

South Lyon Community Schools  
Elementary Closing & Redistricting Committee  
February 23, 2010 - Minutes  
6:30 p.m. Centennial Middle School

Committee Members Present:

Bartlett Elementary Parents – Amy Chait, Amy Schams  
Brummer Elementary Parents – Annemarie Holthus, Robin Riha  
Dolsen Elementary Parent – Marilyn Jarrett, Donna Condra  
Hardy Elementary Parents – Kim Plohetski, Karen Reeds  
Kent Lake Elementary Parent – Linda Hannah  
Salem Elementary Parents – David Ascher, Tamara Fulkerson  
Sayre Elementary Parents – Lesley Butler, Mona Pearson  
Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services – Melissa Baker  
Director of Operations – Mike Casey  
Bartlett Elementary Principal – Stacy Cooper  
Sayre Elementary Principal – Jennifer Murphy

Committee Members Absent:

Kent Lake Elementary Parent – Russ Averill

Note Taker:

Karen Wiater – Data Processor/Operations Department

Review Board of Education Charge and Guiding Principles

Melissa Baker reviewed the ***Charge and Guiding Principles*** for the Committee.

Public Comments

Melissa Baker reviewed the following:

*This is an opportunity for public comments. Please remember that this committee is only addressing the charge as established by the Board of Education.*

*Public comments should be limited to three minutes in length, and we ask that individuals honor that, so that our committee can do the work that we need to do.*

*We will listen to all public comments; however, committee members are not expected to enter into a dialogue. Once public comments are over, the communication is between committee members only and we will not be responding to the audience or interacting with the audience.*

Lisa Blades – Suggested that the School Board consider downtown New Hudson and view the Vision Plan which is on the Lyon Township Website. She explained the plan includes many single family “affordable” homes to be built in the Dolsen school boundary, contrary to Salem which holds a very low

density growth plan. Ms. Blades also talked about the difference in operational costs between Dolsen Elementary school and Salem Elementary school.

### Requested Data

The following data was provided to the Committee:

#### School of Choice (SOC) Numbers

The committee was provided a handout with the requested SOC information. The following questions were asked:

1. Are the Magnet students included in the numbers?

No, they are not.

2. Why is Hardy not listed for Out of District School of Choice?

Hardy does not take Out of District School of Choice students.

3. Does the SOC form say why the student is leaving his/her own school?

There is a place on the form for this, but it is not required that they fill it in.

#### Free and Reduced lunch data

The committee was provided a handout with the requested free and reduced lunch percentages by grades and by the individual schools. The following questions were asked:

1. What percentage qualifies a school to be a Title I school?

The low income percentages are based on the enrollment numbers and the free/reduced lunch count on a specific date. If a school has a higher poverty percentage than the district average or the grade span grouping average then they may qualify as a Title I school.

2. Could the schools that qualify change yearly?

Yes, qualified schools can shift. They are not always the same.

3. Where do the funds go?

The funds go to Title I buildings towards staffing for Reading Recovery, social workers, professional development, etc.

4. If the school no longer qualifies for Title I status, do those teachers get reduced or travel to another school?

Title I dollars and staffing would support schools that are Title I schools.

5. How much does the district receive annually?

That is determined by a formula with the federal government.

6. When we look at redistricting, can we also see what Title I qualifications will look like next year?

It would be best to look at models with regard to socio-economic equity, as free and reduced status needs to be applied for every year.

#### Number of Classrooms Utilized

The committee was provided a handout showing the classrooms utilized in each elementary school, grades 1-5. There were no questions.

#### Operating Costs for Dolsen and Salem

The committee was provided a handout showing the operating costs (4-year average), and potential cost savings for closing both Salem and Dolsen. The following questions were asked:

1. Can we get this information on an Excel spreadsheet?

Yes, we can provide this.

2. Why does it show only some savings on water and sewer at Salem if the building is closed.

There is an assessment for sewer which would still have to be paid even if the building is closed.

3. What about air conditioning savings?

Hardy is the only elementary school that is air conditioned.

Comments:

The operating cost information is not part of our guiding principles in this process.

#### VersaTrans Overview

Mike Casey gave a brief overview of the VersaTrans program showing the committee some of its functions, such as displaying the entire District, each of the individual school boundaries, bus stops and non-transport (walking) areas of Salem and Dolsen. He also gave a demonstration displaying a specific area (e.g. subdivision) and the number of students in that particular area. He showed the total number of students in that area, then the number without the SOC students. The following questions were asked:

1. When using the model, will we be including SOC students?

Yes, the model includes the SOC students. Keep in mind, when the boundary changes SOC students may no longer choose to be SOC, or on the other hand a student who was not a SOC student may now choose to be.

2. In the example of Hardy with 44 SOC students, how can we take 100 students that had previously been in that boundary away and place them in other schools, yet allow these 44 SOC students to remain?

School of Choice has been an option that has worked for our families. The School of Choice program will remain.

#### Temporary Closure of Dolsen – Model #1

In a first attempt to construct a model showing possibilities for the temporary closure of Dolsen, Mike Casey presented a slide show to the committee. Included were proposed boundary changes. The following questions were asked:

1. Can you provide us a “print screen” of the map showing the different boundaries and subdivisions so we can visually see the proposed boundary changes?

We will investigate and come up with something.

2. Why were these and not other subdivisions chosen to move to another boundary.

Others may not have been the right configuration of numbers needed to accurately populate the schools. Transportation cost effectiveness was used also.

3. Do we know how this model affected socio-economic equity?

Socio-economic diversity was considered in the proposed changes to ensure an equitable blend.

4. The target number of classrooms is higher than 80% at Sayre, why?

One hundred classrooms is the total we are working with. One classroom was added to Sayre because it is not in an area of expected high growth. Other schools were allotted fewer classrooms as they are in the areas of expected growth.

5. Can we put Greenock back in the Brummer boundary as it was in the past?

That was looked at, but it didn't work as well when considering the number of students (17) in Greenock.

6. Can we send all of Livingston County to Brummer?

If we were to do that it would create a shift or a rotation among all of the boundaries. We were attempting to minimize the number of students affected by the changes.

7. Pinehurst is a potentially big sub and you only show 8 students at this time. What happens when it grows – they'll all be going to Sayre which doesn't have the room for this?

This is a temporary closure and there is little building going on right now. We're hoping by the time the building resumes, we will be able to re-open the closed school.

8. How long will it take to get the "Dolsen Central" area to Kent Lake?

Not long. There is a limit of an hour ride. We looked at that and estimate it will take approximately 45 minutes for the longest rides.

Melissa Baker asked the committee if they would like to see the boundary change showing Livingston County next week or the model for closing Salem.

Decision: The committee would first like to see the model for closing Salem next week. Tweaking the models can be done after viewing both models. Fist to 5 – consensus reached.

#### Continued Committee Discussion

1. Even though building in the community has slowed, families are still growing. Will we have room for that growth?

We have left room for growth.

2. Can we take into consideration neighborhoods like Trotters Pointe that have already experienced re-districting and not do this again?

If areas are on the boundaries, they will potentially be affected. It doesn't make sense to make islands. We can't hop over neighborhoods, as that would not be cost effective.

3. Wasn't it moved for a reason last time?

We need to use numbers that work, and/or areas on the border. We also have to take into consideration the transportation piece.

#### Next Steps

The proposed model for closing Salem will be provided  
Color print outs of maps will be provided  
Subdivisions and student counts will be provided  
Socio-economic placement will be provided

#### Future Meeting Dates

Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. – Centennial Middle School Team Room/Cafeteria  
Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. – Millennium Middle School Team Room/Cafeteria  
Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. – Centennial Middle School Team Room/Cafeteria  
Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. – Centennial Middle School Team Room/Cafeteria

Tuesday, March 30, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. – Centennial Middle School Team Room/Cafeteria

All meetings are open to the public and there will be a time for public comments at the beginning of each meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.