

School Board Action on Boundary Task Force Recommendations

Ann Whitmyer moved and Steve Schoenfeld seconded the motion to approve Option A as modified, now identified as Option A1.

Option A1

The new Aldrich Road school attendance area would draw students from current Alderwood, Birchwood and Sunnyland attendance areas. In order to keep Sunnyland enrollment balanced to facility size, and to balance enrollment to facility size at Northern Heights for future growth, part of Northern Heights' southwest attendance area would attend Sunnyland.

The new Yew Street Road school attendance area would draw students from the easterly portion of Happy Valley's attendance area. This allows Carl Cozier's "Dumas/Lincoln/Consolidation" area to attend Happy Valley, reducing Carl Cozier's enrollment and eliminating an existing split middle school boundary at Carl Cozier. This allows Lowell's "Lincoln Street/I-5" area (immediately adjacent to Carl Cozier) to attend Carl Cozier, their neighborhood school. (Note: A small middle school boundary adjustment is recommended for this area in order to ensure that a split middle school boundary is not created and that all Carl Cozier students attend the same middle school).

The above results in Geneva's enrollment being slightly under capacity (a projected enrollment of 498 compared to a capacity of 500) as the only change to Geneva's attendance area would be for Geneva's "Electric/Flynn" area to attend Silver Beach. The remainder of Geneva's attendance area, including Sudden Valley, would remain at Geneva.

The initial Yew Street Road elementary school's enrollment would be further balanced to facility size by having a part of Carl Cozier's "Yew Street Road/Lakeway Drive" attendance area and Larrabee's "Old Samish Highway/Lake Samish Drive" attendance area attend the new Yew Street Road school.

Moving the "Old Samish Highway/Lake Samish Drive" attendance area to the new school on Yew Street Road significantly reduces Larrabee's enrollment. As a result, and in order to maintain learning programs and balance enrollment to facility size at Larrabee, boundaries between Lowell, Larrabee, and Happy Valley need further modification (Edgemoor from Happy Valley to Lowell, Chuckanut Drive from Lowell to Larrabee, part of 30th Street from Larrabee to Happy Valley, and part of the Fairhaven waterfront from Larrabee to Lowell). Those modifications also result in a more efficient means of transportation in those areas.

The Woodlands area will stay connected with the Edgemoor neighborhood, adding approximately 20 woodlands area students to Lowell (these students were slated to attend Larrabee in Option A). This is consistent with the consideration factor of "whenever possible keeping neighborhoods together." Specifically, both sides of Board Street; both sides of Viewcrest Road and both sides of Crest lane; up to but not including Chuckanut Drive, would attend Lowell Elementary School.

In order to meet a second consideration factor of “balancing enrollment to facility size,” both sides of 30th Street south of Old Fairhaven Parkway, both sides of the streets connecting to 30th Street south of Old Fairhaven Parkway, and both sides of 32nd Street to the intersection of Old Samish Highway will attend Larrabee Elementary School.

Columbia, Parkview, and Roosevelt, attendance areas remain as they currently are.

In order to minimize the number of students who would need to be relocated as a result of the Lowell seismic project:

- A. Allow students who are slated to move into Lowell as the result of a boundary adjustment to remain at their current school until Lowell reopens after the seismic rehabilitation project is completed (fall of 2009).
- B. Allow students who are slated to move out of Lowell as a result of a boundary adjustment to move to their new school in the fall of 2008.
- C. Because the number of remaining Lowell students who would need to relocate to another school during 2008-09 is dependent on which proposal is adopted, and because the Lowell School community is more qualified to finalize those details with their principal, therefore, the final decisions associated with where remaining Lowell students will attend school during the seismic rehabilitation project should be made during 2007-08 by a group other than this task force.

The opportunity for opening year fifth graders who would like to remain at their current school for fifth grade should only be done through the existing open enrollment/transfer process, with no phasing or transition period for the adopted boundary proposal. Our recommendation is based on the following:

- Negative impact on staffing as it would be extremely difficult to project the number of students who would attend each school.
- Schools should garner the full benefit of reducing their enrollment immediately.
- Increased costs associated with operating “dual bus routes” at each school.
- The unavailability of school buses to operate “dual bus routes” at each affected school.

The motion carried unanimously.