

Minutes of the  
Flexible Boundary Committee Meeting  
11 February 2010  
L.J. Hauser Jr. High School

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m. The following individuals were in attendance:

Committee members

Jennifer Leimberer, Board of Education Member (Chair)  
Mary T. Stimming, Board of Education Member  
Karen Magee, Blythe Park representative  
Greg Nessinger, Central representative  
Trish Smithing, Hollywood representative

Participating Members of the Public

Elizabeth Fragoso de Dvorak, Hollywood

2. Public Comment/Statement

There were no Public Comments or statements.

3. Review and Approve 27 January 2010 Minutes

The Minutes of the 27 January 2010 meeting were approved with the following amendments:

p. 1 Under Public Comment, second paragraph, “regarding Registration” will be inserted in the first sentence.

Sentence will now read: “Group members replied that given the stage of this Committee’s work, nothing on the website *regarding Registration . . .*”

p. 2, Under Draft Recommendations Regarding Flexible Boundary Policy

Amend “a” to read: *Define “neighborhood school” as “most proximate school” to the student’s residence.*”

Amend “f” to read: Set schedule to review policy *according to this criteria and present results to the Board of Education.*

4. Plans for 18 February Meeting

- a. Attendees: Flexible Boundary Committee members, Superintendent Lamberson, Principals Lieggi, Chleboun and Limperis, and will be in attendance. It is undetermined at this time whether Principal Keller will attend. Board secretary Sue Moorhead will take Minutes. Principal Berman will not attend (Policy 7:30E does not affect Hauser with respect to student assignment). The Committee expressed interest in receiving information from Principal Berman about class sizes at Hauser.

- b. Karen Magee and Mary Stimming will facilitate. All may participate, but Karen and Mary will make sure the prepared questions are addressed.
- c. The assembled group reviewed and finalized the questions for Superintendent Lamberson and the principals:

**Administration Interview Questions**

For All:

Please describe how you implement the Flexible Boundary Policy.

What do you consider the strengths and weaknesses of the Flexible Boundary Policy?

What, in your professional opinion, is an optimal class size for K-3, 4-6 and 7-8?

*Checklist:*

- Who oversees the implementation process at your school?
- Is inter-school communication involved during the implementation process?
- What is the order of priority for school assignment? (E.g., distance, siblings, date of registration, safety, other)
- Does transportation safety affect assignment decision?

For Dr. Lamberson:

Describe the thinking involved in planning class sections for the upcoming school year.

*Checklist:*

- When and how do you decide to open an additional section of a grade?
- How do you decide where to put that section?
- When you plan the number of sections for an up-coming year, do you include seats for enrollments that come in between March and September?
- How are children who enter the district during the school year placed?
- What if they are siblings (e.g., adoption) of children already at a district school?

The administrators are asked to prepare answers to the main questions; the checklist items are for Karen and Mary to insure that those specific items covered during the administrators' general responses.

Mary 3/1/10 1:05 PM  
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- d. The meeting is open to the Public.

5. Review Questions from 10 December 2009 Minutes

The assembled group went through the questions generated at our 10 December 2009 meeting. (<http://www.district96.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/December-10-Minutes.pdf>)

After reviewing the list, it was agreed that all but the following questions had been addressed:

- “What is the Teacher Associate model?”

A Teacher Associate model is a class size management tool. Under this model, when a class reaches a certain predetermined size a teacher associate is assigned to the class.
- “The LRSC recommended elimination of boundaries between Ames, Central, Blythe-what changed?”

According to Nancy Jensen, the community wanted boundary lines, hence they were redrawn. Once they were redrawn, they stuck.
- “How dedicated space for ‘specials’ at Blythe now with more children in building, but not then?”

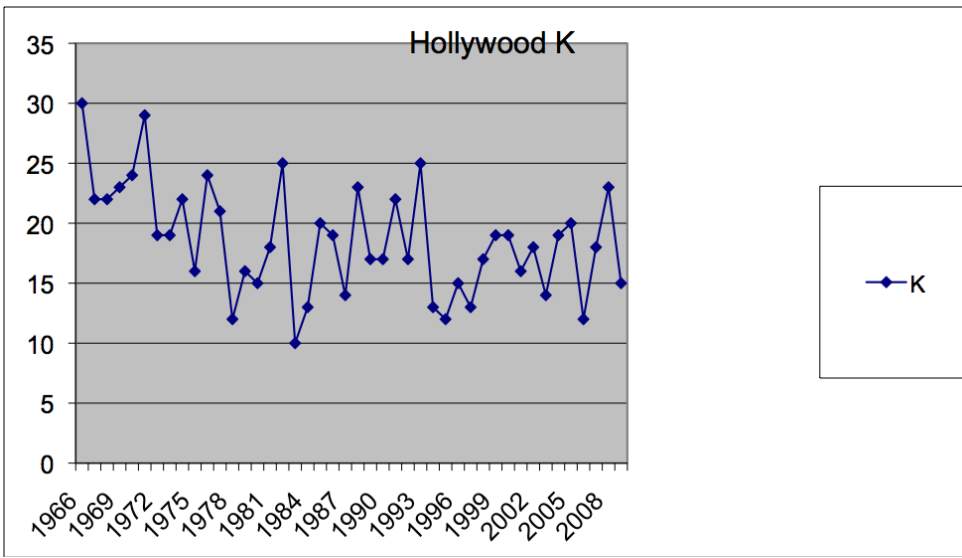
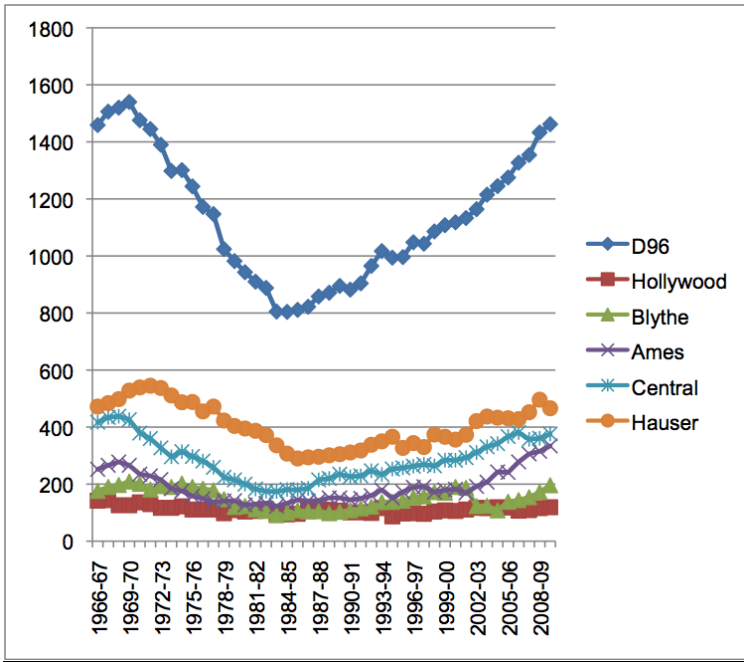
Then, art on a cart and music in the lunchroom; now, art is in the multipurpose room and music is still in the lunchroom.

Conversation generated by the review of the 10 December questions centered on several items on which general agreement was reached:

- “Equitable” does not mean identical.
- Crossing First Avenue involves more safety concerns (the Forest Preserve, etc.) than crossing 26<sup>th</sup> Street.
- The enrollment patterns at Hollywood are different, but a policy could be written to address those patterns as well as meet district expectations.
- The Flexible Boundary policy should not be the sole instrument for controlling class size within the district.

With respect to Hollywood’s status under the policy, some opined that as a matter of principle all District policies should apply to all schools. Others commented that exempting one elementary school from the policy generates ill will throughout the community.

The committee looked at long term enrollment data trends (see below). It was noted that the enrollment history at all 4 elementary schools (prior to the implementation of the 2002 FB Policy) was different. Hollywood’s enrollment history is flat. It was also noted that Hollywood’s Kindergarten enrollment has been above 20 about 50% of the years prior to 2002.



With respect to instruments for affecting class size, such tools as multi-age classrooms and teacher associates were discussed.

6. Next Meeting and Tasks

The Committee will hold a Special Meeting on 18 February 2010 with the District Administrators to hear their perspectives on the Flexible Boundary Policy.

Future tasks:

- Analyze information from the 18 February meeting.
- Review all tentative Recommendations and ideas from Brainstorming session in light of this information.
- Finalize decision regarding Hollywood's status with respect to FB policy.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

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Mary T. Stimming, Recorder  
Chair

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Jennifer M. Leimberer, Committee