

Citizen's Advisory Council  
Enrollment & Facilities Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 16, 2014

Present: Co-Chairs Sue Kerr and Roger Wallace, U-46 Administrator Jeff King, and members

7:05 pm: Meeting called to order.

Handed out the following: Agenda, CAC Committee Member Code of Conduct, CAC Committee Member Attendance Policy, Tentative Timeline for Boundary Considerations, and Attendance Boundary Guidelines. Note: Jeff provided a new version of the Attendance Boundary Guidelines that have been modified by our lawyers. These Guidelines have not been reviewed or approved by the school board, but since they are key to what we will be doing, Jeff wanted us to see them.

Went around the room and did introductions.

Sue led the housekeeping discussion in which we reviewed general voting, membership, attendance policies, and member code of conduct.

We discussed the primary focus of our work for this year - boundaries:

- There have been boundary discussions in the past, and 2004 was a big one. In 2004, a lot of kids were moved which caused a lot of controversy and ultimately the lawsuit.
- Sue has a Pro/Con form that was used in 2010 which shows recommendations and why they were included or thrown out. She will email that to the group. We should use that or a similar format to keep track of decisions we make during boundary discussions, and include that in our reports to the school board.
- We should compare birth rates between what we collect and what GIS has (GIS gets its info from the state).

Jeff is working with a demographer that was hired by the district for this boundary study:

- The demographer is Omega Group, located in southern California. Omega was used during the lawsuit, so they are the logical ones to use for our boundary discussions. They evaluated what the previous demographer did and confirmed it was correct. Our main contact in Omega is located in Houston where they also did a school boundary study.
- Jeff will be trained by Omega on using their GIS system. It would be a good idea for someone from E&F to get trained as well.
- Omega has collected data and will generate a report with 3 scenarios. They are currently waiting for guidelines/criteria from the district to generate the results for the report.
- Jeff hopes to get a lot of feedback from E&F to the demographer before the scenarios are finalized. To that end, should we make up a questionnaire to give to the school principals? We should think about this.
- Omega should begin the study in October. That pushes the timeline out 2 months, so the feeder pattern discussion won't start until after Christmas.
- The timeline is very tight, and with the delays we're already seeing it may be nearly impossible to meet. Natalie suggested we update the timeline with current information to see where we stand. Jeff will talk to Omega later this week.

#### New Attendance Boundary Guidelines:

- Guidelines state the CAC General can change committee recommendations. That violates CAC bylaws. Get Jeff a copy of CAC bylaws (and send to everyone in E&F) so he can talk to the lawyers about them.
- Guidelines also say that the Superintendent can make changes to our recommendations. The Superintendent can make comments to our recommendations or make their own recommendations, but not change them. While this violates CAC bylaws, there is not much of a chance it happening – Jeff will be part of our discussions, and he will review our recommendations and make us aware of any concerns administration will have before we ever submit them.
- Due to the recent lawsuit and the fact that the lawyers are closely watching everything we do, it is important to have the Guidelines be accurate.
- Renee pointed out that we cannot make decisions/changes based on demographics (i.e. free/reduced cost meals) as the new guidelines now say. This is exactly opposite to and therefore violates board policy. When Jeff discussed this with the lawyers, they said we should just “be aware” of how demographics are affected. Dana recalled that race/ethnicity was looked at during previous boundary discussions relate to Nature Ridge. Elise offered another way to interpret the guidelines: demographics are just something to keep in mind to make sure we’re not making things hard on any particular group. E&F doesn’t want to inadvertently start a problem - Jeff will talk to the lawyers again about our concerns.
- The grandfathering rule for siblings was removed. We can still recommend it be available if the parents provide transportation – the district will not provide bussing. “No break in family continuity” is the rule we should follow.
- We need to consider cost to the district in our discussions/decisions (e.g. Building A is 75 years old, Building B is 30 years old). The Guidelines don’t include any way to do this. Jeff will talk to lawyer about adding something related to “economic factors”. He will try “performance”, but doubts that will work. Jeff did say that whatever we decide, if we need to make a decision of one location over another, we need to put together supporting arguments about why we make the decision we do. The Pro/Con table we spoke of earlier that Sue has old examples of will help. We should use that type of format for every decision we make.
- The term “keep walkers walkers” was dropped, but Jeff said we can use the included term “proximity” to mean that.
- Jeff will have any changes available for E&F at our next meeting to review before it is presented to the school board.

#### One possibility is to move grade 6 from elementary to middle school:

- Jeff said there has been some talk about that on the administration side, but Dr. Torres didn’t like the idea.
- With the plan to put extended day kindergarten at every elementary school, this appears to be the best option to free up space in elementary schools. We should definitely talk about this as an option during our discussions.
- Jeff thinks it will need to happen, but there will be a significant expense.
- We asked Jeff to let us know how many EDK, half day K, and empty classrooms are at each school. This will include at risk EDK and paid EDK. He should also include numbers for regular English speaking kindergarteners that were moved from their home school (primarily ESL) in order to make a full kindergarten class.

- Elise knows Dr. Arndt, our current superintendent, and knows he is in favor of grades 6-8 middle schools.

One consideration brought up by Nathan was to convert a large portion of the Education Services Center back into a school. Jeff didn't think this idea would go very far, but there were several members that thought we should look into this. The ESC is located in an area with a lot of overcrowded schools.

Ideas for Jeff to take to the demographer:

- In our reports we consider at least three different classroom capacities. E&F needs to decide on one definition to use going forward that everyone can use.
- The general consensus is that the demographer should use the Guidelines to generate the report with three scenarios, without any specific recommendations or direction from E&F.

Items for next meeting:

1. Decide on one classroom capacity to use going forward.
2. Discuss updated Guidelines Jeff will provide.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 30, 2014 at 7pm.

9:00 pm: Natalie motioned to adjourn, Douglas seconded motion.