

Des Moines Public Schools
Superintendent's Facility Advisory Committee

Meeting date:

February 9, 2012 at 6:00 PM

Central Academy, 1912 Grand Avenue, Room 1013

Members

Present:

Marvin Alexander
Brian Clark
Joel Doyle
Paul Krause
Burch LaPrade
Lowell Long
Kent Mauck
Meredith Mauro
Susie Rider
Twyla Woods

Members Absent:

Kris Cooper
Ed Linebach

DMPS Staff Present:

Bill Good
Bryce Amos
Connie Baker
David Johns

Marvin Alexander opened the meeting with introductions of the committee and staff.

Bill G. then reviewed the maps for high school, middle school and elementary boundaries. A slide presentation of the handout material was presented (the handout was of elementary schools of those students going to schools outside of their home boundary areas by program codes).

Question 'what is the goal on boundaries' – the group plans to gather information on factors that may affect this in the next few meetings. Looking at items such as: enrollments at high school some are greater than others; special programming that affects capacities; some schools have more space than others; should boundaries at choice schools be enlarged or not, and how were boundaries originally developed.

Bill reviewed the M&O spreadsheet showing the capacity and percentages of students inside/outside their home areas and reviewed the Brubaker, Capital View, Greenwood and Edmunds boundary sheets as examples of student's locations. Some reasons students are not in their home area boundaries are: ELL, Special Ed. Schools In Need of Assistance (SINA) – no child left behind, administration placement. Bryce explained that student placement is based on whether the home school is full (generally elementary); school safety, alternate placement relating to discipline. ELL students are a large percentage of those transferred – not all schools have ELL – should each school have an ELL program? What are the staffing requirements and is it feasible with funding? ELL is state funded for four years but students sometimes take 5-7 years to test out – it depends on the level they are at. (The committee requested more information on the ELL programs at the next meeting.)

Kent M. asked what the district standard for class size is – Bryce responded the 'goal' for grades K-3 would be a maximum of 24; grades 3-5 maximum 28. Some of the challenges are with kindergarten

enrollment, open enrollment (OE's) may be denied if schools are full. This year there is a 6th grade enrollment bubble moving through the schools which may affect class sizes.

Other questions: should there be a true feeder pattern, balancing of the high schools enrollments, should choice schools have ¼ mile boundary or enlarge boundary to allow students in their home areas access? (Choice schools are those more traditional such as; Jefferson, Cowles (Montessori), Downtown, Phillips, and Goodrell.)

David Johns (School Improvement Leader – Meredith Middle School) shared on the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. The power point presentation handout is attached for reference. Mr. Johns shared the aspects of the programming from K-12. Students focus on various aspects of learning, through inquiry, with an emphasis on communication – stretch to learn (read and write) another language; understanding real-world problems. The fastest growing IB region is in the SE part of the US. There are 3400 IB programs around the world with 60% public/40% private.

How will the IB program impact boundaries? The DMPS IB Network of Schools is: Hubbell, Park Ave, Stowe, Walnut St, Goodrell, Merrill, Gateway, Meredith, Hoover, and Central Academy. IB continuation is guaranteed and current feeder patterns are established: Stowe will go to Goodrell; Park Ave goes to Gateway at Central Campus, Meredith will go to Hoover. If Brody (which is in the process of self study) becomes certified then Park Ave would feed into Brody. One Middle Year Program (MYP) goal is to have one certified middle school/high school in each of the three district's regions. Susie Rider asked for a national % of those who choose to leave the IB program.

Bryce Amos reported the process used for changes in district and surrounding district boundaries. Both the boards and communities would have to agree to the change. The \$5900/student would be a factor and there is state open enrollment available. It is unlikely at this time that the boundaries next to Hoover would reconsider a change as students could open enroll from the outside neighboring district.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for March 8, 6:00 p.m. at Central Campus Board Room (1800 Grand Ave).

Agenda:

- ELL Presentation – Vinh Nguyen
- How were original boundaries determined?
- Feeder Patterns – Pros and Cons

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Baker