

Middle School Boundary Public Comment
9.3.20

Date	Name	Email	Elementary	Middle	High	Option	Comment
09/03/2020	Brian Wallace	briansg80@gmail.com	Findley Elem	Stoller MS	Sunset		To whom it may concern,I have two children who attend Findley elementary school. I am strongly against an elementary school boundary adjustment process and ask the committee to please remove this recommendation to the BSD. I believe the BSD should focus their time and resources now more than ever on other priorities which will keep our students safe. I do not believe starting a new elementary school boundary adjustment process is where the BSD nor this community should be spending our limited time now. We have far greater things to worry about. Thank you for your consideration. Please do not support an elementary school boundary adjustment process.
09/02/2020	Eric Bolken	bigbolk@hotmail.com	Cooper Mountain				Please maintain the status quo for Cooper Mountain and reject any proposal to greatly impact this communityunnecessarily in this time of great uncertainty.As noted to by the only voiced comments from committee members in the last meeting, the changes to school feeding are not warranted for a nominal change in Free and Reduced Lunch. This committee has not been charged with re-balancing FRL numbers as part of this process and the lack of consensus makes it apparent that this forum is not the venue to attempt this effort. BSD staff should be holding the committee to making recommendations pertaining only to the 4 goals set forth in this process as guided by the JC Policy factors which the School Board has also provided for guidance. Moving Cooper Mountain population completely to Mountain View is an obvious departure and I would say failure of not only the 4 goals but also every one of the JC Policy factors. The committee should not entertain recommendations that fail the goals set forth.The posted comments by nearly all community members are in support of maintaining the status quo and should be given due consideration.Please maintain the status quo for Cooper Mountain and reject any proposal to greatly impact this communityunnecessarily.
09/03/2020	Karen Sakihama	Karensakihama@gmail.com	Findley Elem				To Whom It May Concern,I am writing to ask that you please reconsider the decision that was made at the last meeting in March and to remove your recommendation for starting an elementary school boundary adjustment process. The vote that occurred 6 months ago was predicated on the belief that the middle school boundary adjustment process would have completed last spring and that the new elementary school boundary process would be occurring now. Given the delays to the middle school boundary adjustments, due to the unforeseen circumstances, it no longer seems there is adequate time to properly conduct this process. With the ever changing and challenging environment we all currently face due to COVID and the state of the city, it does not seem to be in the best interest of the majority to change the elementary boundaries. The children need to know they have the stability of their elementary community without losing friends or adding an additional variable to their current worlds. Please do not support an elementary school boundary adjustment.

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09/03/2020	Meagan Pak	meaganstruthers@gmail.com	Findley Elem			<p>I ask that you please do not support a grade school boundary adjustment process. I am writing as a mom of a child at Findley elementary school who lives in the walkable area of Stoller Middle School to please ask you to not recommend a possible elementary school boundary change process to be explored by the BSD. Please keep us at Findley and do not move us to Jacob Wismer. I live in the area that was a part of a long discussion at the last meeting which included the 3 grid codes just south of Laidlaw next to Stoller. From the discussion that occurred at the last meeting, we appreciated the efforts of several members of the committee that were trying to ascertain what the desires of these 3 grid codes were. A discussion ensued, but there was uncertainty on what the parents of these communities wanted. I am writing to provide my clear recommendation and request to please keep us at Findley elementary school. There have been some outspoken members of this group (walkable Stoller) that have communicated the desire by some to walk to Stoller. However after the last meeting, many of these parents have told me that they did not realize that this might mean moving to Jacob Wismer which we all strongly oppose. So I please ask you to keep the students who are currently at Findley (but can walk to Stoller) to remain at Findley. Our family feels very invested into Findley. I volunteer each week in the classroom and also in other capacities including teaching art literacy and have done so since my daughter was in Kindergarten at Findley. The students all know me by name, which I only share to illustrate how invested we all become as parents and children into the elementary school communities in which we join. My husband is also very active and volunteers each week. Thank you so much for all your hard work and dedication you are putting into the process, it is greatly appreciated. Please keep walkable Stoller at Findley elementary school. Please do not support a grade school boundary adjustment process. Thank you!</p>
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						<p>PLEASE DO NOT RECOMMEND AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT PROCESSThank you to all who are serving and volunteering your time on the boundary adjustment committee. At the last meeting on March 12, the committee narrowly passed a recommendation for the BSD to undertake a new elementary school boundary adjustment process (Vote 3). This was done without the opportunity for some of the grid codes directly impacted being able to provide their comments prior to this vote. My comment today is to please request the committee to reverse Vote 3 and to not support an elementary school boundary adjustment process. While it might have seemed more appropriate 6 months ago when the vote was originally taken, circumstances have changed and I believe Vote 3 should change for the following reasons.(1) This is simply not the right time to undertake a new elementary boundary adjustment process. Given the current environment that we are in, we have much higher priorities as students, parents and as a district. Our priority should be focusing on keeping our children healthy, spending our time supporting remote distance learning and being good stewards of a limited district budget. Creating a new highly involved boundary process does not seem a good use of our time and resources.(2) Moving the 3 grid codes from Findley to Jacob Wismer (JW) would only exacerbate the overcrowding issues at JW. Findley currently has a declining student population so it would not make sense to move students from Findley (declining population) to JW (which is overcrowded). In addition, with the growth coming from the new developments around Sato, there will eventually need to be a shift from Sato. It would not make sense to move students farther North, when the eventual move will have to move students further South. This could cause neighborhoods such as Oakridge to move from Findley to JW and then have to move again from JW back to Findley down the road.(3) If the elementary school boundary adjustments were to occur, it would involve swapping neighborhoods between various schools. This would cause a large number of families to be removed from their current elementary school communities to a different community for the sole purpose of meeting the desire at a small group of families who desire to walk to Stoller. Breaking up elementary school communities which have formed over many decades does not seem worth it.(4) Vote 3 was taken when the middle school boundary process was scheduled to be done last spring. Because we had to put this boundary adjustment process on pause for six months, I do not think it is feasible or appropriate to begin a brand new elementary school boundary adjustment process given the short amount of time we now have. This would further cause uncertainty for many students to not know which school they will be attending next year. Our students are already facing unprecedented stress in their lives and I believe it is not prudent for us to add any unnecessary uncertainties.Please remove the current recommendation for an elementary school boundary process to occur. Thank you very much!</p>
09/03/2020	Paul Pak	paulcpak@gmail.com	Findley Elem			<p>To Whom it May Concern:My name is Samantha Vembu Moerkerke, I am a mother of two children. My son Everett will be starting Kindergarten at Cooper Mountain in a few weeks. I am also the mother of an adopted daughter from Thailand. When my husband and I were buying our house we were ecstatic that we found a neighborhood that was made up of people from all over the world. I am bi-racial, and have also adopted outside of my race. I love that when my daughter starts school she will see children that look like her. We live in an area with other asian and bi-racial families. I would like her to have the opportunity to go to school with people that look like her, thought out her time at BSD.When I was in school I was bussed to a predominantly white rural area. That experience was very hard on my sister and I. We were never like anyone else, and no one understood our experiences. Our father is an immigrant and our mother is white. Most of the time we were bullied for not being white, or made fun of for having an immigrant father. When it was not those things, it was being teased for using different words, or having a different cultural background. I really do not want either of my non-white children to experience that. To take them away from the middle school where all of their friends are, and then send them to a predominately white school is an abhorrent thought to my husband and I. As a parent I am always trying to find ways to give my children better experiences than the ones that I had. As a non-white person I put a lot of thought into the schools that I wanted my non-white children to attend. One of the reasons we moved to this neighborhood is because it is made up of biracial families that look like us. I really do not want my children bused to a school that will make them feel the way that I felt growing up.Thank you, Samantha</p>

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09/03/2020	Stephanie Smith	stephanieruccismith@gmail.com	Findley Elem				<p>Hello,I am a resident of Oakridge Estates and I strongly oppose the current recommendation to conduct a new elementary school boundary adjustment process. There has been a small, but vocal group in my neighborhood who has a desire to walk to Stoller. Most of these people who I have spoken with, after learning that this would result in potentially moving from Findley Elementary to Jacob Wismer Elementary, no longer support walking to Stoller if that means moving elementary schools. I have spoken with many neighbors, who are not as close to this process and the decision that was made at the last meeting, who were very shocked to learn that there is a plan to recommend an elementary school boundary adjustment process to occur. While on paper the elementary school boundaries appear as lines, the current elementary school boundaries represent strong communities. If an elementary school boundary adjustment process were to occur, it would simply move some neighborhoods between Findley and Jacob Wismer and vice versa. This would result in moving students and families from their current elementary school communities for the small convenience of a small group of outspoken members of my community with the desire to walk to Stoller. This disruption in the strong elementary school communities that have been developed over many many years does not seem worth the convenience of walking to a middle school. Please do not support an elementary school boundary adjustment process. Thank you so much for taking the time to consider my comment.Sincerely,Stephanie Smith</p>
09/03/2020	Stephanie Wallace	mswallace80@gmail.com	Findley Elem				<p>Thank you members of the middle school boundary advisory committee for all your hard work and dedication! I have a son and a daughter who currently attend Findley elementary school. I am submitting a comment today regarding the proposed elementary school boundary adjustment process that was recommended and voted at the last committee meeting in March. I strongly oppose for the BSD to conduct a new and separate elementary school boundary adjustment process. I believe that the school district and parents are already overwhelmed with distance learning and trying to navigate this school year and adding in a brand new adjustment process is not something that we have time for nor the capacity to make a priority. Beyond that it adds unneeded stress to parents and students. I urge this committee to please not support the proposed elementary school boundary adjustment process. Thank you very much!</p>
09/03/2020	Steven Smith	Stevensmith@outlook.com	Findley Elem	Stoller MS	Sunset		<p>Our family lives in Oakridge Estates and we strongly oppose the committee's decision at the last meeting to recommend an elementary school boundary adjustment process. There are some outspoken members in my neighborhood who have supported walking to Stoller, but I know of many more who do not support this. Further, no one I have spoke with in Oakridge Estates was even aware of the possibility of an elementary school boundary adjustment process and strongly wants to keep the current elementary boundary of Findley in place. Please do not support an elementary school boundary adjustment process. Thank you.</p>

Please rescind the recommendation for an elementary school boundary adjustment process

September 3, 2020

Mr. Sparks & Middle School Boundary Adjustment Committee:

Thank you for your time and dedication serving on this committee. Your thoughtfulness and service is so greatly appreciated!

I am writing this a parent to a child at Findley elementary and also as a former elementary school teacher who has a perspective on what changing elementary schools can do to our students during what are very formative years. My letter to you is based on conversations I have had with many families who attend Findley Elementary or Jacob Wismer Elementary, in particular those who reside close to Stoller Middle School.

The purpose of my letter is to share my thoughts on the proposal for an elementary school boundary adjustment process. At the last meeting, a very close vote resulted in a planned recommendation to take on a new elementary boundary adjustment process. I am speaking with you to request that you please rescind the recommendation for an elementary school boundary adjustment process based on the following:

1. The result of an elementary adjustment would simply swap some neighborhoods from Findley to Jacob Wismer and vice versa. This would result in displacing families from their current communities for the sake of convenience to walk to middle school for one neighborhood which is not a unanimous desire within the neighborhood.
2. The vote was based on the elementary boundary adjustment process occurring now, before the opening of Timberland. Given the delays in the middle school boundary process and COVID limitations, it does not seem reasonable to introduce a new boundary process.
3. Given the current environment and our responsibility to conserve time and resources at the district, we do not believe initiating a new boundary process is a prudent use of limited resources at this time.
4. Parents have enough on their plates with distance-learning and we do not need to add an additional boundary process to our plate.
5. In all likelihood, this elementary boundary adjustment process would need to be done virtually which presents many challenges, in particular for those who are economically disadvantaged.
6. Recommending an elementary boundary adjustment process would leave our kids in limbo, not knowing where they will attend next year, creating significant unnecessary stress during a time where our children are already facing a very challenging emotional time.
7. Instead of initiating an entirely new boundary process, it would make more sense to allow families who feel strongly about walking to Stoller to apply for an in-district transfer.

Based on these reasons, we please request this committee to rescind the recommendation that was voted on at the last meeting and not recommend an elementary boundary adjustment. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,
Meagan

September 2, 2020

Mr. Sparks and the Middle School Advisory Committee,

Thank you all for your service on this committee and the countless of hours you have volunteered, we sincerely appreciate all of your efforts. Thank you for not splitting Findley Elementary School and choosing to keep Findley together at Timberland.

This is a letter from the Findley parents in the **Kaiser Ridge neighborhood** (map provided at the end of the letter) requesting that, if the advisory committee recommends a Findley/ Jacob Wismer boundary adjustment process with respect to the area between Laidlaw Road and Bronson Creek, our neighborhood, Kaiser Ridge, is excluded from consideration in that boundary adjustment.

Kaiser Ridge Findley families want to remain at Findley elementary school and continue with our Findley peers to middle school at Timberland. Please do not include our neighborhood in a recommendation for a Findley/Jacob Wismer Boundary adjustment.

There are currently only six families in our neighborhood with kids attending Findley. When this potential change takes place, there will only be four. Our neighborhood is older with very few young families, yet the impact to these families would be significant. When this change would take place, there will only be four kids in our neighborhood still attending Findley. They will be in 5th, 4th, and 3rd grade. They have spent the majority of their elementary years building friendships in the Findley community. Kids in our neighborhood are not friends with the kid next door, because there simply is not a kid next door of similar age/gender. Kids in our neighborhood build friendships with students from the Findley community that they are in class with, play with at recess, and eat lunch with. As the majority of Findley is on the south side of Bronson Creek, so are our children's friends. Our families are highly invested in the Findley community, with two parents currently serving on the Findley PTO board and others serving on PTO committees, and routinely volunteering at Findley for many years.

3 Difficult Transitions

Moving our neighborhood to Jacob Wismer would create three difficult transitions for our kids in a very short time period:

- Difficult Transition #1: They would move to Jacob Wismer without friendships that have developed over the last 3-5 years. They would not have time to build new strong friendships before they enter middle school.
- Difficult Transition #2, only 1-3 years later: Transition to middle school without the strong friendships they had built at Findley. They will eventually make new friends in middle school, however, based purely on statistics, their middle school friends will go to Westview, while our kids will go to Sunset.
- Difficult Transition #3, only 3 years later: Transition to Sunset High School without their new middle school friends, the majority of which will go to Westview.

Please do not do this to our kids.

Stoller Overcrowding

Several families in our neighborhood with current middle school students have chosen to send their kids to Springville K-8 to avoid the current overcrowding at Stoller. Based on the proposed Stoller boundary, Stoller will again be over crowded by the time our children enter middle school. We prefer that our children go to Timberland, which will have a stable student population.

Bus vs. Walkability

As there are not kids of similar age in our neighborhood, our kids will likely be walking to/from Stoller alone. It takes 15-20 minutes to walk to Stoller from our neighborhood. A bus ride to Timberland will only take around 20 minutes. We would prefer that our kids safely ride the bus to Timberland.

Jacob Wismer/Findley Adjustment

Jacob Wismer is currently over crowded. Our older kids have been in an overcrowded Findley for years. The Findley student population has finally reduced to more reasonable numbers within the last few years. We don't want to be moved to an already overcrowded Jacob Wismer.

Moving part of Jacob Wismer to Findley to accommodate the area between Laidlaw and Bronson Creek moving to Jacob Wismer does not make sense. The purpose of that exercise would be to provide walkability to Stoller for the few outspoken members of the Oakridge Estates community that want to walk. However, in doing so, current walkable areas of Jacob Wismer would then be bussed to Timberland. There would be no net increase in walkability to Stoller. It would cause unnecessary disruption to students at both Findley and Jacob Wismer.

At a time when our young children need to feel a sense of stability and community, this change would place needless anxiety on them. Friendships are hard enough to establish and this move would take away friendships at school that they have spent their entire elementary years developing. When our children heard of this potential move, they were heartbroken at the thought of leaving the school, friends and community they call home. All of this for the minor convenience of walkability for a select few outspoken neighbors in Oakridge Estates (an adjacent neighborhood to ours). **The Kaiser Ridge neighborhood has a very strong desire to remain at Findley and continue with our Findley community to Timberland.**

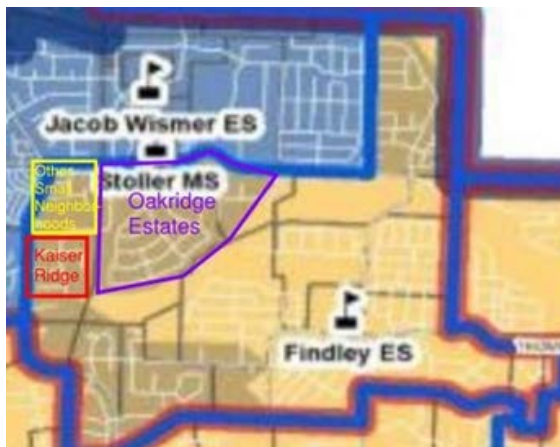
Our Kaiser Ridge neighborhood is vastly different than Oakridge Estates who some would say can "see" Stoller from some of their homes. They exit their neighborhood onto Laidlaw and see Stoller. However, Kaiser Ridge is farther west and our one neighborhood exit is onto Kaiser Road. While driving to Findley or to various events, we do not pass Stoller or Jacob Wismer.

Timeline

The idea of including the Kaiser Ridge neighborhood in the discussion of an elementary boundary adjustment was first discussed at the last committee meeting on March 12th. Previous discussions on

this topic only included the Oakridge Estates neighborhood specifically. The committee voted to recommend a Jacob Wismer/Findley elementary boundary adjustment during that same meeting. That did not give our neighborhood an opportunity to provide comments in opposition to this idea. Because of the unfortunate Coronavirus situation, we also were not provided an opportunity to give testimony on this topic during the meeting. Three parents in our neighborhood had read the meeting materials in advance and planned to attend that meeting in hopes of testifying.

For the reasons above, we want the committee to know that the Kaiser Ridge Findley families want to remain at Findley Elementary School and continue with our Findley peers to middle school at Timberland. Please do not include our neighborhood in a recommendation for a Findley/Jacob Wismer Boundary adjustment.



Thank you,

Kaiser Ridge Findley Families

/s/ Kristen Ballou

/s/ Brent Ballou

/s/ Paul Pak

/s/ Meagan Pak

/s/ Audrey Hood

/s/ Luke Hood

/s/ Jenn Weese

/s/ Ryan Weese

/s/ Andrew Erlandsen

/s/ Gretchen Erlandsen