

SOUTH LYON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

345 S. Warren
South Lyon, MI 48178

COMMUNITY FORUM

September 26, 2016

5:30 pm

Minutes

Welcome

Superintendent Baker welcomed all those in attendance and introduced members of the Redistricting Committee. She shared that there have been changes to the tentative proposed redistricting plan for 17-18 for both elementary schools and middle schools due to changes in data from spring to fall.

Public Comments

There were none

Redistricting Administrative Committee (RAC) Presentation

Assistant Superintendent Jim Graham shared the PowerPoint presentation with the committee. The presentation has been posted to the front page of the district website.

Public Comments

The community shared comments and asked questions as summarized below. Melissa Baker and other members of the RAC answered the questions.

Q: Enclaves came up as a change for the Middle School plan. What about elementary?

A: *At this time we have Enclaves remaining at Salem based on numbers.*

Q: How does Magnet fit in with these plans?

A: *Both the number of students and the rooms allocated have been "carved out" of calculations. Currently, the program will remain at Brummer. This could change in the future if necessary. There will be students at Brummer who are out of district 105/105C School of Choice (SOC) who will leave the building as they progress into middle school. As we are not currently accepting new 105/105C SOC students, these bodies will not be "replaced."*

Q: With middle school redistricting being phased in beginning only with 6th grade, if current 7th or 8th grade students at CMS had their boundary changed to MMS but wished to remain at CMS, is there a possibility of transportation being provided?

A: *This is something that the RAC is looking at and will most likely recommend. It would require a change to the current Policy and approval by the Board. However, the committee has reached a consensus that this could be appropriate for 17-18 and 18-19 during the phase in period.*

Q: While we do appreciate that you are trying to keep Copperwood and Lyon Ridge together in this plan, we are concerned about moving again. We live in Copperwood and were at Hardy, then were redistricted to Salem. We are happy there and concerned about students moving again. Have you considered Enclaves?

and

Q: This plan asks students [Copperwood and Lyon Ridge] to move again. Was that looked at?

A: *We didn't specifically look at the number of moves. These planned moves are based on location and numbers. Copperwood and Lyon Ridge are on boundary borders, are growing, and have sufficient numbers to be moved as we are balancing schools. Currently, based on numbers, we have left Enclaves at Salem.*

Q: Is intra-district School of Choice (SOC) factored into these calculations?

A: *The numbers in the model are based on all students attending in their home boundaries. Often we can accommodate SOC desires. It doesn't always work. 5th graders would be grandfathered under current district policy; however, transportation would not be provided by the district.*

Q: What about 5th grade Magnet students? Would they be grandfathered?

A: *If the program moves, they could move with the program, use the School of Choice option to stay in the current building, or return to their boundary school. The Magnet program would only be provided in one school location, however.*

Comment: We just want a logical plan. Overall this does seem logical. We had a son who went to Salem and was one of only a few students who went to CMS. We're glad this new plan keeps neighborhoods from Salem together at MMS.

Comment: Thank you for "fixing" some of the progression of students from Elementary to Middle School to High School with peers.

Comment: It makes sense to return Lyon Ridge and Copperwood to Hardy due to proximity. While many families may want their current students to stay at Salem, there are also still a lot of families with young children who haven't started school yet and should go to Hardy. However, I know it's hard for families to move kids. I know there are families who want to stay at Salem and others who want to return to Hardy.

Q: Why are you looking at moving Lyon Ridge and Copperwood now?

A: *The plan is based on numbers as well as trying to address concerns with socio-economic inequities in the first plan. To address that, students were moved from Hardy to Pearson. This opened up more space at Hardy. In addition, the district determined that the portable classrooms should remain at Dolsen; this, in turn, dictates the need for movement of more students. Finally, we purposely waited for fall enrollment numbers for greater accuracy; based on shifts in population at buildings, we need to make adjustments.*

While some residents of Lyon Ridge and Copperwood may believe that they were told that they would “never” have to move again, others thought that they were “promised” a return to Hardy. We understand that there are two sides to this issue. We have built into the schedule two additional forums to provide opportunities for more community input.

Q: The last round of redistricting was frustrating [for Lyon Ridge and Copperwood] . . . Here we go again?

A: *We have tried three different models for redistricting. First a Citizen’s Committee was used then an outside consultant, and now this model. Instead of making a recommendation to the Board in the spring, we purposely waited for fall numbers to have the best data possible. Lyon Ridge and Copperwood would eventually get redistricted either now or in the next round based on numbers, growth, and location.*

Q: We love Salem, due to Mr. Metcalf and the teachers. What will happen with Pearson staffing?

A: *Principals have right of assignment. However, we also have a process to allow teachers to request transfers and be part of an internal interview process. We do want to have a balance at Pearson of new and veteran staff. We hope to begin postings for Pearson by mid-year. There will likely also be “trickle down” shifts between buildings as teachers may move positions.*

Q: Will intra-district SOC be open after Pearson is staffed?

A: *We hope to have many internal positions posted before SOC decisions are made.*

Q: How do you plan for zoning, etc? What can the School Board do?

A: *We try to factor in all available information into the model. We use data from developers, the city, and township. Decisions about development in the city or township are up to officials in the municipalities, not the School Board.*

Q: When students are moved to a new school due to redistricting, is there some way to group kids together?

A: *Yes. We are already working with our principals to review what processes worked well during the last redistricting. For example, we will try to group classrooms and neighborhoods together for redistricted students. Principals share information about students with the new principal. We will try to make it a very positive experience. There will be special Open House sessions scheduled as part of this.*

Comment: We appreciate the community forum sessions which were offered this summer and the fact that you are offering more sessions for input again now.

Closing Comment: Mrs. Baker reviewed the timeline again and indicated that the district would send out a Skylert message to all families with information about the dates for the next forum meetings. At these meetings, people may present to the committee. RAC would not be making another presentation. Mrs. Baker also shared that the PowerPoint presentation would be posted to the website the next morning.

The meeting ended at 6:25 pm.