

Findley PTO Meeting		
MINUTES	Meeting Date: 2/20/2020	Time: 7:00 pm

Meeting Location:	Findley Elementary
Meeting called by:	Amy Heang-President, Findley PTO
Type of meeting:	General PTO Meeting
Facilitator:	Amy Heang
Note taker:	Kristy Ballou
Attendees:	See Sign-In Sheet

Introductory Statement Summary (Steven Sparks):

In the high school process, the superintendent did not follow the Advisory Committee recommendations. Tweaks were made to the committee's recommended boundary map. Therefore, the middle school boundary recommendation from the advisory committee is not necessarily final. The superintendent is plugged into the process, knows the issues and what is happening.

Steven is hopeful that there is a final decision from the Advisory Committee on March 12th. That may be optimistic. They may need an additional meeting. The committee is struggling and has more questions. For the final meeting, there will be an hour of public testimony, then the committee can make changes based on testimony or other data.

The boundary committee is now down to one map, which will be made public this Friday and will be used for discussion at the Feb 25th meeting. The map shows all of Findley going to Timberland. That does not mean that this is what will happen. It could still change. The committee will likely struggle with walkability issue. Without Summa at Stoller, there is capacity at Stoller and does have room for some of Findley. The map shows all of Springville at Stoller; this also is not a final decision. The committee has difficult choices that they will have to make. They can't continue the spiral that they have been on.

Regarding conduct at the community meetings: When you fill out the yellow cards at the meeting, do not hassle the assistant collecting forms at the meeting. The signs and banners need to stop. Lastly, there has been direct e-mail to the advisory committee. That is not acceptable. Parents cannot e-mail the committee members directly. Steve noted that these comments are not a result of conduct of Findley parents; he presented this same message to Springville parents last night, and wants to make sure that he is providing consistent direction to all.

Amy Heang (PTO President) mentioned that many parents that submitted questions for tonight's meeting have expressed thanks to Steven for taking the time to come to Findley.

The following questions were read by Findley PTO Board Members and answered by Steven Sparks, BSD long range planner. These meeting minutes are intended to reflect a general summary of answers provided by Steven.

Criteria/Priorities

Q: Which is a higher priority in the boundary process, transportation savings by maximizing walkable zones, or keeping all kids from an elementary school together at a single middle school? Could you also talk about the priority of each of the following criteria: capacity, elementary schools feeding into one middle school, middle schools feeding into one high school, neighborhood boundaries, diversity (economic, ethnic), and bus costs?

A: Excellent question being weighed constantly. The four JC Policy factors are: proximity, capacity, student composition, and feeder patterns; there is no stated priority for any of these factors. Here is an example: Elmonica boundary was adjusted last year; Elmonica was 300 students over capacity. An area identified as walkable to Elmonica was selected to be bussed to another school in order to satisfy equity needs. We use the factors in the policy to guide us to meet the goals and objectives. The goal is establishing middle school boundaries that create approx. 90% capacity.

Q: For each published map, can BSD also publish the committee's assessments on whether or not the map meets the previously mentioned objectives?

A: Moving forward we can do that. Polling will be happening more frequently moving forward with the committee. We also need to see what the concerns of the minority committee members are.

Q: Almost 35% of Findley students are in Summa. During the BSD middle school boundary adjustment process, what is the priority of the Summa program vs. the regular student? Is SUMMA a "regional program" or an "option program" and how does this affect the decision making process?

A: The numbers that we are trying to address are for general education students. If Summa can fit within the boundaries along with the general education, then SUMMA could be placed in those schools. It is ultimately up to the educators to decide where Summa is located. Tuesday's map could accommodate SUMMA at Stoller, but that doesn't address the Findley SUMMA kids that are shown on the map, which are included in the Timberland boundary. SUMMA could end up at both Stoller and Timberland.

Summa:

Q:

1) On the boundary adjustment web-page, it says that there is no plan to move the SUMMA locations, however meetings and maps suggest moving SUMMA to Timberland. Could this happen?

2) If SUMMA is at both Stoller and Timberland, will the number of SUMMA students at each location be large enough to support the program? Asked a different way, what number of students are needed for an effective SUMMA program?

3) What happens if the number of SUMMA students at a particular middle school location drop below the minimum number for an effective program?

4) If SUMMA is moved to Timberland, will direct bus transportation be provided to all SUMMA students?

A: BSD did a facebook live Q&A back in September or October. At that time, there was no intention of impacting Summa and that was stated on the website. Now that we are doing the number crunching, SUMMA has been placed on the list for discussion. SUMMA is necessitated based on where the students are located. For an effective summa program, we need 60 summa students per grade. Based on the numbers that Steve has seen today, there are enough enrollees to have a Summa at both Stoller and Timberland. We just received the number of summa eligible students yesterday. For next year's 6th graders, the SUMMA eligible numbers are higher than they have been in the last few years. However, we won't know SUMMA numbers for sure until those who qualified decide whether or not they will enroll in SUMMA.

The Teaching and Learning Department will make a decision on what would happen to the SUMMA program at a particular location if numbers drop off.

The answer is Yes to bus transportation.

Splitting Findley:

Q: The Beaverton School District has been spending money on and emphasizing the importance of Social and Emotional Learning as part of the teaching process. Given the importance of Social and Emotional Learning to BSD, why do we continually see boundary maps proposed that split Findley (and other elementary schools), and what is the reason that drives BSD and the Advisory Committee to split Findley in so many of the proposed maps?

A: Social and Emotional learning and what we are doing in the boundary process are competing priorities. How we get the Stoller numbers down is re-arranging schools. There are competing priorities within the charge of creating reasonable sized middle schools that address issues on the macro level. We need to look at the larger view. I don't have a

satisfactory answer to this question. It is all born out of Testimony that has been heard. Walkable verses non-walkable portion of Findley.

Q: Stoller is the neighborhood school for entire Findley and many Findley parents do not want a split. Having said that, Stoller is walking proximity for some parents and they strongly want to walk, but for some walking parents, no split is more important. Given your experience and knowledge, for Findley, what do you think is the best way to address both the walkability and no split agendas?

A: The issues are mutually exclusive. This is a tough question and it will come down to what is important to the individual committee members. Steve does not have a vote on the committee and he is trying hard not to place his thumb on the map. Steve does not know how to address this in terms on no split and walkability. How best to address the issue is to voice your opinion, the committee is listening.

Long Term Planning:

Q:

1) What is BSD doing now to avoid same issues after 3-5 years in terms of long term vision and planning of over capacity of their schools due to new home constructions in North Bethany?

2) What is the BSD process when new communities are created and what is the builders responsibility to fund new schools?

A: Builders will do nothing to build schools. Oregon has a construction excise tax, \$1.22 per SF built for residential homes. There is no such thing as a moratorium on building in Oregon. The developers have more powerful lobbyists than the school district. They will get their building permits, leaving the schools to figure out how to accommodate the new homes. The district hired Steve to be their long range planner and to figure what is happening. He is watching the numbers and trying to get the superintendent to make the tough decisions. We just did the projections for Findley next year. Findley enrollment is stable. Steve is confident in the district projections until 2029. They have incorporated all new development and projected new development in North Bethany. There is one area of Springville that is still developable, but it is outside of the UGB. Springville is seems stable; Sato is the area with high growth. We may be over 100% in 2025, but Stoller will not be back up to 1600 students.

Q: Will BSD be planning for an additional future middle school north of Hwy 26?

A: No. We have 9 middle schools. We have lots of room for students. However, we don't have schools where the students are. It would be financially irresponsible of the district to build a school north of 26 and close a school south of 26. Also, there is no land available north of 26 for a middle school. BSD has to compete with the development industry to buy land; land inside the UGB is not affordable. Even outside the UGB, land is very expensive. If BSD were to build another middle school it would need to be at the current Rock Creek campus, which has enough space for a middle school. But then the issue is, what do you do with Rock Creek? You would need to build another elementary school, possible on some land owned by BSD behind Westview HS. Now, voters would need to pass a bond to building 2 new schools, a middle school and an elementary school.

Timeline:

Q:

1) The website calendar says that the committee will have a preliminary recommendation by the Feb 25th meeting and a final recommendation by March 12th. In watching the committee meetings, it seems that the committee is not close to a preliminary recommendation. Is the committee expected to come to a preliminary recommendation by next week, or will the timeline be extended if options are not narrowed down?

2) Can you summarize the timeline for decisions?

A: Question 1 was addressed previously. Question number 2: Meetings are scheduled for 2/25 and 3/12. If the committee doesn't come to agreement, we will have another committee meeting. Steven would prefer to have that meeting before Spring Break, but it may not be until after. The Committee will send their decision to superintendent. Superintendent will recommend a boundary to the school board. There will be an opportunity for a public meeting with

public testimony over what the committee has recommended, addressed to the superintendent. School board will vote to approve boundary in their June meeting.

Quality of Timberland:

Q: How will BSD ensure that Timberland establishes a top-notch program for its students through hiring teachers and creating facilities that are on par with Stoller (or maybe even better)?

A: Teachers will be transferred from other schools in the district. When we opened Sato and Mountainside, planning principals went around and started recruiting teachers. We have already announced the recruitment for the new middle school principal. The new principal will likely be hired July 1 and will start building their team and expectations. The principal will also likely hold meetings with community that will attend the school.

Q: Will the majority of the teachers in Timberland come from Stoller?

A: Steve does not know the answer to that. It is possible because the largest number of students will move from Stoller.

Legacy Students:

Q: Asking kids to change middle schools after having already started in one school, can be emotionally very stressful. Why can't 7th graders be grandfathered along with 8th graders when the re-zoning takes place in 2021?

A: They can. Typically, the oldest grade will be offered legacy option. Families inform the school they intend to stay at current school. Typically, younger grades are not given legacy status, but that doesn't mean they won't. The advisory committee will consider the issue and make a recommendation.

Stoller Capacity:

Q: Test Map with entire Findley feeding to Stoller along with SUMMA (map C 2.1) has Stoller at 99% in 2021 and 106% in 2025. Is 99% in 2021 acceptable, as this is the only map so far with no split elementary school to Stoller and had stable growth? It is mentioned in the objectives, the goal is for Stoller to be at approximately 90% in 2021.

A: Approximately 90%. Committee can decide that 99% is okay. Problem with map c2.1 is that Timberland does not have enough students.

Walking Option if Findley is not at Stoller:

Q: In the case that all of Findley will go to Timberland, can there be an option for walkable areas closest to Stoller (Oakridge Estates) to choose Stoller as an option school? This option could include a cap on enrollment from adjacent neighborhoods to avoid overcrowding issues.

A: Kind-of is the answer. We cannot cap new development and where they go. In terms of across the street from Stoller, we cannot call it an option, because it is not. Kids in that neighborhood could apply for an in-district transfer. The map on Tuesday will likely be amended to include Oakridge in Stoller.

Elementary Boundary Adjustment:

Q: Will elementary school boundaries also be adjusted in the near future? If so, would splitting Findley into two middle schools (Timberland and Stoller) make it more likely that Findley boundaries could be adjusted? For example, the students going to Stoller would go to Jacob Wismer.

A: Steve has about 22 boundary adjustment in mind for the future. Sato is high on the list because the school is currently at 680 and growing. One thing that may help is that without Springville 6-8, more students could go to Springville; Jacob Wismer could be affected by that. This is a decision of the Superintendent and the School Board. Steven is not sure how ready they will be to do more boundary revisions after this process.

Walkability Map:

Q: How is Findley's "walk-to-Stoller" zone defined? In the proposed maps (Map A,C), it seems that for the Findley neighborhood south to NW Evergreen St is in the "walk-to-Stoller" zone, where neighborhood north to the same street

(e.g. Cascadian community, west to Findley), is closer to Stoller, but is not in the walk-to-Stoller zone. Both communities south and north of NW Evergreen St can use this same street to get to the Westside Trail to walk to Stoller. Why is the further (from Stoller) south part in the walk zone, but the closer north part is not?

A: Walk zones for middle school are defined as 1.5 miles door to door on a safe pedestrian route. As the crow flies it may be closer, but along the walkable route it may not.

Final Boundary Approval:

Q: If I understand correctly, the Middle School Boundary Committee will make a recommendation to the Superintendent and School Board who will then make the final decision on the boundaries. What is the process that the Superintendent and Board go through to review the recommendation and make a final decision and will the criteria they use to review be the same as that of the Middle School Boundary Committee? How often does the Superintendent and Board override or modify the recommendation of an advisory committee?

A: Yes, that understanding is correct. The superintendent will issue the boundary decision. It will go to the board and they will decide whether it meets the objectives. The board is an important stake holder in what the Superintendent decides. The criteria used by the Superintendent will be the same criteria used by the Advisory Committee. Steve has not heard of an Advisory Committee recommendation that has been outright rejected. The high school boundary did have minor adjustments. The Elmonica and Sato boundaries did were approved straight from the committee's recommendation.

If you have additional questions, please send to Steven, he will try to respond the best that he can.

Other PTO Information:

- Need Girls on the Run coaches. Starts in March. We have a team formed, but we need coaches.
- We still need a directory coordinator. The current coordinator has done a fabulous job, and is looking for someone to shadow them.
- OBOB is looking for volunteers to run battles. We are down to the final 16 teams.
- Running Club Volunteers – We have a core group of volunteers, but we could always use more volunteers,
- Passport Club – Wednesdays once per month. Looking for additional volunteers. Great way to interact with kids.
- Book Fair next week Feb 28th through Mar 4th, need volunteers. After school – please accompany your student to
- Bingo night on Feb 28th
- Thank you for sending food for Staff Potluck.
- PTO Budget meeting on Monday 2/24, 7pm, room 201. We will be providing information about the upcoming field project.
- Yearbook orders deadline had been extended to March 6th.

Principal Updates:

Dr. Marsh wanted to share how the large investments PTO has put back into the school have impacted learning:

- Apple TV's are in each classroom. Very valuable instructional tool that is changing the way the teachers are teaching. Teachers are getting every ounce they can out of the TV's. An added bonus is being able to work with the students.
- Tech and maker space: Students have spent a lot of time with coding games and made stop motion videos
- Equipment was purchased so students can create the morning announcements. We've been able to train 5th grade students to basically produce their own announcements.
- Brain Pop – online warehouse of videos to help reinforce topics and supplement instruction. Many teachers are using this.

Oregon Statewide Assessment System – We have been doing our ELL proficiency assessments this week and are almost finished. We will be starting English Language Arts, Math and Science after Spring Break. Third and fourth graders will be tested in Language Arts and Math. Fifth graders will be tested in all three subjects. Students will complete a practice assessment first, then testing will begin mid-April and continue into May. Overall, students spend about 1 hour a day, for 4 days on testing.

District switched the conference schedule from the end of April to beginning of April. Teachers will be sending out schedules for conference times. No School April 2nd and 3rd.

Last year, the student success act was passed. We have created a plan as a district that shows all of the different pieces that that specific investment could fund in our district. There will be a link to the draft in this week's newsletter. There is a form to provide feedback for the draft. Feedback is due Monday.

End of Meeting.

FINDLEY PTO MEETING - FEBRUARY 20, 2020

SIGN-IN SHEET

Sameer Ruivale

Pavan Chopra

Jyothi Murala

Alivia Sil

Erica Frankel

Vicki Bock

Zhaorong Hou

Kristen Ballou

Terra Groom

Paul Pak

MANISH AGARWAL

PARBATI KUMAR MANNA

George Yang

SATRAJIT GUPTA

ADITI SEN GUPTA

Rence Shirley

Emily Gotfried

Miranda Johnson

Shilpa Rathi

RASHMI MUDIYANUR

SANDRA FERNANDES

Julia Nix

Lauren Yee

Yan Mei

Rachel Arnold

Scott Richardson

Merissa Richards

Jessica Gower

Lauren WYLIE

RITUCHIT CHAKRABORTY

Ani Hybert-Monjian

Zahra Ebadi

Dipesh Shah