

## **Boundary Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

June 10, 2019

Discovery Middle School Media Center



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

Others Present:

Committee absent: Michael Bender

Meeting called to order at 4:07 pm in the Discovery Middle School Media Center. Kurt welcomed the group and introduced Celena Khatib, a new committee member and parent in our school district.

The committee prioritized its focus on the need to implement an immediate plan to alleviate Pioneer Middle School's overcrowding since it has reached maximum capacity in terms of student enrollment. Nick Brandon distributed and reviewed a draft communication that will go out to the community and be added to the P-CCS website. This communication outlines the proposal to overflow new Pioneer students to Liberty and Discovery Middle Schools as a one-year plan. The ongoing work of the District-Wide Boundary Study will implement a more permanent change for the 2020-21 school year. Nick also showed the committee a pamphlet highlighting Liberty and Discovery which will include an invitation for new families to tour these schools during the summer months. Nick asked for suggestions from the committee and a few minor changes and additions were made to the materials going out to the community. Providing new families with materials that highlight the positive aspects of Liberty MS and Discovery MS will be helpful to our community.

Kurt Tyszkiewicz displayed an updated Canton Township development map and current middle school boundary map which the committee studied at length when determining the best options for the overflow students. Individual school poly-plot maps were provided and reviewed. It was decided all new middle school students enrolling in the Pioneer MS attendance area whose address is North of Cherry Hill will attend Discovery MS and those with an address south of Cherry Hill will attend Liberty MS. New students living on Cherry Hill Road and South of Lilley Road will attend Liberty MS. It was again emphasized that this is a one-year overflow solution pending the Boundary Study currently in process.

Much discussion went into the steps to announce the overflow plan. The pros and cons of an immediate announcement (before the current school year ends) vs. waiting until all the details are in place was discussed. It was decided Superintendent Merritt will communicate this plan to the full School Board and core team tomorrow while Kurt reaches out to the transportation department to be certain there is a solid plan in place for transporting students who will be impacted by this change. Upon board approval, the staff at Pioneer Middle School will be informed, followed by an announcement to the community with updates to the district website. After the community announcement is made, all new students enrolling at Pioneer MS will attend Liberty or Discovery as outlined in the overflow plan. The importance of also informing local realtors, developers, and Canton Township staff was mentioned. This group will be able to help inform new families moving into our community that Pioneer MS has reached maximum capacity for the upcoming school year.

The guidelines and importance of open, clear communication while rolling out this plan were discussed and the following points emphasized:

- Be proactive - Getting the information out to the community quickly and in as many formats as possible.
- Provide information and education to all staff so they can best help the community. The importance of our staff communicating these changes in a compassionate, understanding manner was again stressed.
- Encouraging new families to read the materials on the P-CCS Facility Boundary Study webpage and to attend tours at their new middle school.
- Encouraging new families to connect with existing families to get questions answered.
- It was suggested a FAQ document be created to address common questions regarding the overflow plan.

The committee discussed options to streamline the registration process to avoid any additional steps for new students overflowed to a new school. It will be helpful to obtain the summer work schedules of the building secretaries at the middle schools so a registration plan can be determined based on when the buildings will be open.

Kurt Tyszkiewicz will update the middle school interactive attendance map on the P-CCS website so it reflects the current overflow plan and does not display incorrect middle school assignment information for new students.

The committee talked about the completion of numerous sidewalks throughout the Cherry Hill Village Subdivision. This will decrease the number of buses needed in the fall as some students in this area will now be able to walk to their home school. This may be beneficial when determining transportation needs for students overflowing to Liberty and Discovery.

Future meeting discussion will address additional considerations such as:

- Selecting dates/times for tours at Liberty and Discovery. Two dates at both schools would be ideal and will need to be coordinated with construction and summer cleaning schedules to ensure the buildings are ready for community visits.
- Finalizing the details of registration and transportation during the Pioneer overflow plan.
- If enrollment space opens at Pioneer MS after students have been re-assigned to Liberty MS or Discovery MS, what will the process be to offer those spaces? Offered in order that they applied?
- If a family chooses to stay at their new school when space is again available at Pioneer MS, will that student be given the choice to stay at their overflow school, but provide their own transportation?

Upcoming Meetings:

After the upcoming facility subcommittee meeting, a date will be set to have the full Steering Committee reconvene to share the results of the facility and boundary subcommittees.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm