

September 6, 2017

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your participation, insights, and feedback at the Boundary Committee meetings. As discussed, it is important for all of us to communicate about the Boundary Committee's work in our school communities. Indeed, several committee members mentioned that they have already been asked for information about the process.

I encourage you to direct anyone to the agendas, meeting minutes, and powerpoints that are posted on the District's website at: www.ccsd89.org/BoundaryCommittee
The documents posted there can be informative to the public and helpful for you in answering questions.

Attached are the meeting minutes from last night. I am also including some further summary points to support your communications. I apologize for the length, I do hope it is helpful.

Background

Over the last five years, the District has seen a steady increase in enrollment. In the 2012-13 school year, there were 1,968 students enrolled in CCSD 89 schools. Five years later, the student population had increased by 11 percent. This has led to a significant growth in the number of students who are "administratively transferred" – meaning they are bused or driven to schools outside the boundaries where they live, to buildings that have open space.

In 2016, the District began studying how to manage the enrollment increases that are causing an imbalance in school populations. An Enrollment Committee with parent and staff membership looked at several potential solutions for balancing school populations, ranging from adding schools to shifting grades to changing boundaries. Changing boundaries was viewed by the Enrollment Committee as the most feasible, cost-effective way to provide the best educational experience to students.

In February 2017, the members of the Board of Education agreed with an administrative recommendation to continue evaluating boundary scenarios, with a goal of making changes for the 2018-19 school year.

Boundary Committee work

Since May of 2017, the Boundary Committee has been reviewing the enrollment and capacities of all four CCSD 89 elementary schools. The committee members are parents, staff, district administrators, as well as representatives from the district's architecture firm (Legat Architects) and financial advising firm (PMA Financial Network) who provide enrollment and boundary support through 5Maps software.

Through this process, the Committee has reviewed relevant boundary data, including:

- Financial information and projections
- Enrollment data and future projections

Board of Education

Tim Jedlicka
Jay Lerch
Haydee Núñez
Scott Pope
Beth Powers
Giselle Sandi-Tapia, PhD
La Sridhar

Superintendent

Emily K. Tammaru, Ed.D.
**Assistant Superintendent
for Learning**
Robert Langman, Ed.D.
**Assistant Superintendent
for Finance & Operations**
Maureen A. Jones, CSBO

Arbor View School

David Bruno, Ed.D., Principal
Briar Glen School
Mitch Dubinsky, Principal
Park View School
Barb Peterson, Principal

Westfield School

Stacey Hewick, Principal
Glen Crest Middle School
Kim Price, Principal
John Batiste, Assistant Principal

- Class-size guidelines
- Neighborhood data and trends
- Walkers/busing data

The Committee heard that the priorities for the district when considering boundary changes are:

- Best results for all students
- Aligned to district’s strategic plan (www.ccsd89.org/strategicplan)
- Minimize disruption as much as possible
- Reduce administrative transfers
- Fiscally responsible
- Maximize use of buildings long term

After looking at that data, there was consensus among Committee members that:

- Park View elementary is over capacity, with long-term projections making the overcrowding worse.
- Any boundary decisions must be fiscally responsible in the long-term. This means it is not reasonable to put an addition on to any school. Also, the district must carefully consider the cost of adding staff beyond what will already be needed to manage enrollment increases. Each additional full-time staff member costs about \$60,000 each year.
- “Walking communities” – neighborhoods that are close enough for students to walk to their building – should not be moved away from their school, if possible.
- The district is working within certain classroom size guidelines so that each student is educated in a space that meets their needs.
- The 2016 projections from demographers has shown the expected growth.

In July, Boundary Committee members participated in an activity to evaluate and understand utilization of school buildings and capacity of school buildings. As part of that activity, the four groups worked independently and came up with some similar observations, including:

- Each group agreed there is enough room in the existing four elementary schools for the District’s elementary school population – with room for growth. Imbalance is the challenge, not overall capacity.
- Each group agreed the preschool could move to another school with more space and classes with bathrooms.
- Each group agreed it would be in the best interest of students and families to have elementary schools with 2 or 3 classes at each grade level, rather than one very large school with four classes at a grade level and one school with only one class at a grade level.

In September, the Committee saw a demonstration of the “5Maps” software that district administrators have been using since 2016 to develop potential maps and evaluate the impact on student populations.

The Committee saw that this software allows the district to:

Board of Education	Superintendent	Arbor View School	Westfield School
Tim Jedlicka	Emily K. Tammaru, Ed.D.	David Bruno, Ed.D., Principal	Stacey Hewick, Principal
Jay Lerch	Assistant Superintendent for Learning	Briar Glen School	Glen Crest Middle School
Haydee Núñez	Robert Langman, Ed.D.	Mitch Dubinsky, Principal	Kim Price, Principal
Scott Pope	Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations	Park View School	John Batiste, Assistant Principal
Beth Powers	Maureen A. Jones, CSBO	Barb Peterson, Principal	
Giselle Sandi-Tapia, PhD			
La Sridhar			

- Consider the impact to every neighborhood (approximately 34) in the district.
- Evaluate the impact of boundaries to walking and busing areas.
- View how boundary changes could impact each school, and each grade in that school.
- View the student population based on home address, rather than the school they attend, to account for students who are bused outside their school's boundaries.

Timeline ahead

September 18: The Boundary Committee will review possible scenarios at our next meeting. A communication from the District will go out to all CCSD 89 families shortly after that meeting.

September and October: Committee members and I will present at PTC meetings for all four elementary schools. We will review the Committee's process, the boundary recommendations, and take questions at these meetings.

October 16: The Boundary Committee will share its work at the Board of Education meeting held at 7 p.m.

October: After the Board of Education meeting, there will be an open community meeting to present the recommendations, gather feedback, and answer questions.

November 20: The Board of Education will continue gathering feedback and discuss the boundary recommendations at the Board of Education meeting held at 7 p.m.

December 18: The Board of Education is scheduled to take a vote at the regular Board of Education meeting, held at 7 p.m.

I hope this provides you with some support for any questions you may encounter. Thank you for your commitment to helping the District move forward with this important work.

As always, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Emily Tammaru, Ed.D
Superintendent

Board of Education

Tim Jedlicka
Jay Lerch
Haydee Núñez
Scott Pope
Beth Powers
Giselle Sandi-Tapia, PhD
La Sridhar

Superintendent

Emily K. Tammaru, Ed.D.
**Assistant Superintendent
for Learning**
Robert Langman, Ed.D.
**Assistant Superintendent
for Finance & Operations**
Maureen A. Jones, CSBO

Arbor View School

David Bruno, Ed.D., Principal
Briar Glen School
Mitch Dubinsky, Principal
Park View School
Barb Peterson, Principal

Westfield School

Stacey Hewick, Principal
Glen Crest Middle School
Kim Price, Principal
John Batiste, Assistant Principal