

**MINUTES OF THE ELEMENTARY ENROLLMENT / ATTENDANCE  
AREAS COMMITTEE  
January 6, 2025**



**Call to Order: 5:03 p.m.**

**Committee Members Present:**

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Jake Dixon – Zone 1 Parent           | Holli Haws – Zone 2 Parent (absent)      |
| Eryn Kelsey – Zone 3 Parent (absent) | Jennifer Warner – Zone 3 Parent (absent) |
| 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       | 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

*Special Board Meeting tomorrow, January 7, 2025. Will go over the proposed options with the Board. If any changes or additions need to be made, they can be made before the meeting tomorrow. Public Input Meeting on January 15, 2025, all are welcome to attend but is not required. This is the last scheduled meeting unless Board of Trustees asks to schedule more to go over anything new.*

**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

**Updated Information and Data**

- Washington Advocates – Map Proposal
- Special Board Meeting Recommendations – Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m.
- Proposal Data and Maps

*Washington advocates presented their own map proposal at the last boundary meeting and a similar version (not as detailed) to the School Board at the last Board Meeting. Committee discussed proposed which show how they see learners being relocated if Washington is closed or if Tendoy is closed, maps are included in today’s packets.*

*At the last committee meeting there was a question about bussing information for Tendoy and Washington. Tendoy has 2 bus routes with 53 learners and 166 learners that walk or self-transport. Washington has 3 bus routes with 153 learners and 101 learners that walk or self-transport. 24% of learners are bussed to Tendoy while 60% of learners are bussed to Washington. Bussing is provided for learners living outside of a 1.5 mile radius around the school, those that live within the 1.5 mile radius are not bussed.*

*Recommendation that will be presented to the Board at the Special Meeting tomorrow, January 7, 2025 are included in the packet.*

- a. *Option #1: Close Washington; change enrollment areas at all elementary schools to equalize capacity in our buildings and balance enrollments, improve access to resources, optimize operational efficiency and plan for future growth. Number of learners impacted by this proposal would be 1,271.*
- b. *Option #2: Close Tendoy; Greenacres and Washington enrollment areas would be adjusted to redistribute the current Tendoy learners. All other elementary changes would be the same as presented with the Washington recommendation. Enrollment changes are designed to better balance student enrollment numbers, maximize resources including staffing and increase overall building efficiency. This proposal would impact 1,333 learners across the district.*
- c. *Option #3: Rebalance enrollment areas – no school closure. Enrollment area changes for this proposal would affect every school except for Tyhee Elementary. Helps balance the building capacities and free and reduced numbers at some schools, overall capacity numbers remain low at several schools. This proposal would impact 655 learners across the district.*

*Elementary building capacity totals, included in packet. Shows student capacity, current and proposed enrollment, current and proposed capacity, current and proposed free and reduced lunch. Rebalancing may mean redistributing teachers and may need staff reduced in some schools and some may require more. Tara asked if rebalancing means overloading learners to other schools such as we currently do. AJ stated it is possible for example with incoming kindergartners.*

*Nick stated that rebalancing and shuffling doesn't necessarily mean this will fix everything. What happens when we don't have enough students in a classroom such as PE and Music classes, that means eventually we may have to cut more programs or classes as those numbers drop.*

*Eryn stated she did some research over the break of what other proposals have been made by other districts in the same situation. She stated that one of the proposals had information about rent out unused classrooms to church groups or others, to help make up some of the lost revenue. AJ stated that we currently do rent out our facilities but the money made is not much, it would not recoup enough money fiscally. Eryn also stated that she looked up the CDC website and noticed that Idaho has seen a decline in birth rate by 2% each year since 2001.*

*Discussed how the State is discussing giving \$50 million to private schools and that could potentially affect our future enrollment numbers more.*

*Nick mentioned the disruption to teachers when you are constantly shifting grade levels in schools and constantly moving teachers. Lauren was surprised by the bussing numbers per school, she thought that Tendoy would have more learners that walk or self-transport than Washington.*

*Jennifer asked if reworking the boundary proposal for closing Washington with a different boundary would give the advocate group more to look at? Did they have actual numbers of enrollment per school? AJ stated he doesn't think it would be beneficial but the committee is welcome to discuss it. Emily stated she doesn't think it will make a difference, simply for the fact that most people are attached to their school, the people in the building and they are afraid of losing that. AJ stated that it will definitely have an impact district wide if they go with rebalancing, especially those living south of town and attending I.H.*

#### **Enrollment Areas Collaboration and Committee Work**

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

*AJ asked if there was anything else anyone would like to add to give to the board or would like them know? Is there any changes that they would like made to the current recommendations that will be presented?*

*Tara stated she thinks that there should be information regarding the potential impact of each option in regards to the number of students, teachers and bussing. Angela stated that she tried to explain to her PTO group how expensive it is to run a school, not just the lights, heat, water but staffing and upkeep. The purpose of closing the school should focus on the cost to operate and not having the funding to continue to run it as it is. Nick stated that the tiniest shift will have a huge ripple. How do we explain to our Board members who try to help their zone members and not affect the other boundaries and so on. Each board member needs to realize this is going to impact everyone and they have to look at it as a whole not just their zone. Angela asked if rebalancing will affect those kids that are south of town when they go to middle School, Jackie pulled up the MS boundaries and all proposals still have those south of town attending Irving.*

*Tara stated she thinks we need to remind the board and the public that we could potentially close 2 schools with the current enrollment numbers. AJ stated that is true but with school choice vouchers it is still a large possibility that it will happen in the future that we do have to close another school.*

*Eryn stated that the advocate group seemed to feel like their side and concerns were not being heard. She thought maybe reiterating that the proposal numbers for capacity and all other materials are available for them so they can see the numbers clearly and the affects. AJ stated they will have all of that in their board packet but he will again bring it up to them. Jennifer stated the reason we picked WA and TE was simply for the fact that the buildings are older and those would be the two that would require more money and upkeep than closing any other schools. Eryn asked if there is any way to move those teachers to other positions if we closed a school. AJ said we can but it comes down to funding. Jennifer asked if there is a way you can ask teachers if they are willing to go leave or retire early. AJ stated any teacher that could be impacted will know ahead of time. They see how many teachers (by school and grade level) retire at the end of the year, and when possible do not fill those spots.*

*Moving forward, special meeting tomorrow, January 7, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. and public meeting for input at PHS, January 15, 2025 from 7 - 9 p.m. Information was sent out by email, posted to the website and shared on Facebook. The Board will guide the next steps with their decision to either gather more information after the public meeting or determine if they are ready to make a decision at the next Board Meeting. AJ will let the committee know what their decision is.*

#### **Discussion/Questions/Resources**

**Meeting Adjourned at 5:58 p.m.**