



SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Mead School District Board of Directors
Thursday, December 19, 2019

The Board of Directors held a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, December 19, 2019. The meeting began at 4 pm and was held at the Mead School District Administration Office. Directors Green, Olson, Denholm and Cannon were present. Director Burchard was excused. Also attending were Superintendent Shawn Woodward and Assistant Superintendent Jared Hoadley.

I. Approval of Agenda

Director Denholm made a motion to approve the agenda, as presented. Director Cannon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

II. Fall 2020 – Final Boundary Change Recommendation

Student Services Assistant Superintendent Jared Hoadley, who is the district administrative liaison on the Boundary Review Committee, introduced Staci Davis (committee representative from the Colbert Elementary attendance area) who shared the committee’s Fall 2020 Final Boundary Change Recommendation. The presentation included the following:

- Review of the boundary change recommendation process including guiding principles, current & future growth areas, attendance numbers/elementary attendance areas for district K-5 students and how the district was divided into 50 “chunked” areas to aide in establishing new attendance boundaries.
- Review of the initial Boundary Change Recommendation presented to the School Board on November 18, 2019, including elementary school movement areas, middle school movement areas and high school movement areas.
- Summary of feedback received on the initial recommendation that was submitted online and at eight boundary presentation/feedback/Q&A opportunities (one hosted at each Mead School District elementary school). As of December 17, 2019, there were 161 online feedback responses. Feedback themes included: (1) Forest Creek Apartments, (2) Midway to Northwood, (3) Meadow Ridge Enrollment, (4) ELL Feeder School Track, (5) Split Culture at Northwood and (6) Grandfathering.
- After carefully considering the feedback received the committee addressed each feedback theme as follows: (In some cases a plan revision was made and in others no change to the initial plan was recommended.)
 - **Forest Creek - Plan Revision = YES**. Recommend students remain on the Farwell/Northwood/Mead High School track rather than moving to Creekside/Mountainside/Mt. Spokane as recommended in the initial plan. Rationale: (1) Overall accessibility for parents/students and (2) Negligible enrollment impact by leaving Forest Creek students at Farwell/Northwood/Mead High.
 - **Midway to Northwood - Plan Revision = NO**. As initially proposed, the recommendation is that Midway students attend Northwood rather than Mountainside for middle school. Rationale: Need to balance overall middle school enrollment with the opening of Highland in the fall of 2020.

- **Meadow Ridge Enrollment** - Plan Revision = YES. Recommend North Midway area (64 students), originally proposed to move to Colbert, instead move to Meadow Ridge. Also recommend leaving Blue Point Apartments at Meadow Ridge rather than having them move to Creekside. Rationale: Higher enrollment for Meadow Ridge considering it is predicted to be a non-growth area.
- **ELL Feeder School Track** - Plan Revision = NO. As initially proposed, the recommendation is that Shiloh Hills and Creekside, who house the majority of ELL elementary students, attend Mountainside for middle school and Mt. Spokane for high school. Rationale: Allows ELL program to continue as currently offered taking into account ELL trained staff at Mountainside & Mt. Spokane and the fact that Newcomer Centers are established at both of these secondary schools.
- **Split Culture at Northwood** - To address this concern expressed by Midway patrons, Dr. Hoadley spoke to the need for Northwood to intentionally and equitably celebrate both Mt. Spokane and Mead High. He reported both high school ASB advisors are “on board” to help facilitate a positive transition experience for Northwood students into two different high schools.
- **Grandfathering** - A major feedback theme was allowing Midway 7th graders, who currently attend Mountainside, the opportunity to stay at Mountainside for 8th grade rather than moving to Northwood for only one year.

In summary, the Final Fall 2020 Boundary Change Recommendation moves 289 elementary students . . . 64 students from Midway to Meadow Ridge, 103 students from Meadow Ridge to Creekside and 122 students from Shiloh Hills to Creekside.

The middle school feeder school recommendation is:

- Northwood: Brentwood, Farwell & Midway
- Mountainside: Colbert, Meadow Ridge, Shiloh Hills & Creekside
- Highland: Prairie View (current school plus new school) & Evergreen

The high school feeder school recommendation is:

- Mead High: Highland Middle School + Farwell & Brentwood
- Mt. Spokane: Mountainside Middle School + Midway

Regarding future boundary changes, Ms. Davis, speaking for the committee, recommended the district consider a different approach to middle school and high school attendance boundaries. Rather than an entire elementary school “feeding into” a middle school, an elementary school could potentially feed into 2-3 middle schools depending on middle school location.

The board thanked Ms. Davis and the Boundary Review Committee for their dedication and hard work on what, at times, must have felt like a “thankless task.” Director Olson shared that 35 years ago, during a similar boundary change, he approved the closure of Whitworth Elementary School - the school one of his children attended.

Director Cannon, regarding the Midway to Northwood concern, asked about the option of moving Creekside and Shiloh Hills to Northwood rather than Midway. Dr. Hoadley reiterated the continuous program considerations (like ELL) where Mountainside and Mt. Spokane staff have received specific trainings as one reason for not revising the recommendation.

Director Cannon stated that land availability, and therefore placement of new schools, is not always in the district's control. Lack of available real estate does place limits on a growing school district.

Director Green, speaking to Midway being the only elementary school at Northwood going to Mt. Spokane, stated she is "confident the Northwood staff will do a good job having students who feed into two different high schools." With three middle schools, one middle school, no matter the feeder elementary schools, will be split between the district's two high schools.

Director Green also thanked the committee, which included at least one community member from each elementary school attendance boundary, and expressed appreciation for the level of detail represented in the committee's work. Regarding Midway 7th graders, Director Green expressed her hope that they can remain at Mountainside for 8th grade. Superintendent Woodward indicated the soonest the district could report on the feasibility of such a plan would be the end of January.

The board discussed the pros and cons of voting on the presented Boundary Change Recommendation or tabling the vote.

Director Denholm made a motion to approve the Boundary Change Recommendation, as presented. There was no second.

Director Cannon made a motion to table a vote on the presented Boundary Change Recommendation until January 13, 2020. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Director Denholm abstained.)

The Fall 2020 Final Boundary Change Recommendation will be posted on the district's homepage with a link for the community to provide feedback on this revised recommendation. It was the consensus of the board that there were not enough changes in the revised plan to warrant scheduling another presentation/feedback/Q&A opportunity in early January prior to the January 13th board meeting.

III. Student Travel Proposal

Mt. Spokane Girls Basketball (Cashmere, WA)

Student Services Assistant Superintendent Jared Hoadley, assisted by Mt. Spokane Athletic Director Paul Kautzman, presented a request from the Mt. Spokane Girls Basketball Team to travel to Cashmere, Washington, December 19-21, 2019, to participate in the *Crunch Pak Classic Basketball Tournament*.

Thirteen athletes and the Mt. Spokane coaching staff will travel to Cashmere where they will play two games against teams with a high RPI. The Mt. Spokane building budget will cover transportation costs and the team ASB account will cover hotel expenses. Team members will cover the cost of food (approximately \$50).

Director Olson made a motion to approve the Mt. Spokane Girls Basketball Team request to travel to Cashmere, Washington, December 19-21, 2019, to participate in the *Crunch Pak Classic Basketball Tournament*, as presented. Director Cannon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Student Travel Proposal

Mt. Spokane Girls Basketball (Snohomish, WA)

Student Services Assistant Superintendent Jared Hoadley, assisted by Mt. Spokane Athletic Director Paul Kautzman, presented a request from the Mt. Spokane Girls

Basketball Team to travel to Snohomish, Washington, December 26-30, 2019, to participate in the *Top of the Peak Basketball Tournament*.

Thirteen athletes and the Mt. Spokane coaching staff will travel to Snohomish where they will play three games against teams with a high RPI. The Mt. Spokane building budget will cover transportation costs and the team ASB account will cover hotel expenses. Team members will cover the cost of food (approximately \$100).

Director Cannon made a motion to approve the Mt. Spokane Girls Basketball Team request to travel to Snohomish, Washington, December 26-30, 2019, to participate in the *Top of the Peak Basketball Tournament*, as presented. Director Denholm seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

V. Employee Termination

At 4:55 pm Director Green called for an Executive Session of approximately 30 minutes for the purpose of reviewing the performance of a public employee.

At 5:35 pm Director Green returned the meeting to Open Session.

Confirming that Human Resources Assistant Superintendent Ralph Thayer provided appropriate written notice to Michael Moore of the board's intended action on this agenda item, Director Denholm made a motion to accept the recommendation of Human Resources Assistant Superintendent Ralph Thayer to terminate the employment of Michael Moore for the reasons provided and directed that the November 25, 2019, letter recommending termination be amended to state that the termination was due to "poor professional judgment" rather than "misconduct". Director Cannon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.

President

Secretary