

Attendance Areas PreK-12 Standing Committee

February 28, 2019

3:30 - 5 p.m.

When Jay and Steve met with Silver Beach parents on Feb. 25, more parents attended, and they had different concerns to share, based on the new scenarios posted on the committee webpage.

Steve shared concerns and questions they heard from families who live in the Tweed Twenty neighborhood and on Academy. Dozens of parents had circulated a petition against changing attendance areas.

Here are some of the comments and questions from Silver Beach residents, which committee members discussed:

I don't want to change schools.

Silver Beach is too big. We need to make a change with Silver Beach's school boundaries.

Concerns from Tweed Twenty residents centered around safe walking routes. They are concerned there are no sidewalks or street lights and that they have to cross McLeod Rd. if they were to go to Northern Heights.

We feel connected to Silver Beach.

If we have to go to Northern Heights, we would like to have a bus to address safety concerns around walking. We do have multiple bus stops in the area.

Some residents feel they are being targeted for economic reasons. Tweed Twenty is an affordable neighborhood (not affluent).

Some expressed concerns related to bussing time to get to/from Shuksan from Tweed Twenty or Academy.

In the scenario G, there was worry about a "double disruption" with families having to change both elementary and middle schools.

From Academy residents: We are an isolated neighborhood. If you're going to move us, please don't do a double disruption. We will not have connection to our neighbors.

About 70 students live in the Academy area. About 120 students live in the Tweed Twenty neighborhood.

Is it a consideration to convert an elementary school to a middle school? Vice versa?

Could district property on Cougar Road be a middle school as opposed to an elementary school?

What about other areas in the district? Some asked about the travel time from Sudden Valley to Fairhaven Middle School.

What are the longest bus rides in the district? How long is too long?

During the phase out/phase in process, will we provide transportation for those who want to be grandfathered?

Wonders about free and reduced population changes by moving students who live on Academy or Tweed Twenty to/from Silver Beach and Northern Heights.

Committee Feedback on Options

The majority of the meeting was spent reviewing each of the three scenarios (A, F2 & G) in more detail and identifying strengths and challenges for each map scenario.

Feedback and wonders:

SCENARIO A:

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*Parkview and Columbia students stay together at middle school (no split)
Helps with middle school equity
Cleaner elementary-to-middle school feeder patterns at the north end of town.
Accommodates growth in the north end more efficiently with more schools having capacity to take in extra growth (Shuksan, Whatcom).*

*Need to address walking routes for Columbia walking to Shuksan (note: Birchwood currently accessing similar routes by foot/bike)
Columbia has no capacity for increased enrollment
Parkview may not be able to house Columbia transfers (until new Parkview opens)
Roosevelt split (unless Wade King boundaries are changed, which might create room for all Roosevelt students at Kulshan)
Wonder: do tiles 86, 87, 88 become unintended split? (Shuksan is small in numbers with more going to Whatcom)*

SCENARIO F2:

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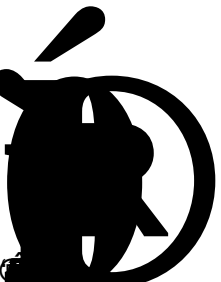
*Fewest families disrupted
Moving Academy to Whatcom would address the concerns at Silver Beach meeting, but it creates other problems - a very uneven split from Northern Heights into Whatcom and Shuksan.*

*Whatcom won't absorb future growth
Whatcom numbers are too low / Fairhaven numbers are too high
Elementary attendance areas have little change - for example, does not address growth in Cordata neighborhood, and doesn't increase numbers at Parkview
To reduce numbers at Fairhaven, we need to move the line for Wade King families between Kulshan and Fairhaven (south at Yew Street).
Concerns with moving Regency park residents from a closer school (Kulshan) to a school farther away (Fairhaven)*

SCENARIO G:

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*Academy / Hillsdale to Silver Beach and then Kulshan
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Steve and Jay will take feedback from today and begin to identify the implications for our current high school attendance areas against these scenarios.

Next Meeting: March 28, 2019

2018-19 Meeting Dates: 3/28, 4/25, 5/23