
MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 3, 2016
FROM: Steven A. Sparks, AICP
TO: High School Boundary Advisory Committee
SUBJECT: High School Boundary Adjustments

Background

On May 16, 2016, the Board considered an action item on Superintendent Rose's High School Attendance Boundary Adjustment. At that meeting, the Board took action to approve the Transition Plan recommended by Superintendent Rose. The Board declined to take any action on Superintendent Rose's High School Attendance Boundary Adjustment decision and requested additional information on the Boundary Adjustment decision. Specifically, the Board directed staff to provide more information on the following criteria from Policy JC:

Proximity of the adjusted areas to their designated high schools; and

Transportation Cost for busing students in the adjusted areas to their designated high schools

The Board stated at the May 16, 2016 meeting that it was satisfied with Superintendent Rose's findings for the remaining Policy JC criteria.

On August 1, 2016, Superintendent Grotting proposed to the Board an action plan for returning to the public to share possible revisions to Superintendent Rose's Boundary Adjustment Plan. Staff identified four (4) "Areas of Consideration" on the Rose Adjustment Plan with proximity and transportation cost data. Superintendent Grotting's proposal was to conduct a series of public open houses to solicit community feedback on the areas of consideration as well as any other proposed boundary adjustment. The Board accepted Superintendent Grotting's proposal with one modification: conduct open houses at each of the five (5) comprehensive high schools.

Summary of Open House Comments

The open houses took place on September 12, 13, 14, 20, and 21 at Sunset, Westview, Aloha, Southridge, and Beaverton high schools respectively. Approximately 90 people provided testimony at the open houses. While the testimony was varied based on the specific person providing the testimony, several reoccurring themes became prominent. The following is a summary of those themes:

Transportation Costs

Comments were received from parties from the Aloha-Huber Park, Elmonica, Waterhouse, and West TV areas of the District. The primary concern being the length of busing routes will increase transportation costs. Staff have prepared cost analyses for different bus routes which were disputed by several parties who provided testimony.

Length of Commute

Comments on the length of commute were very similar to the comments on transportation costs. Two frequent statements were:

- Commute time to/from school would be double the current commute time
- Ability to participate in after school activities would be adversely impacted given traffic conditions.

Comments on both transportation costs and length of commute related to proximity of areas to their newly designated high schools. In the case of the Aloha-Huber Park area of consideration, it was stated that the new high school to which this area was assigned would be the 6th closest high school to the neighborhood. Waterhouse area residents stated that Aloha High School is the 3rd closest high school to their neighborhood.

Transportation Safety

Comments were received from parties from the Aloha-Huber Park, Elmonica, Waterhouse, and West TV areas of the District. Primary concerns expressed noted the distances that would have to be driven, the amount of traffic found on the roads to schools, and that these conditions are not suitable for new drivers. Additional comments were provided that walkability and bikeability would be lost in some cases (e.g. West TV area to Beaverton High School and Aloha-Huber Park to the new high school).

Community Unity

Comments were received from parties from the Aloha-Huber Park, Elmonica, Oak Hills, Waterhouse, and West TV areas of the District. Primary concerns expressed noted the identity of the speakers community. For example, speakers from the West TV area noted that their community identity is north of Highway 26 through shopping, social activities, churches, sport clubs, community library, etc. Similar statements were made for the Elmonica and Waterhouse area concerning the Aloha community. Speakers from Oak Hills noted the activities in which their children participate and how disruptive it would be to the children by splitting groups of children.

Diversity / Equity

Comments were received from parties from the Aloha-Huber Park and Ridgewood areas of the District. Primary concerns expressed noted the disparity of poverty between the adjusted high school boundaries.

Data

Comments were received from parties from the Elmonica and West TV areas of the District. Primary concerns expressed noted that the District is using flawed data and that District staff have acknowledged using flawed data on which the boundary adjustments are being based. Comments included flawed data concerning student enrollment projections, high school capacities, transportation times, transportation costs, and transportation safety.

Transition Plan

Comments were received to allow the students of the class of 2020 the choice to remain at their home high school.

Staff Request

Staff request the Boundary Advisory Committee membership discuss with Superintendent Grotting the Committee's deliberations on the Board's objectives and Policy JC as they apply to the themes raised at the community open houses.