

**MINUTES OF THE ELEMENTARY ENROLLMENT / ATTENDANCE
AREAS COMMITTEE
October 28, 2024**



Call to Order: 5:03 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Jake Dixon – Zone 1 Parent	Holli Haws – Zone 2 Parent
Eryn Kelsey – Zone 3 Parent	Jennifer Warner – Zone 3 Parent
Lauren Dalton – Zone 3 Parent	Emily Astin – Zone 4 Parent
Jennifer Lloyd – Zone 5 Parent	Tara Dayley – Teacher
Cody Perry – Teacher	Nick Muckerman – Administrator
Angela Stevens – Administrator (absent)	Troy Johnson – Administrator
AJ Watson – Director	Jackie Reader – ArcGIS Specialist

Committee Purpose

- Address Decline in District-Wide Enrollment
- Maximize Use of District Resources
- Develop Recommendations/Options to Provide to School Board for Elementary Enrollment Areas

Mr. Watson welcomed everyone and stated the committee would be looking over the information he gathered but most of the time would be spent looking at one option for tonight's meeting. He said this will give the committee a framework to start from. He said they looked at geographic locations to help make sense of where to shift boundaries. He said each week we will present a new option and get input from the committee to see which direction the committee would like to go.

Ms. Reader said Mr. Watson should talk to Don Mattson or Shawn Harris at City of Chubbuck for more information on growth and development.

Committee Goals

- *Optimizing Capacity-* balance populations make best use of available space
- *Equitable Access-* fair access to educational programs and facilities
- *Minimize Disruptions-* for learners and families
- *Maintain Efficiency-* travel time and middle school feeders
- *Future Needs and Considerations-* planning for future changes and needs

Mr. Watson reminded the committee of what the goals are.

Updated Information and Data

- Bonneville Boundary Change Information
- Building Capacity and Available Classrooms
- Growth and Development Information

Mr. Watson said included in the packet was information from the Bonneville School closure. He said during the time of the closure, there were structural things happening at the building and students had to be moved out of the building and placed at Alameda Middle School during the middle of the year. He said they were looking at multiple solutions during that time and they ended up closing Bonneville School and moved students into other elementary buildings. He said it had an impact on several elementary schools and moved around 300 students.

He stated the next handout was the elementary building capacity and available classrooms. He said he met with the principals and got these numbers from each building. He said some of the classrooms are being used for special programs, for example at Chubbuck Elementary there are ERR classrooms and they are not being

counted. He said they did not account for any changes for special programs to be moved from where they are housed now.

He said the last handout in the packet was the growth and development information from the City of Pocatello. He said it shows that the growth and development are in different phases such as completed, proposed or currently being developed. He said the one development that Bannock County told him about were apartments that will be going in on South 5th Avenue. He said there could also be more growth up by the North Gate area which would possibly impact Gate City Elementary. The city asked us to be cautious as these developments could be at least five years down the road. He said additional ones to look at were outside the city limits on Ro Vista and Siphon which would impact Tyhee Elementary. He said the one Bannock County is getting the most input and questions about is on Reservation and Tyhee with the potential of eight subdivision lots, but nothing has been proposed or approved at this time. Ms. Haws asked if these areas are mapped on the ArcGIS that Ms. Reader was working on. Ms. Reader said she can put some of the bigger proposed areas on the map to see what schools/areas would be impacted. Mr. Watson stated he would be cautious to look at it because we do not have a ton of elementary students currently coming out of some of the newer apartment buildings right now.

Enrollment Areas Collaboration and Committee Work

- Committee Discussion, Collaboration and Input- ArcGIS (Geographic Information System)

Mr. Watson said he would like to spend the majority of the time looking at a starting point of closing down a school. He said we would start with Tendoy Elementary and see what enrollment areas and schools would be impacted. Mr. Watson said some things that the committee wants to see on the ArcGIS map Ms. Reader can do relatively easy and others not so much and she will need time to map them out.

Ms. Lloyd said she spoke to her husband, which is an architect, and he felt there were a lot of things wrong with Washington Elementary and feels that it could fall down at any point. She said the cost to bring it back up to date and structurally sound would be closer to 18 to 20 million to as opposed to where the numbers were on the report given at the last meeting. She said her proposal was to only close Washington Elementary and not Tendoy Elementary. Ms. Astin said she feels Tendoy Elementary is the one to look at closing as it is a small area and nowhere for growth and the parking is not great. Ms. Dayley said she felt Tendoy Elementary had more room to create a parking lot if need be. Ms. Astin said Washington Elementary has had more growth over the years and other developments are happening in that area. She said she is also worried about the population that attends Washington Elementary and feels if we close that school, we will be sending more low-income students to other schools that have a higher population of that. Ms. Dayley said there is nothing wrong with packing the school and adjusting those boundaries to make that happen so that capacity is where it needs to be. Mr. Muckerman said Washington Elementary has more structural issues but it is harder to move those students because of the location. He said Tendoy Elementary is smaller and there are more options to move those students. He said if we should look at both options to be able to make recommendations to the Board. Mr. Watson said this committee has identified some of the issues but we may end up making a preferred option to the Board. He said the committee will come up with the recommendations for the School Board and they will make the final decision. Mr. Watson said we can come out of these meetings with more than one option/recommendation to the Board along with the pros and cons for each. Ms. Kelsey asked how we get information on the low-income status of families from Washington Elementary and Mr. Watson directed her to the free and reduced handout from last meeting. Ms. Lloyd asked if schools start at the same time and Mr. Watson said they have staggered times for transportation purposes.

Mr. Watson asked Mr. Reader to go through the proposed changes they came up with for closing Tendoy Elementary. He said these changes reflect completely removing Tendoy Elementary. He said it will affect Syringa Elementary, Greenacres Elementary, Washington Elementary, Lewis & Clark Elementary, Jefferson Elementary and Indian Hills Elementary. Ms. Haws said it does not seem like this will be easy to explain to parents to have to bus them across town. Ms. Reader explained she is still working on validation with the data as some of the

counts she had did not match the enrollment numbers she was originally given from IT. She said if the proposed changes were made It would impact enrollment as follows:

Washington Elementary current enrollment 252 / impacted enrollment 338 – increase 86 students

Indian Hills Elementary current enrollment 532 / impacted enrollment 482 – less 50 students

Lewis & Clark Elementary current enrollment 411 / impacted enrollment 480 – increase 69 students

Syringa Elementary current enrollment 360 / impacted enrollment 417 – increase 57 students

Jefferson Elementary current enrollment 374 / impacted enrollment 460 – increase 86 students

Greenacres Elementary current enrollment 325 / impacted enrollment 250 – less 20 students

Tendoy Elementary current enrollment 228 / impacted enrollment 0 – less 228 students

Ms. Haws asked how the streets were chosen to be changed into different boundaries. Mr. Watson said it was a random selection of how to move streets/areas. Mr. Johnson said when you start moving chunks of neighborhoods from school to school it ends up being a domino effect. He said every time you touch one area you impact all the others as well. Mr. Watson said it might be worth looking at the information presented school by school to make sure we do not have weird breaks in areas. Ms. Dayley said geographically Wilcox Elementary and Jefferson Elementary have lots of highways and mountains so it would be hard to shift those. Mr. Watson said the proposed changes did not help Jefferson's free and reduced percentages, but that it actually increased it and it puts their enrollment almost at capacity. Ms. Dayley said as a teacher she does not feel free and reduced percentages should matter when making changes. Ms. Reader said pulling from other neighborhoods in Indian Hills Elementary to shift them to Jefferson Elementary did not work as there are limited neighborhoods to move. Mr. Watson asked what the committee wants to look at for the last 40 minutes so we will have more information to look at for the next meeting. Ms. Warren asked to look at each boundary school by school. Mr. Dixon said there is a mathematical formula that could make us help make these decisions. Ms. Dayley said it makes more sense to go by roads as opposed to just a mathematical formula to equalize things as that would put neighborhoods split into several different schools. Mr. Dixon said if we are trying to minimize disruptions this will help with that. Ms. Reader said you can do a linear progression but she would have to have a proposal first. Ms. Warren asked how that would account for transfers and Ms. Dayley said those are parent choice and would impact it. Mr. Watson asked how the mathematical formula would transition into ArcGIS and Mr. Dixon stated it would be randomly picking house by house. Ms. Dalton said once we put these recommendations out to the public, they will not get the run-down of why the boundaries were changed and they will not buy in with just a mathematical formula. Ms. Haws asked if we attempt to relocate boundaries if Ms. Reader can manipulate the screen and data to give us enrollment numbers on the spreadsheet which so we can see which schools would be impacted? Ms. Reader said she can do that. Ms. Reader said we might need to look at the adjacent schools Edahow Elementary, Gate City Elementary, Ellis Elementary and Wilcox Elementary. Ms. Dayley asked why we need to move areas of Syringa as they have enough room to absorb the proposed changes. Mr. Johnson said Syringa Elementary currently only has two classrooms of kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade and 4th grade and if we add enrollment to that school, they would need to have three teachers per grade level to make that work. Ms. Dayley asked if we could look at the Ellis Elementary and Chubbuck Elementary boundaries and see where they are split. Ms. Haws said if there is going to be growth over the next 5 years in Chubbuck area, she feels we do not want to shift boundaries and add more to those schools. Ms. Lloyd said she feels we need to adjust boundaries so they shift into Chubbuck Elementary. Mr. Cody asked if transfers are going to impact these numbers and Mr. Watson said there are lots of factors we could account for but transfers are accepted based on space availability. Mr. Johnson said he thinks we have to look at the boundary between Gate City Elementary and Ellis Elementary. Mr. Johnson said if you adjust Ellis Elementary boundaries it might impact Tyhee Elementary and Chubbuck Elementary enrollments. Ms. Jensen suggested moving streets by Calvary Chapel into Syringa Elementary and then shifting some of Syringa Elementary into Ellis Elementary boundaries. Ms. Haws asked if we have to continue to shift boundaries at other schools instead of the ones closest to Tendoy if we are trying to not disturb too many boundaries/schools when looking at all this. Mr. Watson said we can do that but without looking at all of it we might run into some issues down the road with the growth and some of these boundaries need to be shifted. Mr. Watson asked what other changes the committee wants to see so that we can bring them back next week. Ms. Haws asked if we could look at not closing schools but adjust boundaries for all those current students and then moving all the special programs like GATE, Montessori and Preschool to Tendoy

Elementary School. Ms. Dayley said she didn't feel that was the best option as the district has all these schools open and at what cost with low capacity. Mr. Watson to do that and not close a school does not address the declining enrollment that we are dealing with. Ms. Dayley asked to see the enrollment numbers for Ellis Elementary after shifting the boundaries and Ms. Reader said it would put it their enrollment numbers at 454 students but that might not be accurate until she verifies numbers, Syringa Elementary would be at 344 students and Gate City Elementary would be at 310 students. Ms. Haws asked if Ms. Reader can add those to a spreadsheet for next week for the committee to look at.

Mr. Watson asked if we want to see what it looks like to close Washington for the next meeting. Ms. Warren said she would like to just work on the Tendoy Elementary and get that one finished before moving to the next. Mr. Watson said we will work on the northern part of the boundaries and also has a starting point with closing Washington Elementary and work from there.

Discussion/Questions/Resources

- Resources and Information for Next Meeting

Meeting Adjourned at 6:36 p.m.