

10.8.20 - 10.11.20 Middle School Boundary Public Comment

Date	Name	Email	Elementary	Middle	High	Options	Comments
10/10/2020	Andrew Moen	andrew11395@gmail.com	Cooper Mountain	Highland Park			<p>I would like to thank the committee for responding to the many public comments from the Cooper Mountain community. Your initial vote in the Oct 8th meeting, to maintain the current feeder patterns for Cooper Mountain to Highland Park MS and then your second vote to uphold that earlier decision, were appreciated. These votes show the committee does not want to impact communities in the south with actions that do not support the original committee objectives. In the last boundary meeting, I ask the committee to focus your remaining time on the primary objectives to create an attendance boundary for Timberland and adjust the existing boundary for Stoller MS. Thank you again for your votes to keep Cooper Mountain feeding Highland Park.</p>
10/08/2020	April L Powers	POWERS.VMD@GMAIL.COM	Sato Elem	Highland Park	Westview		<p>As a parent who chose to enroll in FLEX this year and who has spoken with many others who also did, I will say that we have every intent to reenroll in middle (and elementary) school when it is safe to do. I am confident that even those who have left the district for private options or homeschooling will return, so I am hesitant to factor in the lower enrollment numbers due to the pandemic with this adjustment. Yes, the numbers can seem jarring; as Jason said, but I do not believe this will be a permanent change. Likewise, I expect many current kindergarteners to enroll next year if it is safe as well. I would much rather avoid an overcrowding situation like we have experienced in the north than to worry about possible under-enrollment. As stated in my public comment tonight, I think the current map focuses on some important priorities. Most importantly, I believe that lower income areas within walking distance to a middle school should go to that school and this current map does that. We know that middle school starts later than most parents go to work. I imagine these lower income kids missing the bus and I realize that they are less likely to have a parent home and available to drive them to school. I feel these students should be prioritized in terms of walkability to prevent situations such as these so their attendance is not limited by economics. An important example of this is the lower portion of Sato Elementary (the Pirate Park area). This area represents a large pocket of diversity and lower income students that are walkable to Stoller. I believe these students should be prioritized for staying at Stoller, like the current map shows, especially if a choice must be made between them and either walkable students at Findley or bussed students from Springville. While it is less likely to affect individual students now that school is mostly online this year, these current 6th graders have already had to switch schools in 3rd grade when Springville was split and Sato was opened. Our families are tired of getting split off from our communities (first Jacob Wismer, then Springville, and now possibly Sato) just because we are small. Our kids matter and especially now, community bonds matter. South Sato/Pirate Park should stay at Stoller not only because of the economic and racial diversity it brings, but also because Stoller is our community. It's our chance to stay and be reunited with the communities we were split from in previous boundary adjustments. Additionally, if the committee is serious about balancing out demographics and wants to drop a huge grenade to shake up this current map, I personally believe that it's a good idea to look at moving Findley to Meadow Park. Meadow Park is roughly the same distance as Timberland and adding Findley would balance economic diversity and add more Sunset students to Meadow Park to join Oak Hills East students, assuming they stay there. So, while I believe this current map is a decent solution of this puzzle, I do think the committee should investigate this option if we need to split the district more vertically to balance demographics. This also opens up the possibility for West TV to stay at Timberland which would right a wrong; that was done with the high school adjustment process.</p>
10/09/2020	Haddy El-Mansy	elmansym@gmail.com	Cooper Mountain				<p>Thank you to the committee members who voted to maintain existing Cooper Mountain boundaries. It is clear that the majority of our communities, both at Highland Park and at Mountain View, wish to maintain the status quo. Please continue to support the best middle to high school feeder patterns for Cooper Mountain, as you considered for Aloha Huber students.</p>

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						<p>I want to start by thanking the committee members for the considerable amount of time and energy that they have committed to this complex and contentious task - I'm gratefully for your service. It appears there are two main objectives for your work: 1. Establish an attendance boundary for the new Timberland school 2. Resolve capacity challenges at Stoller. In achieving both these goals it's accepted that boundary changes to additional schools might be needed. In the course of this work recommendations can be made to minor boundary changes that address improvements to feeder patterns. As this process nears imminent conclusion there is a Timberland boundary, but still challenges for Stoller permanent capacity - at least in the shorter term. Despite this gap to the objective, focus in recent meetings has shifted into conversations regarding boundary adjustments in the South seeking to address poverty indicators. My intent here is not to diminish the value of seeking to address district poverty imbalances. Aside from not being a project objective, the committee is not seeking to address the issue with a comprehensive proposal across the district. In reviewing the materials created for the 10.8 meeting I'm especially struck by the poverty disparity that exists in the North is profound. Timberland and Stoller will have by far the lowest poverty indicators in the District, yet they are bordered by Five Oaks and Meadow Park which have lower capacities, and have the worst and fourth worst poverty indicators. Despite the proximities of these schools, and stark poverty differences the committee is not currently discussing solutions. Indeed the options being reviewed simply impact Five Oaks and Meadow Park by more or less simply flipping the poverty percentages. Meanwhile Stoller and Timberland remain untouched. After twelve months of this work I can well image there's a desire and need for the committee to conclude their work. I am a parent of children in the South potentially impacted by poverty driven proposals. Given that the changes will cause disruption to both student experience and family continuity with established schools from older siblings, while only achieving a minor improvement to the poverty numbers, I'd ask the committee keep the existing feeder patterns. After twelve months of this work I can well image there's a desire for the committee to conclude their work. Following many months discussing the North, and hearing extensively from that community the unexpected shift to potential action in the South caught many parents off guard and unawares. The initial response, and vote to adjust boundaries based seemingly on one parent's input felt a little like folks looking for a much needed win towards the end of a long journey. I'm grateful that in the last few sessions the committee has had the opportunity to hear from, and consider the input from a broader selection of Southern parents. and have. Thank you for taking the additional time to more fully consider the trade offs to actions impacting our community. To the District regarding the management of this process.....I understand the importance of encouraging open expression of ideas during this project. However, I don't believe allowing the work to extend far outside of the actual objectives is fair to committee members, or acting in the best interests of the whole community. So much conversation about every single middle school boundary in the District, and yet the map going into the final meeting fails to address the Stoller capacity objective. Again, difficult work but this potential end result feels like it falls short of the ask.</p>
10/09/2020	Jason Hedges	jasonshedges@gmail.com	Cooper Mountain	Highland Park		
10/09/2020	Jennifer Hoffman	krh0923@msn.com		Highland Park	Mountainside	<p>Committee- Community members throughout the district have shared repeatedly that this is not the time to propose boundary changes unless it fits into the objectives of reducing crowding at Stoller and opening Timberland, especially during a pandemic. There is a chance that If small changes are made, middle schools who currently qualify for extra funds may lose some of this funding. Middle Schools are not designated as Title 1 schools, only elementary schools. Lower income middle schools get additional resources from the district, please protect this. Thank you.</p>

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10/09/2020	JS	jennymys78@hotmail.com	Cooper Mountain			How/when was the decision made to keep Cooper Mountain/Chehalem boundaries status quo? There was a reference in last night's meeting that it was a decision of the committee at the last meeting to not change these boundaries because... reasons? I thought the March 12th vote was clear. Last night's comment about the change in decision was completely unclear. I cannot find a recording of the Sept 3rd meeting, but the committee papers for that day show CM at MVM and Chehalem at HP, in their entirety. I very much appreciated Charryse Bigger's comment last night that none of these boundary decisions are appropriate and it would be beneficial for the entire district's boundaries to be rethought. It feels as though the committee is bending to the will of the wealthiest (and noisiest) parents. The Cooper Mountain parents who were complaining about their boundaries being changed to reduce FRL while Stoller and Timberland have such absurdly low FRL rates had a very valid point. But that doesn't mean that small changes shouldn't be made while advocating for larger changes. I am disappointed in not being able to locate the reason for the reversal of the March 12 decision.
10/09/2020	kate Yip	kateyip2009@gmail.com		Stoller MS		Current proposed &#34;Gamma&#34; map doesn't address policy JC factors &#34; Current and future availability of space at school&#34;. Both Stoller MS and Timberland school will have capacity issue at 2021 and 2025. It also doesn't reach the goal of the boundary adjustment meeting that &#34;Stoller MS will be at 90% of the permanent capacity&#34;. One of the easiest way to resolve the issue is move Springville to Five Oak because this area is the furthest away from Stoller and is one of the fastest developing area. Committee member should address the core of the problem and not just shuffle problems around by moving a lot of students to reach the goal.
10/11/2020	kate Yip	kateyip2009@gmail.com		Stoller MS		Current map &#34;Gamma&#34; doesn't meet the school board objectives and need to be revised. Springville/Soto/Jacob Wismer can't attend Stoller MS at same time due to capacity problem. It is clear that both 2021 and 2025 projection show Stoller will be over its capacity. On top of that, Policy JC Factors &#34;Neighborhood proximity and accessibility&#34; does not meet. It is very clear that moving the the furthest school, i.e. Springville to Five Oak is a good way to resolve the capacity issues and allow the neighborhood closer to Stoller to attend the most accessible school. I encourage the committee to reconsider move Springville to Five Oak in order to make the map more reasonable.

						<p>The role of a moderator in discussions like the boundary debate is critically important. The moderator can help clarify facts, remind the committee of their objectives, and keep everyone focused. In the October 8 meeting, there was confusion as to what the impact of swapping Cooper Mtn and Chehelam at Mountain View would do to the Mountain View FRL percentage. The answer, based on the school district data is six percent. This has been a fundamental argument of why Cooper Mountain families as well as other families in the south see the change as insignificant and not worth swapping the schools. In fact, this was already heavily discussed and cited in the September 3 meeting. Here are the minutes published from that meeting: At the September 3rd meeting, a majority of the committee wished to reconsider the action [swapping schools at Mountain View]. Some committee members expressed concern that the marginal improvement to poverty at Mountain View was outweighed by the disruption of reassigning portions of Cooper Mountain and Chehalem. --- I would key in on the word marginal, which is clearly associated with the small change of 6 percent. I do hope our moderator can keep this fact clear to the committee going forward. The perceived benefit is NOT worth the disruption to our community. While I am happy with the decision to keep Cooper Mountain's feeder pattern the same as it is today, I am concerned that some committee members keep coming back to this subject without any clear evidence that a six percent change will do anything to help a Mountain View student's middle school experience.</p>
10/09/2020	Ken	kmilesmiles@yahoo.com	Cooper Mountain	Highland Park	Mountainside	<p>I wanted to recap part of the discussion and subsequent voting on the Oct 8 meeting. First, the committee votes 10-4 to leave Cooper Mtn Boundaries as is. Then the committee votes 14-0 to leave Chehelam as is. Then, the committee starts to vote on Aloha Huber K-8. Some members of the committee realize that the best option for Aloha Huber is to go to Mountain View because if the kids wake up late from school and miss the bus, they can walk to school. But, those same members also realize that the decision to put Aloha Huber into Mountain View will increase the Mountain View FRL. So, a revote on Cooper Mountain and Chehelam was asked for. Now, look at the rationale here. Because Aloha Huber kids might wake up late from school, we need to move Cooper Mountain to Mountain View, then move Chehelam and all those kids that can currently walk to Mountain View to Highland Park so that Aloha Huber kids can walk to school if they accidently sleep in. Really? Please stop this madness. Aloha Huber has a unique situation being a Kindergarten through eighth grade school. The students there have the option to stay at Aloha Huber and don't have to go to a mainline middle school if they don't want to. In fact, according to district data, only 50 students per grade from Aloha Huber go to the mainline middle schools. The Aloha Huber families have a unique option that most families do not have. As per public testimony and public comments, please leave the schools in the south alone. We don't want any unnecessary changes to our feeder patterns. If and when the time comes to close a middle school, we will accept the need to make changes. For now, major changes are not necessary and not part of the committee's charter. Thank you to those on the committee who have been supporting the current southern school boundaries.</p>

						<p>Thank you to the committee for your votes to keep the boundaries for Cooper Mountain status quo after recognizing that the March 12th decision to change the boundaries was made quickly and without suitable discussion and justification. Especially as this process is coming to an end, I ask the committee to focus on the objectives of creating a boundary for Timberland and reducing overcrowding at Stoller, and not make rushed and unjustified decisions. Rightfully so, numerous hours were spent reviewing data and carefully considering all factors when establishing boundaries for the schools at the north end of the district. Changes to boundaries for other schools without this same level of data review, discussion, and careful considerations suggest that this is not an equitable process. Please keep boundary adjustments limited to those that are needed to satisfy the objectives. Unnecessary boundary changes have significant impacts on families and communities that have worked hard to build relationships with neighboring communities to best support our children. Now, more than ever, our students need consistency and support for both their educational success and emotional well-being. Please continue to keep the Cooper Mountain boundaries as they currently are, as voted on twice at the last meeting. A change to the boundary would significantly disturb several of the Policy JC factors which have not been discussed in the meetings. These include upsetting the feeder pattern, distancing students from their future high school peers; eliminating walkability for West Chehalem students; and introducing a \$50,000 transportation cost. I appreciate your time to participate this this committee, but ask that you focus on the objectives, keep this process equitable for all schools, and keep Cooper Mountain feeding to Highland Park.</p>
10/10/2020	Kim Moen	kim.moen@yahoo.com		Highland Park		<p>I wanted to thank the committee members for undertaking this difficult task and for what I feel like has been more transparency along with, inclusion of and responsiveness to community members, during this process. There are no maps that will perfectly satisfy all criteria and stakeholder groups simultaneously. However, I do believe that the committee has made good, thoughtful, and fair progress in arriving at a map that is logical and a closest approximation to achieving the goals as much as reasonably possible. There are no crystal balls here. Just as we could not have predicted the impact COVID would have in our communities a year and a half ago, we do not know what future effects they will have on future enrollment. However, we cannot abandon this process because of future uncertainty. I encourage the committee members to continue on with the task that they are charged with given the best information that they have to recommend a map that has been formed with many, many hours of collective effort. It may become easier to listen to all the discontented voices and to become discouraged at the end result and fixated on the shortcomings of the latest map. However, in my view, the process has been fair and thoughtful and for that reason, I wanted to encourage the committee members to bring this process to completion. Please do not let perfection become the enemy of the good.</p>
10/09/2020	S. A. Kim	spamblitz@gmail.com	Cedar Mill Elem	Cedar Park MS		

						<p>I really appreciate the committee members who tried to steer the discussions to focus on JC policy and objectives. I want to thank those who were steadfast in their stance, voting not once but twice to maintain existing Cooper Mountain boundaries. To the committee members who voted to change Cooper Mountain boundaries, I watched as you voted to maintain Chehalem existing boundaries, I watched as you spoke of Aloha Huber's community and their needs, refusing to create an island for them at Highland. I watched as you considered the future of Aloha Huber students dual language pathways. Yet not one of you asked about the Cooper Mountain community, their needs, their pathways. Their future was in question for a second time last night, to serve what was best for Aloha Huber students, never addressing what was best for Cooper Mountain students. I also watched, when attempting a re-vote, one committee member argue that you were voting blindly because of unknown FRL percentages. With all due respect, you were not voting blindly. The district provided this information to you in the February meeting packet and again in March. Back then, you voted to change the boundary without addressing this information. The Cooper Mountain community wrote over 100 comments online expressing frustration over the small 6 percent FRL difference to Mountain View. I urge the committee to consider the overwhelming public testimony, online and live, that request maintaining Cooper Mountain's current boundaries.</p>
10/09/2020	Sally Badawi	sally.badawi@gmail.com	Cooper Mountain			<p>Your time and dedication during these unfortunate times is greatly appreciated. After listening to the live meeting last night it's very clear that the committee is exhausted and the focus on the North has been lost. For the first time in months we heard the majority of the committee vote to keep Cooper Mountain as "status quo." This vote happened TWICE during this meeting!! And still at the end of the meeting there's talk about Cooper Mountain boundaries being moved, WHY? This is wasted time in my opinion. Listen to the community about what's best for the kids and families. There are bigger issues here that have been ongoing for a year now and have yet to be fixed. FOCUS!</p>