

CAC Enrollment and Facilities
Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Present: Co-Chairs Carol Dimitroff and Roger Wallace, U-46 Administrator Jeff King, Omega demographer Bruce, and members

Call to Order:

Roger Wallace called the meeting to order at 7:07pm. Roger explained that the purpose of the meeting was to have Bruce Silva present initial boundary scenarios. Bruce will give Roger PDFs or some other type of file of what he is presenting for the committee to see. Those files will be ready in the next few days.

Roger Wallace introduced Carol Dimitroff as the new co-chair. She is replacing Sue Kerr who has been elected to the School Board.

Minutes from 4/7/15:

Corrections to the 4/7/15 minutes: The committee agreed that Nathan had commented that there was no difference between closing a school and a magnet school since kids would leave the school in both cases. Minutes will be corrected.

Brandi moved to accept the minutes, Carol seconded. Minutes accepted

Presentation of Boundary Scenarios:

Bruce said he is introducing scenarios as possibilities. He was asked to look at overcapacity schools so first capacity numbers were developed and verified. Then he looked at all schools, looking at both current enrollment and 5-year projections. For certain schools (Liberty, Sunnydale, Ontarioville, Creekside, Hillcrest, Nature Ridge) he recommends waiting to see how the numbers look in the fall before deciding whether to change their boundaries.

Laurel Hill

Laurel Hill is at over 100% utilization and is projected to go up. Bruce projects we need to move up to 100+ kids. Parkwood could take about 100. Bruce presented a map showing a possible boundary moving kids from Laurel Hill to Parkwood. Bruce mentioned that for this boundary change and others as well, there are some things to consider: grandfathering (which may mean the number of kids moved the first year is lower) and programs. Renee noted that Parkwood and Laurel Hill both go to Tefft but Laurel Hill goes to BHS and Parkwood goes to SHS. Programs at Laurel Hill currently: one-way Dual Language.

Otter Creek

Otter Creek is at over 100% utilization and is projected to go up another 50 kids. Otter Creek has programs (PreK, Dual Language). A lot of kids attending Otter Creek do not live that close to the school. Bruce presented a boundary scenario moving 87 Otter Creek students to Fox Meadow. Rebecca pointed out that in this scenario the town house community in College Green would be split up. Bruce said that the line could be moved, that this is just a scenario. Natalie noted that the proposal is to move 87 kids to Fox Meadow but it looks like we need to move more kids. What about them? Bruce said we might

consider moving some to Willard or perhaps look at programs. Rebecca asked whether we are taking into account programs that grow such as Two-Way Dual Language, which has been adding a grade a year. Another member noted that moving kids from Otter Creek will affect middle school feeder patterns. There was another question about moving kids from high performing to low performing schools. Roger said it was something that will have to be presented. Someone pointed out that Tony Sanders said that wasn't part of the criteria in our boundary work. There was concern that Otter Creek has Two-Way Dual Language but Fox Meadow does not. Bruce said at this point he is not looking at that level of detail (seeing what kids are in what programs) but that would have to be looked at. A member asked about moving more kids to bring Otter Creek's numbers down more. Roger said Bruce is using a conservative approach, to move 181 kids would mean shifting a lot more kids at a lot more schools. Natalie suggested other columns on Bruce's table (which lists schools, capacities, number of kids to potentially be moved, etc.) to show how many kids are proposed to be moved, the impact on the school moved from and the school moved to. Bruce said he can do that.

Coleman

Bruce presented a map that would move 60 kids from Coleman to McKinley. All kids would still walk.

Lincoln

An unofficial boundary change actually took place some years ago. At some point kids in the upper NE corner of the Lincoln boundary were moved to Timber Trails. They will stay at Timber Trails. Bruce's map also proposed moving 97 kids in the southeast corner of the Lincoln boundary to O'Neal. Someone asked whether Lords Park might have room? No, Lords Park is about 85% utilized and is projected to stay that way. Middle school feeders might be affected since Lincoln goes to Larsen and Lords Park to Ellis.

Channing

Bruce's map presented two boundary changes: moving some Channing kids to Huff and some to Garfield.

Liberty

Liberty is not showing growth. It has 9 sections of ESL which could be moved elsewhere in Bartlett. No boundary changes are proposed at this point.

Harriet Gifford

Harriet Gifford is at about 90% with a little increase projected. Bruce's map proposed moving some students from the Northwest side of the boundary to Lowrie. Renee suggested making it the boundary change a rectangle rather than a square and running it south to Lake Street. This would be like old boundary (prior to 2004). Bruce tried that boundary and it would move about the same number of kids (about 40). This is something to discuss at a future meeting.

Century Oaks

Century Oaks is projected to stay about 90% utilization. It has two special ed classes which could be moved. There is no proposed boundary change at this point since it is difficult to figure where to put the kids. This school has programs with small classes and thus the need for mobiles. Reopening Illinois Park

was not considered at this point. Jeff said for Century Oaks and some other schools, we might want to wait to see what numbers look like in the fall. Jeff said opening Illinois Park is an option. David asked why we need PreK? Early intervention is important, pre-school can help. There was discussion about whether Illinois Park should be reopened as an elementary and whether pre-K should take precedence over K-6. If Illinois Park is reopened would that relieve enough other elementary schools in that area so that pre-K could fit in their home schools? There was also discussion about moving Century Oaks special ed, and how transportation would have to be taken into account. (We don't want the kids on a long bus ride).

Sunnydale

Sunnydale is fine now but is projected to grow in five years. Bruce recommends waiting until the fall to see if it looks like growth might happen.

Ontarioville

Ontarioville is not changing. Bruce recommends waiting to see what numbers look like in the fall.

Creekside

Creekside will be losing 2 Ignite classes. It should be OK. The Creekside rep pointed out that there were no art or music rooms and that mobiles are in use.

Hillcrest

Hillcrest's numbers are dropping. Hillcrest also has Highland kindergartners. Bruce recommends waiting to see what numbers look like in the fall.

Nature Ridge

Nature Ridge's numbers are projected to drop. Bruce recommends waiting to see what numbers look like in the fall.

There was a proposal that we need to have boundaries even for the schools we are waiting on, just so we have an option if the fall numbers look like a school's population is increasing.

Bev suggested that for the 6 schools with proposed boundaries, we look at the numbers and see the impact on middle school and high schools.

Brandi questioned how the magnet school discussed at the last meeting would impact things. Roger said things were still up in the air, and that Tony is working on it. If a magnet school is created, it would start in 2016-17, possibly with grades K-2, and then add a grade every year after. E&F would need to recommend where and when to move the current attenders to another school. Currently our focus is on over-crowded elementary schools. Next year's work will be on middle schools and high schools.

There was a question about whether the committee need to wait for the September 30 numbers in the fall, since the work for elementary schools had to be done by October 20. Jeff said he could pull numbers after the second week of school to see what things are looking like and to see if the schools highlighted in yellow should be addressed.

There was a question about whether we discuss feeder patterns at community meetings. Yes.

Renee asked about how many community meetings we would have and whether we would present multiple scenarios. Jeff said it is up to the committee to decide on the number of scenarios; he would suggest meetings at 3 high schools.

Bruce will update columns with impact on schools. Bruce will also prepare boundaries for schools in yellow (the wait and see schools) and send those to the committee.

The next meeting will discussed Bruce's proposals.

There was concern that four schools are not on the list but have mobiles. Why are we not addressing those? Jeff said some of those schools do not need mobiles and they will probably be removed in the summer of 2016. He has no plans to remove any this summer (2015).

Meeting adjourned at 9:07pm.