

Minutes of the
Flexible Boundary Committee Meeting
27 January 2010
L.J. Hauser Jr. High School

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. The following individuals were in attendance:

Committee members

Jennifer Leimberer, Board of Education Member (Chair)
Mary T. Stimming, Board of Education Member
Jim Raffensperger, Ames representative
Karen Magee, Blythe Park representative
Greg Nessinger, Central representative
Kathy Barcal, Hauser representative

Participating Members of the Public

Elizabeth Fragoso de Dvorak, Hollywood
Kelly Krupske, Hollywood
Art Perry, Hollywood

2. Public Comment/Statement

Kelly Krupske asked what information regarding the Flexible Boundary Policy is currently available on the District website for new or prospective new families. In particular, she continued, is there any reference there to the work of this Committee?

Group members replied that given the stage of this Committee's work, nothing on the website regarding registration refers to this Committee's work nor should anything be any different there this year from last. Likewise, the administrators have not adjusted what they are telling new or prospective new families.

3. Review and Approve 14 January 2010 Minutes

The Minutes of the 10 December 2009 meeting were approved with no amendments.

4. Interview with Administrators

Since our last meeting, Mrs. Leimberer has had conversations with Board President Nancy Jensen and Superintendent Jon Lamberson about the Committee's desire to hear the administrators' perspective on the Flexible Boundary Policy and its implementation. They have reached an agreement about how to conduct the Flexible Boundary Committee's interviews with Superintendent Lamberson and the principals. These individuals will be invited to attend one of the Committee's meetings and respond to the Committee's questions. Sue Moorhead, Board Secretary will take Minutes of that meeting.

The Committee will finalize the Interview questions at our next meeting and submit them in advance.

Mrs. Leimberer observed that the Flexible Boundary Policy has had personal effects on some gathered at the table and has led others into advocacy roles. For still others, it has been of no emotional import. She will take all this into account when we plan for the meeting and establish its ground rules.

5. Draft Recommendations Regarding Flexible Boundary Policy

- a. Define “neighborhood school” as “most proximate school” to the student’s residence.
- b. Assign siblings to same school. No exceptions on administrative grounds.
- c. Retitle 7:30E to eliminate time-bound language.
- d. Eliminate all time-bound language from 7:30E.
- e. Develop criteria to evaluate working of policy.
- f. Set schedule to review policy according to this criteria and present results to the Board of Education.

6. Draft Recommendations Regarding Implementation of Flexible Boundary Policy

In response to the questions raised during public comment the committee discussed some recommendations pertaining to this year’s upcoming registration.

RE: Registration Page on District 96 Website

- Post FB Policy with Registration materials.
- Include a recommendation to contact a building principal or the Superintendent for more information regarding this policy (along with names, numbers, email addresses).
- Include a note indicating significance of timing of registration.
- Include a note clarifying Hollywood’s status in relation to policy.

General Recommendations:

- Retain 7:30E assignment priority given to sibling already within a school.
- Centralize new student/Kindergarten assignment under one administrator.
- Permit parents to indicate First/Second Choice of schools on Registration Forms and degree of family flexibility.
- Treat class size targets as true targets, not hard caps.
- Develop and utilize other tools to address class size.

7. Brainstorming Session

Individuals noted ideas worth possible further exploration:

- Reorder assignment priorities per 7:30E Waiting List order:
 - 1. Siblings 2. Proximity 3. Date of registration
- Make registration for district, not a school.
- Hold one central Kindergarten registration, not four at separate grade schools.
- Separate class size policy from placement policy; create one policy governing class size and one governing student placement.

- Reconsider return to fixed boundaries; which *de facto* exist.
- Write implementation procedures that include room for later registrations.
- Build future grade pattern enrollment into Kindergarten section planning.
- State in policy a schedule to revise every X years (annually, every 2 years)?
- Evaluation criteria for policy: equitable class size, number of students displaced and distance from school, meeting class size targets.
- Set-up a schedule to do demographic studies.
- Along with policy, make available explicit statement of how policy is implemented (i.e., how students are assigned to schools) and timeline for doing so.
- Make available how, when and why Board of Education votes to increase class size.
- Improve how class increase is communicated to parents.

Please see www.district96.org/school-board/meetings/special-board-committee-meetings/ for data relevant to this meeting's discussion.

8. Next Meeting and Tasks

The next meeting of the FB Committee will be Thursday, February 11, 2010 in Hauser Library. The meeting with District administrators will be scheduled by Mrs. Leimberer and communicated to Committee members via email.

With respect to the Meeting with Superintendent Lamberson and the principals responsible for registering students:

- Review and finalize interview questions.
- Finalize session format/facilitation plan.

With respect to tentative Recommendations:

- Review tentative Recommendations formulated tonight.
- Finalize decision regarding Hollywood's status with respect to FB policy.
- Consider ideas from Brainstorming session.
- Review questions listed in December Minutes (<http://www.district96.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/December-10-Minutes.pdf>) and determine which ones answered and which ones not.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Mary T. Stimming, Recorder

Jennifer M. Leimberer, Committee Chair