd)		<p>I know that this is long, but it is the result of a week's worth of thought and reflection. It is not a reaction in the moment. It is not a simple fear or dislike of something new. Please consider that, along with the specific information that I have shared here about how this proposal would harm our neighborhood in general, and our daughter specifically.</p> <p>I would be very interested in a personal response to the objections that I have noted here. Thank you for your time and consideration. Best regards,</p>	

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12	4/3/2019	Subrotho Kumar Biswas	Email	Good Morning! My Son studies in ELMONICA ELEMENTARY school at 3rd Grade, he is been studying here from past 4 years and he/ourselves are comfortable to have him study at Elmonica Elementary school and my wife/myself picks up/Drop off from/to school all the days BY WALK as it is close by to ELMONICA APARTMENTS. we would like to continue 4th and 5th Grade also in your school. Please allow my kid to join in your school next year also.	The District acknowledges that it can be difficult for students to transition between schools. However, due to the extreme overcrowding at Elmonica, the option to allow incoming 4 th graders to stay, in addition to incoming 5 th graders, was not recommended.
13	4/5/2019	Megan	Email	Hello, I'm emailing regarding the boundary changes for Elmonica next year. I'm aware Elmonica is extremely overcrowded and yes something needs to be done. I am concerned about the option to move students to McKinley. Beaver Acres and Elmonica rank about the same with test scores and individual progress. McKinley however has lower test scores and low individual progress along with a reputation of behavior problems. I know McKinley recently gained a new principal, whom parents rave about and claim he will bring change, but he needs time. I believe if nearly 80 new and unhappy students join McKinley next year, giving McKinley a higher capacity rate than Elmonica, would be sabotaging the hope for a brighter future for these students. If the move to McKinley just happen, I ask for a delay move for the 2020-21 school year to give the principal a chance to continue his progress. Another option, would be to allow students to choose if they want to stay at Elmonica, but with no transportation included so parents would be responsible for getting them to Elmonica. Thank you for your time and consideration.	The recommended boundary adjustment is scheduled to go into effect for the 2019-20 school year in order to provide much needed relief at Elmonica. Unfortunately, the proposed boundary adjustment will still result Elmonica remaining above its permanent building capacity, and a delay in implementing the McKinley move would prolong the burden of overcrowding.

Elmonica Boundary Adjustment

Superintendent's Recommended Map

April 11, 2019

