Attendance Areas PreK-12 Standing Committee

June 17, 2019 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Welcome

Co-Chair Jay Jordan, Executive Director, Department of Teaching and Learning, welcomed the committee members and provided an overview of today's agenda.

Approve May 23, 2019 meeting minutes

Jay asked that committee members review the minutes from the May 23, 2019 meeting. A motion was made by committee member Emily O'Connor to approve the minutes as written, and committee member Steve Ruthford seconded that motion and there was a unanimous vote to approve.

Approve Elementary Adjustments for Recommendation

After the May 23 committee meeting, a sub-committee met in June to review the tweaks to elementary changes, including some proposed changes between Sunnyland and Roosevelt. The committee decided the section of tile 69 should stay at Roosevelt as it currently is.

The committee looked at tile 26 and discussed whether to leave it at Northern Heights and Whatcom. The committee also looked at options to reduce enrollment off Cordata, which has been challenging. The committee is interested in adjusting the proposed boundary on Yew Street Road that divides Wade King families between Kulshan and Fairhaven in an effort to make room at Kulshan for students coming from Silver Beach.

Review Timelines

The committee reviewed different timelines for implementing changes. The subcommittee has explored partial moves and phasing in new boundaries over multiple years. Some members expressed concern because a multi-year plan could be challenging to implement and could be confusing to families. There is also a wonder whether phasing-in and "grandfathering in" some students to certain schools could result in inequities for students and families.

After much discussion, the committee agreed to ask the district to implement the new elementary and middle school boundary changes 1) at the same time (to the extent it's possible), and 2) as soon as possible. The committee wondered if the district could implement the changes by fall of 2020 (as opposed to fall of 2021 or 2022). ** Important note from Bellingham Public Schools: Since the committee's meeting on June 17, the executive team and superintendent have asked the committee to provide further analysis on the implementation