



School community/neighborhood meetings

Steve Clarke, assistant superintendent and Jay Jordan, executive director of teaching and learning, co-chairs of the [Attendance Areas PreK-12 Standing Committee](#), were invited to several PTA/school parent group meetings between Nov. 2018 and Jan. 2019. Other committee members, including principals and parent representatives,



The committee meets monthly (not in December) and minutes are posted on the web site. They discuss and refine the best way to gather feedback.

The committee will ultimately make a recommendation to the superintendent.

Initially the committee started with four scenarios and then that grew to eight. Recently new scenarios have been submitted. In between the committee meetings, a sub-committee meets to try to refine what the committee has discussed.

Themes/ questions and answers from all meetings (see school-specific comments below)

Q: When you make a recommendation who makes the final call and when is your goal for the recommendation?

A: The committee's recommendation will go to the superintendent. We are hoping that some of these boundary changes will go into effect by fall 2020, but some may be later to coincide with the opening of the new elementary schools.

Q: What are your priorities that guide your work?

A: Policy 3130 guides the work. <http://bellingshamschools.org/policies/3130-policy/>



Q: At what point does your household become eligible for bus service?

A: Generally, when you are a mile away from school. There are exceptions, for example, if a child's school is on the opposite side of Interstate-five and there is no safe walk route.

Themes specific to Silver Beach (Nov. 13, 2018)

Transportation issues and length and timing of bus travel. Shuksan is too far for Silver Beach families who live on Northshore.

Please fix split between Whatcom and Kulshan (right now small number of Silver Beach kids attend Kulshan. Most attend Whatcom).

Silver Beach's enrollment is too big; interest in changing boundaries to get some relief.

Acknowledgment that splitting can seem hard, but examples of kids doing really well in middle school despite splitting from elementary friends.

Themes specific to Columbia

Proximity to Whatcom Middle School for walking/biking reason.

Columbia neighborhood feels a close relationship to Whatcom and wants kids to stay there.

A desire to stay at the school with the safest and closest route.

If we move middle schools, do not split Columbia; keep us together.

Themes specific to Parkview

Strong interest to keep Parkview going to Whatcom. "I bought my house for the walkability/bikeability to school."

Differing opinions on whether Meridian or Northwest were safer/better for kids commuting. Which is safer: quiet road or busy street? Can we get crossing guards?

Appreciation for the hard work and focus around equity. Our schools should be more diverse. Proud to live in a community that prioritizes equity.

For those who live in downtown Bellingham, it is hard to find a safe walk through town to get to Whatcom Middle School. Happy to hear about bus routes. Southside/Lowell might be better.

Themes specific to Regency Park

Want to stay at Kulshan because closer, easier for kids and families to walk to.

Would the district offer an after-school activities bus at Fairhaven?

Is it fair for families who have fewer resources to go to a school much farther away?

Would Fairhaven be welcoming to

