Transition Comments

BEAVERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

WELCOME...to a special meeting of the Beaverton School District. The Committee welcomes your participation and feedback. Please give us a brief description of your topic and concerns. Be sure to hand this completed form to a Committee Member before leaving.

Date: 1/21/16

Name: Brian & Kirsten Klym Parents of Joseph Klym

Current High School: Beaverton

Transition Comment: Thank you for allowing us to comment on these proposed changes. My concern is for all those kids who will be half way through high school and then be forced to change schools. Our son Joseph had to change schools his first 3 years. This was NOT his choice but ours as his parents. We moved from the Garden Home area to Bend where he went to Kindergarten. We moved back to the Garden Home Area (because that is HOME) and he attend Maplelane for 1ST Grade. We then purchased our house ON SW 91ST in Whitford Park and he attended Raleigh Hills for 2nd grade. That 2nd & 3rd grade year were hard for him as he was trying to make friends. He is now a freshman at Beaverton and he has great friends from School. (Please See other side)

If he is forced to start a new school again his Jr year of high school this is going to have a big impact on him. He will NOT graduate with a vast majority of his friends as the boundaries are drawn now. He will have a new set of Teachers and Counselors who will only have a little time to get to know him and many other students. He is a strong student & person and is participating in Basketball, and Advanced Classes so Academically he will do well. However those Friendships & Social Skills that he has developed will suffer.

I know changes must be made. I, we accept that. We have a middle schooler also that will be a freshman the year the Boundaries Changes start. He will go to the highschool he is assigned to. I would request concessions be made for Juniors.

Thanks

Brian Klym

Beaverton School District High School Boundary Adjustment

January 21, 2016

Dear Beaverton School District Boundary Adjustment Committee:

Thank you for your willingness to take on the difficult task of developing new high school boundary lines. Although it is unlikely that all stakeholders will be satisfied with your final boundary proposal, I trust your intent is to find a solution that meets the needs of many.

My deepest concern at this point remains with the transition plans, or current lack thereof. I am very troubled that the transition plans are positioned as a subordinate task to be more fully addressed after the boundary lines have been redrawn. No matter where the new boundary lines eventually land, they will be difficult for many to digest. But in time, they will become the new normal.

That said, the students who are in grades 9-12 as the new boundaries are implemented will pay the highest and most lasting price for being in the wrong place at the wrong time. It is imperative that robust transition planning begin now, and it is imperative that transition planning includes public involvement.

It is my understanding that the current commitment is to grandfather in only those students who will be seniors during the transition year. I feel strongly that this position is short-sighted and insufficient. At a bare minimum, that same consideration should be available to students who will be in the critical and challenging junior year, and if we are sincerely interested in transitioning in a way that best serves our students, we would extend that consideration to all students who have started high school prior to the transitional year.

High school students should have the opportunity to complete their high school career without a transition to a new and unfamiliar building, a new and unfamiliar cadre of guidance counselors and college advisors, a new and unfamiliar set of athletic coaches, a new and unfamiliar set of traditions, rituals and norms. Yes, kids are resilient. Yes, real life is hard. And yes, kids must learn to overcome challenges, disappointments, and transitions.

But the high school experience is much about mascots and colors. Fight songs and cherished traditions. Relationships and preparing for the future. Leadership opportunities and letters of recommendation. Being a part of a team and cheering for your team. In a word, high school is about community.

Under the current transition plan, the kids who will be freshman and sophomores next year will not have the opportunity to settle into a school and call it their own for the long haul. Connect with it. Grow with it. Lead it. Always feel a part of it. Yes, they will be welcomed with open arms into their new school communities, but the reality is that they will be "temps" in their outgoing school, and "newbies" in their new school. And I haven't even touched on the academic aspects of AP vs. IB, specialized learning tracks, or different foreign language offerings at different schools.

According to Board Policy "JC, School Attendance Areas," the Superintendent has the authority allow all students who start at one high school the opportunity to finish at that high school:

"At schools impacted by redrawn attendance boundaries, where and when possible, the superintendent may allow students to remain at their current school for one or more years to complete the highest grade level or levels offered."

It is well within Board Policy for this option to be accommodated, and it is simply the right thing to do.

Yes, it might be challenging and difficult. Yes, there will likely be cost implications. But can we, the adults who are making these decisions, say in good conscience that we would prefer that it be our students who primarily shoulder the challenges, difficulties and expense of the transition? I sincerely hope your answer is no.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dawn Prochovnic
Parent of Raleigh Hills 8th Grader and Beaverton High Junior

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Date: JAN 21, 2016

Name: TOM FINCH

Current High School: Beaverton.

Transition Comment: Teens have enough on their hormonal plates without a series of goodbyes and getting to know new systems, teachers, methods without the support of the full community they've grown up with. I'm concerned about the potential loss of Garden Home & VistaBrook. Truly Dividing a community. This is not positive and will severly hinder learning over the next two years. These discussions are already taking a toll on the community students in particular. Adjusting to high school expectations, relying on their community and then having it divided at one of the most critical junctions in their lives. They also rely on daily interaction w/ the other parents. We hold each other up. We hold each other together. Please do not divide our Great Beaverton The Garden Home & Vista Brook neighborhoods.

Questions

BEAVERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Date: January 21, 2016

Name: Nadia and Christopher Redmond

Current High School: Beaverton

Questions: To optimize learning, time and save cost on transportation, we recommend for students interested in the High School Health Careers Program at Beaverton HS to be allowed either an administrative transfer or if in current (2015-2016) ~~HS~~ boundary of Beaverton HS be allowed to retain Beaverton HS as their home high school.

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Date: 1/21/16

Name: Andrea Burnett

Current High School: Beaverton

Transition Comment: My biggest concern is for kids who will be Juniors the year of the move. It's a critical year for applying to college and I'm afraid that the upheaval (new school, new academic program, new teachers, new athletics, new/lost FRIENDS) will negatively affect school success & then ~~affect~~ negatively affect college opportunities. I'd like Jrs & Srs to have the option to stay at current high school thru graduation or even better only offer 9th & 10th grade at new school and then require 11th & 12th grades to stay put.

academic/social/emotional

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Name: Jana Smilanich-Rose + Mark Rose

Current High School: Beaverton

Transition Comment: Our son attends Raleigh Park Elementary school in 2nd grade. He is thriving in the PYP curriculum. We would like him to continue in an IB ~~[illegible]~~ program throughout middle and high school ultimately earning his IB diploma. We would like to know what our options are to ensure he has access to this education.

Our oldest son recently graduated from Lincoln High School and received his IB diploma so we are very familiar with the rigor and in depth knowledge he gained.

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Date: 1-21-16

Name: Brian Harvey

Current High School: Beaverton High

Transition Comment: My current situation is I have a wonderful 14 yr old daughter that has made great choices so far. The transition will force my daughter to make all new friends but 1. I have never been a gambler and would not choose to take this one. Please be so kind to recognize that this kind of transition can have long lasting effects.

thank You

Brian Harvey
7720 SW 91st Ave Pdx Or 97223

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Date: 1·21·16

Name: Mo Bedell

Current High School: Beaverton

Transition Comment:

- If the map goes forward as is tonight, I will have a 12th grader at Beaverton and a 10th grader at Southridge. Both kids play sports and both parents work. Will there be a way for siblings to stay together?
- Breaking up neighborhoods that form a tightly knit community (Vista Brook, Whitford Park, Royal Woodlands and Raleigh Park) does damage to our community. Please consider leaving enrollment area of Raleigh Hills K-8 intact. It is a smaller but very strong community.

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Date: 1.21.16

Name: K. Burns

Current High School: Beaverton

Transition Comment:

gonna keep this short + sweet.

Keep both juniors + seniors at their current school. That will make the transitions between IB + AP more manageable + less disruptive

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Date: 1-21-16

Name: Phillip Bissel ; Jonna Forbes 4 Kids and 15yrs

Current High School:

Transition Comment:

bet our freshman daughter finsh wher she started. Don't Put her through a transition.

We have 4 Kids the oldest is freshman @ Beaverton We want a Legacy for all the right reasons, Teachers, comunty, Sports

Transition Comments

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Date: 1-21-2016

Name: Kristine

Current High School: Future BHS

Transition Comment:

Please grandfather kids in to their current HS if the boundaries make them go elsewhere! HS statistically is the hardest time for kids to move esp those involved in sports, music ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ Kids need consistency!

Listen to the KIDS!

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Name: Susan Finch

Current High School: Beaverton.

Transition Comment: We are a community - Raleigh Hills & Raleigh Park - that have grown up together since preschool and Kindergarten. I've seen my daughter and her classmates all but STOP ~~and~~ any productive learning as they are all focused on leaving Raleigh Hills K-8. First they are sobbing at the changes dividing neighborhoods, then after having one year together in high school, they are divided to start a new school, new education styles, teachers, routines. High School on the best of days is a hot-emotional mess for these teens. They are Teens - Their friends are THEIR WORLD. How do they get involved emotionally in a school they know they will leave in a year? It will affect learning, social, sports - all aspects of their lives. Why? What is so difficult about shifting full neighborhoods around to keep communities together and encourage their emotional well-being. Let them focus on learning & not goodbyes

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Date: 1-21-16

Name: Victoria Toews

Current High School: Beaverton HS

Transition Comment:

1. Let 2017 10th + 11th graders stay at the HS they started at.
2. Let families who have an older sibling (12th grader 2017) have the younger sibling stay at same school. sports, clubs, rides, community
3. Let high-achieving kids (Summa) stay at the AP or IB diploma they started with.

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Date: 1.21.2014

Name: Dawn Prochanic

Current High School: Beaverton

Transition Comment: See attached for full comment

Summary comment: Transition plan needs to be underway now, it needs to involve the public, and it needs to recognize that all high school students (not just seniors) should be able to start & end high school in the same high school. The Board policy "JC" allows for this to occur. My attached letter provides more detail about why this is important.

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Date: 1-21-16

Name: Erin Hambleton

Current High School: BHS

Transition Comment: The committee has the highschool lines at hand, will you also help with the elementary lines? I ask because the flexibility of the open enrollment will be key to a smooth transisition. High school students applying to colleges explaining growth and the ability to adapt is criticle to this change.

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Date: 11/20/16

Name: Maggie Lusk

Current High School: BHS

Transition Comment:

- Consider keeping siblings together - not split between high schools
- Consider starting new school with freshman only
- Consider giving juniors the option to stay at old school - or go to new
- Support mechanism for keeping boosters & other support groups moving forward - engaging with incoming parents etc -
- Consider allowing freshman to start at whichever their new school would be, rather than start at 1 school & have to transfer -

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Date: 1-21-2016

Name: Luis Pirir

Current High School: BHS.

Transition Comment: Information time line for trasition. Once a student starts in freshman year he/she will need to move to a new high school?

Thanks.

Transition Comments

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Name: Mariam Joel

Current High School: Beaverton

Transition Comment: Im in 8th grade and the boundary change for me will be Southridge High school. I would want to start my first year at high school at Southridge. High School for me will ~~be~~ start in the year 2016. But I would rather not move from one high school to another after only one year at beaverton. So I would appreciate it if they woud allow me to go to southridge all four years if Im gonna be at Southridge anyways after the boundary change in 2017. Thank you.

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Date: 1-21-16

Name: Sean Donovan (airplane - texted this in) hand istired.

Current High School: Beaverton.

Transition Comment:

As a current family of a current BHS student, we will have kids going to 2 High Schools - this fractures a family in supporting them at 2 schools, activities, etc.

As a member of Garden Home Community, removing Garden Home from BHS (which has served BHS for 100 years!) - Fractures community.

Cutting off at Fanno Creek as opposed to a neighborhood or intersection. Fractures community & neighborhods

Splitting kids who have gone to BHS since Kindergarten - Fractures Friendships

All said, the current boundary divides families, communities, neighborhoods and friendships. It's broken and we can do better.

Raleigh Hills and Raleigh Park should feed BHS. Keep the boundary south of Garden Home

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Date: 1-21-16

Name: Phillip Rissel, Jonna Forbes, Sydnie Rissel (15) Skylar Rissel (11) Aspen Radke (8) Set Rissel (1)

Current High School: Beaverton

Transition Comment: Daughter: Sydnie Rissel is freshman Now transferd From private school. Our and Her concerns. ~~Academics~~, Transition as a Junior would be devistating, Academic adjustment, teachers friends, sports, Her future.

Dont transition Her

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Date: January 21st

Name: Kara Iverson

Current High School: BHS

Transition Comment: - as the parent of a current freshman in AP classes and on football & track team, the idea of starting him over in "enemy territory" is frightening & disheartening. At a minimum it seems juniors should be given an option to stay. As a best option, allow all existing students to remain.
- Addressing the issue of AP to IB is a must. Kids can't lose credit for all they have done
- Addressing the formation of new teams is a must