

Flexible Boundary Committee Meeting Summary

November 2009

Submitted by Jennifer Leimberer, Committee Chair

The Committee had its first meeting on November 12 at Hauser. The following people were in attendance:

Jennifer Leimberer, *Committee Chair, Board of Education Member*
Mary T. Stimming, *Board of Education Member*
Mary Ellen Meindl, *Board of Education Member*
Jim Raffensperger, *Ames School, point person*
Karen Magee, *Blythe Park, point person*
Greg Nessinger, *Central, point person*
Trish Smithing, *Hollywood*
Art Perry, *Hollywood*
Elizabeth Fragoso, *Hollywood*
Agnes Halmon, *Hollywood*
Lisa Gaynor, *Blythe Park*
Rebecca Levine, *Ames*
Liz Buoscio, *Ames*

The committee spent time reviewing the working committee structure, overall expectations and open participation structure. We also talked about the goals and the consensus building decision making structure. We also spent time getting to know each other a little and what motivated us to participate in this discussion.

The committee also talked about the parameters the BOE has established for the Flexible Boundary Committee and required by the Open Meeting Act.

The committee spent much of its time doing an initial intuitive review or evaluation of the priorities outlined in the current Flexible Boundary Policy. We used a feedback back box and generated some good discussions about the policy and generated some good questions and observations, for example:

- Does the vision of the policy match the implementation of the policy?
- Implementation procedures need to be more predictable and clearly communicated to parents.
- Procedures need to be standardized.
- The policy should set expectations and conditions for expectations.
- When did Hollywood get included in the implementation of this policy and why?

We also started to discuss the kinds of data that we would need to understand this issue. The committee is considering interviewing building principals and the superintendent in the near future. Teachers and other staff are of course welcome to attend these meetings as are other community members. The committee does plan to devise a way to solicit feedback and perspective from the teachers, through an after-school meeting with a pointed task.

Our next meeting is **December 10th**. We hope to spend some time with the report that lead to the Flexible Boundary Policy, [A Preliminary Report from the Long Range Steering Committee on Recommendations to Achieve Desirable and Equitable Class Size Ratios and Facility Usage in District 96 Elementary Schools](#) and the [District 96 Policy 7:30-E Long Range Plan Steering Committee Flexible Boundary Plan and Implementation Guidelines](#).

<http://www.district96.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/01/lrpsc-march-2002.pdf>

http://downloads.microscribepub.com/il/riverside_96/730_e.pdf

Feedback Box

	Yes. . . .	Yes, but. . .	No, but. . .	No
Respond to changing trends in enrollment				
Maintain equity				
Maximize use of the existing facilities				
Improve the quality of each school's programs				
Lower class size throughout the district				
Achieve equity in class sizes and facility access throughout the district				
Maintain the neighborhood school concept				
Provide a workable plan for the future				
To be financially responsible.				
Proximity				
Safety				
Once assigned to a school student will remain in a school				
Assignments based on siblings.				
Assignments based on proximity.				
Assignments based on date of registration.				