

Des Moines Public Schools

Superintendent's Facility Advisory Committee

Meeting date:

October 23, 2013 at 5:30 PM

Operations Center, 1917 Dean

Members Present:

Meredith Mauro
Mary Lynne Jones
Brian Millard
Marvin Alexander
Joel Doyle
Ed Linebach
Kris Cooper
Jeff Hall

Members Absent:

Cynthia Hunafa
Susie Rider

DMPS Staff Present:

Tim Schott
Susan Tallman
Bill Good
Connie Baker

Others Attending:

Pat Sweeny

Agenda –

- Revisit work plan
- Review NW Elem Boundaries (Impact of F&R %)
- Review potential South Elementary Boundaries – (Expanding Jefferson) – (Impact of other school boundaries)
- Next Meeting: Nov. 6 – Review F&R% of South changes & Review entire Elem. Proposal
- Meeting: Nov 20 – planning meeting for board update Dec. 10th.
- What themes should be covered?

Bill reviewed the following:

1. All DMPS Schools are Schools of Choice
2. Balancing enrollment between schools
 - Creating space in all schools to increase attendance potential
 - Neighborhood students should be able to attend neighborhood schools
 - Aligning feeder plans as much as possible: Elem, Middle, and High School

The discussion started based on finishing up from the Sept 25 meeting on developing the theme. The committee wanted to keep the focus related to students, then families, community, family needs, and

being up front with what is best for students and families. The final suggestion: *“Keeping students first by improving opportunities in all schools for students (children?) and families”*.

Susie Tallman reviewed the proposed NE & Central Elementary & NW Elementary proposed boundaries with hard copies of maps given to the attendees. Members reviewed and had some concerns that will be looked at regarding the *elementary boundaries in consideration of crossing busy streets such as 2nd Ave in the Madison area/Oak Park area.

A discussion regarding the Cowles boundary area and how to stand behind the decisions regarding that particular area due to its uniqueness; the Montessori program with children age 3 years and up. Cowles currently enrolls approximately 40 middle school students that generally return to their own neighborhoods or districts for high school.

Susie T. & Tim have looked at Downtown and Walnut St schools boundary areas and there would be very little impacted. In reviewing the elementary boundaries, Susie gave consideration regarding capacity, space, all neighborhood students within the areas, transportation and reducing transporting students by utilizing neighborhood schools also noting that 50% of busing are SPED & ELL students; open enrollment students must have their own transportation but that is their choice.

Mary Lynne had a concern that the % of ELL in certain neighborhoods could have a lower % of students with English as a primary language in attendance. Some schools have additional ELL support such as Edmunds and Monroe which would be a consideration.

Following the review of the NW, NE & Central areas, there was a preliminary look at the proposed south boundaries, with a few questions by the committee on some areas with some additional tweaking needed.

Bill G. reminded the committee that there is some money set aside for building additional classrooms onto buildings in areas that may need classroom spaces.

Discussion about the boundaries associated with elementary schools by Evergreen, Watrous Avenue, areas on the west side of 63rd and Park Ave by Brown Woods (new housing that is in a different school district), McKinley Ave. Habitat for Humanity holds the most building permits for the city and those are mostly existing homes, or existing homes being replaced with newer homes.

Tim Schott reviewed the proposed middle and high school boundaries associated with the elementary alignment into middle schools. This review of proposed boundary changes would provide 100% feeder patterns, but questions arose on whether the alignment is worth the changes, Weeks was previously split with a portion going to Lincoln and a portion to East that would now go to Lincoln. The committee made previous secondary boundary changes and there is still grandfathering taking place and feel they should continue to work on the elementary boundaries.

Questions on building an additional high school possibly on the south side arose, but there is adequate high school capacity for future needs and the cost of a new high school could be prohibitive. Additional discussion regarding property the district owns to the south of Army Post Road and Indianola Blvd – 30 acres and what might be considered there in the future.

The committee determined to adjourn and pick up reviews at the next meeting.

Requested information for next time:

Susie will look at F&R for NW area. (Crossing 2nd Ave - possibly adjusting boundary between Madison/Oak Park area).

The south elementary boundary in relationship to major streets.

The Committee is to send any ideas to Bill Good / Connie Baker as we continue with the elementary boundary proposals.

Upcoming meeting date and location scheduled:

5:30 p.m. – November 6, 2013 at 1917 Dean Avenue Conference Room

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Baker