

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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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  
Greg Nessinger, Central representative  
Kathy Barcal, Hauser 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 4 March 2010 Minutes

p. 5, Section 6, D. Delete “permanent” in the description of “Cons.” Sentence now to read:

*“Cons: Creates a zone of uncertainty around each school . . . .”*

4. Reports of 2010 Kindergarten Information Night

Ms. Fragoso de Dvorak attended the Kindergarten Information Night at Hollywood to initiate enrollment of her daughter. She described the evening’s presentation: a video about the Kindergarten curriculum (accessible on-line soon), discussion of the policy guaranteeing enrollment at one’s neighborhood school for in-coming Kindergarteners with on-time completed/verified registrations who have siblings already in attendance there and a lottery to determine school assignment for all others if class size per policy (or Board decision) is exceeded. The dates for key moments in the Kindergarten registration process were given. The Lottery will be held on March 17; only those who will not be enrolled at their neighborhood school will be notified.

The Committee asked Ms. Fragoso de Dvorak what questions or concerns parents expressed. She reported that parent asked about the District requirement of a hard copy of utility bill(s) to establish residency. With so many households using on-line banking and bill pay, this is becoming a more difficult document to access quickly—and in Kindergarten registration/school assignment, time is of the essence.

There was considerable anxiety about the Lottery—a lot of worst case scenario thinking. Committee observed that under the current Lottery system, proximity only determines which school’s lottery you are in; nothing more.

A few suggestions arose from this conversation:

- Notify all parents of which school their child will be attending.
- Provide written receipt of completed registration packet.
- Resolve issues created by on-line bill pay.

#### 5. Committee Task

The Committee paused to reflect on its goals and plans. There was agreement that the community strongly values small class size. However, given the current demographics, the evolving real estate market, the district building capacities and contemporary elementary education program expectations, 20-23 students per class may prove an unrealistic expectation. Part of the Committee's task may be to serve as the bearer of unpopular truths. This will need to be done through multiple forums with ample information.

#### 6. Recommendations

- Separate Class Size from School Assignment Policy.
- Assign siblings to same school unless parent(s)/guardian(s) requests otherwise.
- Weight proximity in making student assignments; per original intent in 2002, eliminate boundaries between Ames, Blythe and Central and use map plotting to assign students.
- Narrow possible school assignments to 2.
- One administrator, or 4 elementary principals together, makes student/school assignments.
- Allow parents to indicate 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices in Kindergarten registration materials.
- Increase capacity at Blythe Park to a 2-section K-5 school.
- Build percentage of anticipated enrollment into March projections for September Kindergarten numbers.
- Utilize a variety of tools to implement class size policy.

#### 7. Hauser

Ms. Leimberer presented an overview of class sizes at Hauser. She observed that the numbers overall are within the current desired class size range with some exceptions: Gym, some Math, some Language Arts and some French classes run large (27-28) whereas some Encore classes run quite small (8).

#### 8. Next Meeting and Tasks

The next meeting of the Flexible Boundary Committee will be on 25 March 2010 at Hauser.

Future tasks:

- Review a draft of Class Size and School Assignment Policies.
- Review a draft of School Assignment Procedure Model.
- Review a draft of School Assignment Guidelines.

#### 9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Approved by Committee on March 25, 2010

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Mary T. Stimming, Recorder  
Chair

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Jennifer M. Leimberer, Committee