

Boundary Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

June 3, 2019

Discovery Middle School Media Center



Committee Attendees: Kate Borninski, Nicholas Brandon, Jim Burt, Rania Hammoud, Denise Lilly, Monica Merritt, Alexander Noroyan, Kevin Rhein, Kurt Tyszkiewicz, Paul Wills

Others Present:

Committee absent: Michael Bender

Meeting called to order at 5:05 pm in the Discovery Middle School Media Center. Kurt welcomed the group, outlined objectives for this meeting, and distributed several spreadsheets, maps, and data to assist the committee in their discussion which included:

- Enrollment Analysis – Current Headcount
- Redistricting School Considerations
- Enrollment History and Classroom Projections by School
- Residential Development Analysis for Canton Township showing new subdivisions
- Demographics, Trends, and Anticipated Development Analysis
- Poverty Level Percentages

Paul Wills from Plante Moran Cresa recently reached out to the top six developers in Canton Township to gather new residential home and condominium development data in our district. This information will help predict our future enrollment numbers. Paul felt the data provided by developers was more accurate than viewing Canton Township building permit data since township permits include a wider range of development that may not include families with school-age children. Detailed maps showing the location of new developments were reviewed by the committee. The discussion centered on where students from those developments would attend school and whether or not they should be transported to an alternate building if the school in their subdivision is at or near maximum capacity.

The majority of new residential developments are located in the Southwest corner of our district. Although district-wide enrollment is projected to level off, some of our schools in the Southwest section are approaching maximum capacity and these new developments will increase enrollment numbers whereas solutions for overpopulation will be necessary. It was noted that it is difficult to predict the grade levels of students coming from these developments and how many may enroll at charter or private schools.

The importance of providing a diverse socio-economical population with equal opportunities and programming at all schools was discussed. The committee reviewed poverty level data to help make informed decisions when considering boundary changes. Our current School-wide Title 1 Buildings were identified as Farrand, Field, and Hulsing and the Target Assist Title One Buildings are Eriksson, Hoben, and Miller.

The committee spent time reviewing enrollment numbers at each school and identified Pioneer Middle School and Workman Elementary as buildings with an immediate need based on current and predicted future enrollment.

Based on data collected and the lack of green space for future subdivision development in our district, the ten-year population prediction does not show a substantial increase in overall growth. It does, however, indicate a shift in enrollment with more growth in the Southwest section of our district than in other areas.

Multiple ideas were discussed when brainstorming solutions to alleviate overpopulation in the Southwest corner of the district.

- Boundary Shifts – Provides immediate relief to overpopulated schools. It was noted there was been less community resistance when shifting students toward the north and east during past boundary changes.
- The committee noted all programs should be considered when looking for overcrowding solutions. No programs should be exempt from consideration.
- The idea of moving the Tag Program was discussed. Currently housed at East Middle School which has a total enrollment of 782 students. 389 of those students (49.74%) are in the Tag Program.
- Facilities Work (additions, expansions, new wings) will be beneficial to address long term growth concerns but will not help for our immediate needs.
- New Subdivision Students – The committee favored the idea of informing students from new subdivisions whose current boundaries place them in overcrowded schools that they will be placed at another less populated school as an overflow. Families would be informed of this at enrollment, shuttle transportation provided, and the option to return to their neighborhood school if/when space becomes available. The committee felt this option will cause less disruption and mirrors how many other districts handle their overpopulation issues.
- The creation of combination (split) classes with two grade levels in one classroom was discussed. Multiple examples were given as to why this is not a preferred solution based on our district experience with combination classes in the past.
- Reconfiguring school grades was briefly discussed as a way to alleviate overpopulation issues (having buildings with a 3rd-8th grade for example). It was decided this option would cause more disruption than boundary shifting and not necessary since we do not anticipate significant growth in the next ten years.

After discussing all options, the committee focused on the immediate need to resolve the overpopulation at Pioneer Middle School. Principal Kevin Rhein believes shifting boundaries can provide the immediate relief needed and suggested a shift toward the North with Warren Road as the new boundary. Kevin also supported the idea of re-assigning new subdivision students on an overflow/shuttle basis until long term solutions were created. Finalizing the cutoff date for enrollment for those students and the creation of language to present this recommendation to the Board will be decided at the next meeting with the hope of it being presented at the next full Board Meeting on June 11.

Nick Brandon stressed the importance of good, transparent communication when informing the community of enrollment overflow and boundary changes. Building solid relationships, listening to the concerns of our families, and providing compassion and understanding are all very important elements to a smooth transition. Nick also emphasized the value of continuing to inform the community that all schools offer equal programming and dispelling incorrect perceptions.

The following items will be brought back to the next meeting for discussion and decision:

- Making an immediate decision for Pioneer Middle School's enrollment concerns
- Continued discussion on the Workman Elementary enrollment concerns
- Clarifying the enrollment long term needs
- Nick Brandon will bring back materials and work on a presentation showing the consistency of programming between the five middle schools and make this information available to the community.
- Kurt will provide a current Canton Township Development map.
- Kurt will provide Poly Plot data from some of our overpopulated areas at the next meeting.
- Revisit new subdivisions and the plan for their enrollment.

Kurt shared with the committee that community member Corrin Stamatakos was stepping down from the committee due to conflicts with her schedule.

Upcoming Meetings:

Monday, June 10, 2019
Discovery Middle School Media Center
4-6pm

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm

