

Committee Meeting 3: Boundary Adjustment Study

Cropper GIS Consulting, LLC

November 7, 2017

6:00-8:00

Great Falls Public Schools: Our Kids, Our Community, Our Future

Tonight's Goals and Agenda

- 6:00 - 6:30 Review of new information and handouts
- 6:30 - 7:15 Break into 3 small working groups and review/markup options maps
- 7:15 - 7:55 Discuss thoughts regarding DRAFT options
- 7:55 - 8:00 Discuss next steps and adjourn

Boundary Adjustment Process Timeline

	Dec. '16	Jan. '17	Feb. '17	Mar. '17	Apr. '17	May '17	June '17	July '17	Aug '17	Sept '17	Oct '17	Nov '17	Dec '17	Jan '18	Feb '18
<i>Data Collection</i>															
<i>Data Analysis / Assimilation</i>															
<i>Internal Logistics Planning with GFPS</i>															
<i>Committee Application Development</i>															
<i>Committee Application Review / Member Selection</i>															
<i>Background Report Development</i>															
<i>Baseline Options Development</i>															
<i>Public Information Session #1 : Present Project Process, Criteria, Timeline, and Boundary Adjustment Objectives to Community. Information meeting to public, without public comments.</i>										Sept. 11					
<i>Committee Meeting 1 - Orientation, Review Background Data</i>										Sept. 12					
<i>Committee Meeting 2 - Introduce Baseline Options, Obtain feedback</i>											Oct. 10				
<i>Committee Meeting 3 - Options Development</i>												Nov. 7			
<i>Committee Meeting 4 - Options Development</i>													Nov. 28		
<i>Public Information Session #2 : Present DRAFT Boundary Adjustment Options to Community for Comment/Feedback</i>													Dec. 12		
<i>Committee Meeting 5 - Review public input, Continue Options Development</i>														Jan. 9	
<i>Committee Meeting 6 - Finalize Recommendations</i>														Jan. 30	
<i>Presentation of Final Recommendations to the Board of Education</i>															Feb. 12

We are here



Why we're here

Great Falls Public Schools is in the process of improving school facilities in the district.

Planned changes to facilities includes:

- a) Construction of new Roosevelt Elementary School on the site of old Lowell Elementary School (opening in Fall 2018)
- b) Construction of new Longfellow Elementary School built on a current site (opening after Fall 2018. Exact date still TBD)

The new schools are planned to house more students than what their current capacity holds, which requires a comprehensive look at boundaries.

In addition to planned construction of schools, there are imbalances in school utilization and other inefficiencies in boundaries across the school district that need to be evaluated.

Boundary Adjustment Study: Objectives

1. To explore and develop boundary adjustment options through a community-based process.
2. Focus on developing options that best meet the GFPS boundary adjustment criteria.
3. Implementation of the new boundaries are expected to occur in Fall 2018, which coincides with the opening of the newly constructed Roosevelt Elementary School.
 - a) Although the focus of the committee is to develop a plan for 2018-19, aspects of the plan may not be implemented until after 2018-19.
 - i. Depending on the outcome of the plans for Longfellow Elementary School.

Guiding Principles / Criteria

The Great Falls Public School trustees have unanimously approved a set of criteria/guidelines to follow when evaluating school attendance boundary line adjustments. These are rules to follow when considering any boundary adjustment.

The boundary adjustment committee will be oriented on these criteria and will follow them as best as possible as they consider boundary change options.

Guiding Principles / Criteria

1. Maximize safety of students by defining boundaries along major geographical features such as roads, rivers, and railroads. Try to minimize students' crossing over major roads if possible.
2. Balance building utilization by reducing overcrowding in schools based on functional capacity.
3. Maximize transportation efficiency and walkability whenever possible.
4. Contiguous boundaries: Analyze 'satellite' boundaries for practicality.



Guiding Principles / Criteria

5. Balance demographic diversity. Maximize the socio-economic diversity of schools with any redistricting change whenever possible.
6. Consider middle and high school placements.
7. Attempt to keep identifiable community entities intact (apartment and condominium complexes, trailer parks, subdivisions, MAFB. etc.)
8. Minimize the number of student moves, while considering redistricting goals.
9. Be proactive for future potential growth if all possible.

Updates since last meeting:

1. All materials now incorporate the 2017-18 student enrollment data.
2. The methodology for estimating enrollment now incorporates the same level of permissive transfers as 2017-18.
 - a) GFPS and the community value the permissive transfer option that the district offers to the public.
 - b) Permissive transfers provide more flexibility for parent choice of attendance, and also for the district to efficiently manage enrollment from building to building.
 - c) To account for permissive transfers, all planning block counts now only reflect students who live in the planning block AND attend their zoned school.
 - d) The formula for the enrollment estimates are:
 - i. Live and Attend + out of zone enrolled (i.e. permissive transfers) + unmatched students (addresses not found).

Updates since last meeting:

1. Planning block cuts have been made per committee suggestions
 - a) Planning block cuts made along Central Ave.
 - b) Other cuts have been made per committee map markups, which align with certain busy/1-way roads.
2. Options 3 and 4 have been developed, which include committee map markups.
 - a) Option 3 started with Option 1, then committee edits were added
 - b) Option 4 started with Option 2, then committee edits were added
3. Emails from the public have been received and shared with the committee. Most comments received so far are either from the Bel View area (opposition to moving from Meadowlark to West) and the Black Eagle area (opposition to moving to a school south of the river)
4. With the new enrollment estimate methodology, the committee will have to look at schools that are still over capacity and determine appropriate adjustments to make.
5. Some adjustments could potentially be 'undone' to reduce the number of students/communities impacted.

Communication Logistics



- Committee member names will be made public. No personal information of members will be released.
- Any emails you want to send to the whole committee can be sent to Cropper at mcropper@croppergis.com and they will make sure the rest of the group receives it.
- All emails will be copied to GFPS.
- Please do not meet in between committee meetings to comply with Montana open meeting laws.

All communications are public record.

Communication Logistics

- Direct questions you are unable to answer to either GFPS or Cropper.
- GFPS boundary adjustment process website!:
 - Helps to refer inquiring community to this website to answer questions about the boundary adjustment process, schedule and a quantity of data and maps.
 - <http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us> and look for “Boundary Adjustment Information” link located under the community tab.
 - There is a comment section included on this page, where public members can submit feedback at any time.
- Remember to refer to your Background Report.

Online Map

- An online map has been developed to further inform the committee and public on the work of the committee.
- Current zones and options (when developed) can be viewed on the map.
- Other features can be turned on/off on the map, including planning blocks.
- Map is customizable, and can/will be updated during the process to show new options along with other information requested by the committee.
- Site can be viewed on any device, including mobile devices and tablets (with internet connection).
- Current school walk zones are also included on map.
- Site address is:

www.croppermap.com/greatfalls

Review of DRAFT Options

Remember that everything is considered DRAFT!

- Nothing is written in stone.
- Existing DRAFT options are subject to change.
- New options can/will be created.

Focus isn't on picking the best solution YET, but to openly explore the various options to present to the public for feedback.

Review of DRAFT Options

2 additional DRAFT options are presented to you this evening

- Committee has 8.5x11 maps, as well as plots of maps for review
- Option maps are included in the interactive online map (www.croppermap.com/greatfalls)
- Copies of handouts, including small and large format maps, will be posted on the GFPS Boundary Adjustment web page

Review of DRAFT Options

Study the Geography - i.e. shape of the current and option boundary

- Look at where the lines shift away from the current vs. the option.
- Look at road networks and envision how school buses and parents would travel to school; locate natural features such as parks and waterway.

Study the Tables

- Review the balance of enrollment; identify any imbalances that may exist.
- Question why there may be imbalances, and examine possible ways to provide better balance.

Review of Objectives and Criteria

- How do DRAFT options support the boundary study objectives and criteria?
- Examine ways to improve alignment with boundary study objectives and criteria.

Options Review Exercise

- Committee will break into 3 small groups to review the DRAFT options.
- Each group has copies of the DRAFT options in large plot format.
- Groups will have 45 minutes to review the options, mark up the maps, and document small group discussion / comments.
- Please write on the plot maps, as the notes will be studied to help draw new / additional options.



Options Review Exercise

- Groups will examine options and planning blocks, discuss boundary study objectives and criteria, and suggest adjustments if appropriate.
- A black/white 'sketch map' has also been provided, in case a group wants to draw their own option.
- After small group work is complete, groups will report thoughts/observations to whole group.





Next Meeting is Tuesday, November 28th

6pm @ the District Office (same location)



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