

Des Moines Public Schools
Superintendent's Facility Advisory Committee

Meeting date:

April 11, 2013 at 5:30 PM
Operations Center – 1917 Dean Avenue

Members Present:

Marvin Alexander
Meredith Mauro
Jeff Hall
Brian Millard
Cynthia Hunafa

Members Absent:

Joel Doyle
Ed Linebach
Susie Rider
Mary Lynne Jones
Jennie Rochon
Twyla Woods

DMPS Staff Present:

Tom Ahart
Tim Schott
Susan Tallman
Bill Good
Connie Baker

Others Attending:

Mary Steigmeier
Trevor Huffaker

Agendas were distributed and introductions were made. The maintenance and operations spreadsheet was provided with a history of enrollments, % of students inside and outside of boundaries, capacity and other items for reference and review. Bill reviewed where the group left off last fall and the recommendations for middle and high school boundaries going to the board meeting last Oct. 2012. The committee decided to reconvene this spring to review the elementary boundaries, which have not been looked at overall for more than 25 years.

Tom Ahart and Marvin Alexander both agree that DMPS should be competitive and contribute positively in the long run with the parents support from elementary school level on. Tom A. also shared the importance of this elementary boundary review and the importance of the work that was done with the middle and high school boundaries to help obtain a true feeder pattern. Marvin Alexander shared that we do need to do a better job of reviewing and not waiting long between reviews of boundaries.

Bill G. explained that of the middle and high schools, Weeks Middle School was the only one that was not a pure feeder pattern with ½ of the students going to East HS and ½ of the students going to Lincoln.

The committee will also be looking at the schools of choice and the current ¼ mile boundary. Should that go to 1 mile? The elementary schools of choice are: Cowles, Phillips, Downtown, Walnut St, Jefferson; with Goodrell as the only Middle School of choice. Should we look at each elementary school individually? A demographic study is currently in process and will be ready for the May 21st Board Meeting. This additional information will be helpful when the committee meets May 9th.

Susan Tallman shared that students are bused (up to 200) out of existing boundaries. Some of the specific bused areas include: Casady – bused students could go to King or Moulton instead of Monroe to reduce busing; Capital View students who live east of the railroad tracks which are bused to Capital View but are within walking distance of Willard; Oak Park area; more Moulton neighborhood students attending Moulton rather than busing out (changing Moulton from K-8 next year no 8th grade; etc.); various schools may need boundary adjustments. Carver – a portion of the boundary may be closer to McKinley.

Other questions included: is there a need for a north side IB school? If there is growth on the south side, how would it affect the boundaries?

Cynthia Hunafa commented that there should be a true Middle School program when considering a pre K – 8 on the SE side, as the students moving from Moulton K-8 program really had that ‘deer in the headlights’ look when going to high school.

Tom A. talked about the growth in the ELL program, space available for students in the elementary schools with all but a very few schools that do not have an ELL program. There are several special programs throughout the district with certain schools housing those programs.

Information requested for the upcoming meetings:

1. If the Casady area is to go to a neighborhood school what would that look like? # of students?
2. ELL update from Vinh Nguyen – Susan Tallman will work with Vinh on a presentation for the committee regarding ELL programs at schools and what the maximum point or % is for that.
3. Bill is working on students location (on a map) for schools of choice
4. Boundary maps are available on the website: <http://www.dmschools.org/about/district-map/>

Requested Sections to be listed for each elementary (possibly on the M&O spreadsheet):

Bused data to each school (IEP – SPED required busing)

% of ELL at each school

Special programs such as: autism and deaf education programs

Upcoming meeting dates and locations are scheduled (subject to change – please contact Connie at 242-8321 one day prior to attending to verify):

May 9, 2013 - 6:00 p.m. at 1917 Dean Ave Operations Center

June 20, 2013 5:30 p.m. meet at the ‘New’ Edmunds School parking lot on East Entrance side for a tour prior to the meeting at 6:00 p.m. in a classroom to be announced.

Minutes from the previous committee meetings are posted on line: [Superintendent's Facility Advisory Committee Minutes](#)

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Baker