

South Lyon Community Schools  
Elementary Closing & Redistricting Committee  
March 16, 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, Russ Averill  
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:

None

Note Taker:

Karen Wiater – Data Processor/Operations Department

Reminders for the Committee

Melissa Baker welcomed the Committee back and reminded them that the meeting next Tuesday, March 23rd would be held at Centennial Middle school in the cafeteria at 6:30 p.m. Melissa also reminded the Committee that the goal is to have the recommendation to the Board by April 1st. There will be a Special Board Meeting held on April 12th at 7:00 p.m. at Millennium Middle School to discuss the committee's recommendation, then a regularly scheduled Board meeting on April 19th at 7:15 p.m. also at Millennium Middle School, where the recommendation will be an action item for the Board. The committee members are asked to attend both meetings.

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.*

A handout “Elkow Farms, Hornbrook Estates, and Apple Lane Presentation and Proposal” was provided to the committee by residents of those areas prior to the public comments.

Ron Snyder – A Hornbrook Estates resident who is unhappy as all scenarios for either school closure have his area relocating from Hardy to Dolsen. Having his children go to Hardy elementary, which he feels has better test scores than Dolsen in both the District and the State, was a major factor in moving into Hornbrook Estates. He stated that Dolsen’s decreasing performance is a concern for him and he encourages the committee to consider this. He feels that his situation is unique as it redistricts his area from a school of greater performance to a lesser performing school. He also stated that he feels the 80% guideline for capacity should not be considered as Hardy elementary is currently over that capacity and there is still room for future expansion. He feels that the committee should consider the current status quo at Hardy and sees no adverse impact in doing so. He feels leaving his area at Hardy will not affect the redistricting plans but would affect the families adversely.

Amy Ponsock – An Evergreen Pond (Nichwagh Lakes Estates area) resident who has attended a few prior meetings and attended the Board meeting last night. She stated that she would like to propose a suggestion as she has a concern regarding the present room for growth guidelines and moving the least number of kids. She asked if it was necessary to leave room at the schools when growth is stagnate and there will be little growth in the next 4-6 years. She stated that the District will see more growth in the Dolsen area than the Salem area. She feels that if Dolsen is closed, the District will have to go through another redistricting soon. She asked if the committee would consider opening at a temporary growth rate allowing schools to open at a higher capacity during this time of stagnating growth and need for a school closure. She said during a question and answer session, the Board stated that they do not believe in multiple moves, that it effects achievement and has a negative impact. She asked for some sort of compromise and doesn’t feel that all of the schools should allow for the same growth and feels that closing Salem would allow for a longer period between re-districting needs.

Shelley Blackie – A Hornbrook Estates resident who is concerned that her area will be redistricted to Dolsen and suggested that the committee decide which school has to close. She also stated that she feels the 80% guideline for capacity would not have to be addressed until the 2013-2014 school year and the situation will be improved each year by the fifth graders moving on to middle school. She suggested allowing only the children who are currently enrolled in the 2009-2010 school year the option to be grandfathered in to the school they are currently attending and they would be responsible for their own transportation. She stated that transportation costs would be lower as more parents would be driving their children to school. She also stated that some families would not opt for grandfathering as driving their children to school may be a burden, or if they were parents of kindergarteners and first graders they may not feel it worth it for 4-5 years, or they may have multiple children at home and not want their children in different schools. She feels that allowing grandfathering would give parents a choice and make the committee members heroes to the community. She said that a deadline could be put into place requiring families choosing this option to have their request in by a certain date so all planning

could be finalized. She said that grandfathering has worked in other districts and could in ours and we would all have the desired outcome the Board is trying to achieve.

Deborah Sellis – A Hornbrook Estates resident who feels that based on the MEAP scores, Dolsen is not a school that Hornbrook Estates, Elkow Farms, or Apple Lane residents want their kids to attend. She feels that their students attending Hardy should not be disrupted for this temporary closure. She feels that other redistricting options allow other areas to go to comparable schools. She stated that people are being given the impression that Hardy is busting at the seams yet there is little growth anywhere. She asked why all of this redistricting had to happen now. She asked why their children at Hardy had to be displaced now. She asked why a temporary island couldn't be put into place. She asked that if this redistricting does happen to her area, to give their students first choice of a school of choice option.

Shelley Oliveira – A Hornbrook Estates resident who loves South Lyon and her family based their decision of moving on Hardy, a higher performing school. She feels that under the current plans, most students who are being redistricted are all being sent to equal or better performing schools except them. She stated that she feels the 80% guideline for capacity should be reconsidered, that it should no longer be based on what worked in the past since the District had never been faced with a situation like this and it was irresponsible and somewhat arrogant of them to be doing this. She feels the committee is just using their kids to make their number under the guiding principal of moving the least amount of kids as possible. She stated that there will be little growth over the next 5 years and there is no need to allow for growth when they are over the 80% capacity now and performing over expectations.

Courtney Menock-Benedix – An Elkow Farms resident stated that it is imperative the right decision is made. She said that sending Elkow Farms to Dolsen is completely unacceptable. She said her family purchased their home based on their children going to Hardy elementary and now the possibility of being redistricted to Dolsen is horrifying. She said that MEAP scores being so much lower at Dolsen than at Hardy proves that something is not working at Dolsen. She stated that administration was making their children a pawn by sending their kids from a higher socio-economical school to a lower socio-economical school. She said she assures the District if they choose to send the Elkow Farms students to Dolsen, she would look at other options. She said it was unacceptable to send her children to a school that was barely average. She asked how many students South Lyon could afford to lose by making this decision.

Valerie Whalen – A Hornbrook Estates resident who said when her family moved to South Lyon they researched the schools and noticed how low the MEAP scores were at Dolsen. She said they spoke with a teacher at Dolsen who told them she would not even send her own kids there (to Dolsen). Based on this research they formed their decision to move to an area that would attend Hardy Elementary. She stated that the 80% capacity guideline may have worked in the past, but the past is not an indicator of the future and she sees no need in disrupting these students until it is necessary. She said that there are 14 students in the Dolsen area that choose to do school of choice to Hardy and those kids should be sent back to Dolsen before making her subdivision move to Dolsen.

Mark Cassel – A Hornbrook Estates resident who wants his children to stay at Hardy. He stated that as of 3/12/10 the MEAP scores were released and the schools all had high scores with the exception of Dolsen and Salem.

Nancy Katsuda – An Apple Lane resident stating her subdivision was small consisting of only 18 children. She said she didn't think it was fair that there are 14 students doing school of choice from Dolsen to Hardy and yet her students may have to move from Hardy. She feels the 80% capacity guideline should be reconsidered.

Tina Kotch – An Apple Lane resident and supporter of Elkow Farms and Hornbrook Estates stated that her first grader loves Hardy Elementary. She stated that she is concerned at the education level at Dolsen and that it has its struggles. She asked why the District would move their high performing students to a low performing school, disrupting their children's lives. She stated that the District should support putting education first and keep their children at Hardy.

Heidi Lukomski – A Nichwaugh Lake Estates resident who said she has a question that she posed at the Board meeting last night and previously at a committee meeting and feels the question has not been answered. She asked what guiding principles the School Board is basing their decision on and if they are using the same guiding principles that the committee is basing their recommendation on. She said she feels the guiding principles should be the same and wants to see the answer in black and white. She said she wants to know what guidelines the Board is supporting. She stated that the SEMCOG shows very limited population growth for Salem Township in the next five years but shows much more growth for Lyon Township, specifically in the Dolsen area. She said she felt that if Dolsen closed, Hardy and Kent Lake could not accommodate the additional students and the District would have to re-open Dolsen causing another redistricting and messing up more kids' lives. She said she does not want to be back in three years redistricting again, she wants it a done deal for many years. She also asked if we really needed the 80% capacity and feels that number should be revisited.

Melissa Baker stated that she could not speak for the Board. She said at the special Board meeting on April 12th the committee would present their recommendations based on the charge they were given. She said there would be discussion based on the recommendation. She said this session and the session on April 19th were both open to the public, and therefore the audience would hear what the Board based their decision on.

Clarence Kotch – An Apple Lane resident who stated his main concern is the safety at Dolsen. He said the school is located by main roads including Grand River and I96 with construction trucks all over. He said that Hardy is in a nice, safe contained area. He said he watches the news related to Detroit schools and sees at Hardy there is nothing to fix. He stated that Dolsen ranks much lower than Hardy and why take kids from a great school like Hardy and send them to Dolsen.

Elizabeth Lock – An Elkow Farms resident who is concerned that the property values will go down in her subdivision if they are redistricted to Dolsen Elementary. She stated that she works in the mortgage end of real estate and knows that by redistricting her subdivision to Dolsen, the property values in her sub will go down. She said redistricting her subdivision to Dolsen will create a horrible domino effect. If students are redistricted to Dolsen, people will walk away from their homes if they have to in order to get their kids in different schools. She said she doesn't want her home to sit and not be able to sell it because of this redistricting to Dolsen. She said the construction by Dolsen will cause dust and noise that will distract the students from their learning. She also stated that safety was an issue as there are sexual predators by Dolsen and the District would be putting their children at risk. She said grandfathering wouldn't work as the kids in the neighborhood wouldn't all go to the same school so the parents couldn't all get together and discuss things going on with their kids and the schools. She ended by asking the committee to please keep their property values up.

John Vangelov – A Hunters Creek resident whose children are very happy at Hardy and excited to go to school every day and learn. He feels they are challenged at Hardy. He said in the past ten years, they have been redistricted three times and it is not fair to their children to be redistricted again and to leave their subdivision alone. He said he does not want to endure this for a fourth time.

Dawn Somers – A resident of the Merrie Meadow area who feels that if the 30 students are taken out of Kent Lake and redistricted they will be scattered; no longer having any ties. She said the guiding principles include transportation costs and she feels that busing those 30 students, creating a layover, doesn't meet those guiding principles. She said that the 80% capacity guideline is something that seems unreasonable as it was created in a time the District was growing which is no longer the case. She said she spoke with a neighbor who told her that the 2010-11 Kindergarten numbers were one half what the current rate is. She said there would be ninety 5th grade students leaving also, so taking all of this into consideration; their 30 students could be left at Kent Lake.

Brad Ward – An Elkow Farms resident who has a student who would have been going to Hardy in the future so grandfathering would not help his situation. He feels that Dolsen is more of an attractive school to close as it will cost less to maintain in its closed state and redistricting the students in his subdivision to Dolsen will drive their home values down. He said he is concerned with the circle project that trucks will be sent around the school causing much congestion. He said the proposal sent by the residents of Elkow Farms, Hornbrook Estates, and Apple Lane, outlines sensible "island hopping". He said he feels the 80% capacity guideline would be 90% in their proposal and feels 80% is totally arbitrary and punishes their students, and there is no logical reason for doing so. He feels that their children should be allowed to go to equally performing schools and Dolsen should be brought up to those standards before sending higher performing students there. He feels that school of choice applications to Hardy should be eliminated and 30% of those school of choice students come from Dolsen. He said Hardy is a superior school and the 44 school of choice students should be moved out, so the students in his subdivision can stay. He said that his family has other options if they are redistricted to Dolsen as his wife is a teacher in Brighton and they would not mind sending their children to that District. He said his folks live in Novi which is where he grew up and he would not mind sending his children there.

Tammy Harris – A Dolsen area resident who is very disheartened at the many attacks on Dolsen. She said most of the remarks being made are not even accurate, specifically the comments about the MEAP scores. She said the scores of Dolsen and Hardy were comparable and all of the South Lyon School District operates under the same curriculum and the students get the same education. She said that Dolsen is a highly diverse school in its socio-economic equity and they have the EI program, which is not being taken into consideration. She said Dolsen also has a higher influx at the beginning of each year which has an effect on test scores. She said everyone wants their kids to have a good education which Dolsen provides. She said she is very disheartened that they believe their children are better than hers. She said her children are good kids and have scored in the advanced levels every year at Dolsen. She said Dolsen has safe playground equipment, that the age of the equipment is insignificant. She said Dolsen has educated teachers, safe surroundings, and a nurturing environment. She said when she moved into the District they were to attend Kent Lake but were redistricted to Dolsen which wasn't as pretty or as new as Kent Lake but they gave it a chance. She said it is what you make of it and feels it is very sad what is happening here and people's comments are not based on real facts. She said the Board cannot let this be a factor and if Dolsen closes, it must be based on the guiding principles that affect all of us, not just the students of Hardy. She said there are always options, such as school of choice or private school.

Kimberly Wesner – An Elkow Farms resident whose son enjoys Hardy and everything about it. She said he wants to be a gym teacher some day at Hardy. She said if they are redistricted, she will make it a positive move but she thinks the 80% capacity guideline is unnecessary to the schools with no potential of growth and it is more important to keep the students with their friends. She said no school is at 100% and 80% is irrelevant in this day and age. She said Hardy is flourishing and all is going well there. She asked the committee to look at all options and do what is best for the children.

Ben Rapp – An Elkow Farms resident who was up at 3:00 a.m. to be in a meeting in Atlanta and get back for this meeting because it was so important to him. He said the most important thing to him is the guiding principle of equality as dollars just come and go. He said he and his wife researched the schools. His wife took his two year old son on a tour at Dolsen so they could compare that school against other schools and they found quite a difference. He said there was trash along the fence, a rusted car that could be seen from the playground and the inside was sad as his two year old looked in the hallway and said “mess.” He said this was a stark difference from what they found in other schools and felt Dolsen didn’t provide a good learning environment. He said it was historically clear that there was a difference in test scores and the negative physical aspect of the school was undeniable and would have an effect on the psyche of a child. He said there were six phenomenal schools and one that’s not up to par in scoring and physical appearance, so why not leverage the six outstanding schools and give all of the students of Dolsen an opportunity to go to these other schools. He said equality is priceless. He said they will not go to Dolsen and had a petition signed by other residents which he gave to Melissa Baker.

Nick Bitell – A builder in Elkow Farms who stated that this was the busiest subdivision in Lyon Township. He said his customers always ask two questions, “What is the school district; it’s not Dolsen is it?” He said he finds it hard to believe that the school District would do this to such a bright spot in the community that brings in revenue for South Lyon. He said they will lose sales, the homeowners will choose to go to Novi or other schools if they are redistricted to Dolsen.

Bonnie Graves – An Elkow Farms resident who stated that she assumed the committee members all toured the property around Dolsen versus Hardy. She passed out pictures she had taken of the neighborhoods surrounding both schools. She said as a homeowner she was concerned for the kids attending Dolsen. She said she once lived there and one house close to the school had 5-10 evictions with garbage and clothes all over outside. She said she made the decision to move to Elkow Farms in South Lyon versus moving to Walled Lake because of Hardy Elementary but now they would be routed to Dolsen. She said she and her husband were lucky to be financially capable and would send their child to a private school if they are redistricted to Dolsen. She told the committee that if their own children or grandchildren had a choice between Hardy or Dolsen she knew that they would choose Hardy, hands down. She said there was a substantial difference in the test scores at Dolsen which has the lowest MEAP scores in the District. She said the traffic and construction were ridiculous. She said God only knows how many construction trucks go through there, and there is always garbage and trash on the playground. She said if they are redistricted to Dolsen, they will put their child in a private school or put their house on the market.

Stacie Hinote – A resident of Merrie Meadow feels that the guiding principles of affecting the least amount of students, and the least cost would not be met by redistricting the 30 students from Kent Lake. She said these students at Kent Lake were moved to an early start time last year and if they are moved to a different start time next year that would be three years in a row and would be confusing to the students. She said if these students were not moved, there would still be room for growth.

Mark Mieloch – A future resident of Elkow Farms who purchased his home for one reason only, Hardy Elementary. He said he ignored any homes in the Dolsen area. He said his motivation for buying was that this was a better school for his children and he did not want them in a lower performing school. He said he feels the cost analysis for closing Salem is incomplete and suggests the committee publish the four year data so it can be looked at more closely.

Steve Moorehead – An Elkow Farms resident who said to keep Salem open and close Dolsen. He said he didn't want to bash Dolsen but wanted to do the greatest good for the greatest number of students. He said the school performance in the worst case at Dolsen is average. He said they should consider closing Dolsen and allow those students to attend other schools. He feels the 80% capacity guideline is excessive, that they should only allow for 5-10% growth. He asked that they look at 5% room for growth.

Lori Gasparotto – A Dolsen parent who has a 28 year old who attended Dolsen Elementary and is now a thriving adult. She said she has two children who attend Dolsen and she was glad she didn't judge a book by its cover. She said it's a great community and suggested the committee post the 2009 MEAP scores.

Melissa Baker said she would be posting those scores to the website.

Denise Braun – A Salem Elementary parent who bought in Salem because of the country school. She said the community has its very own township hall, church, and hosts many community events. She mentioned Flag Day where the community binds together. She mentioned the nature trails, the butterfly gardens and the wonderful parents, and teachers in this rural community that you can find nowhere else. She said she didn't feel school start times should be a determining factor as the time difference between early and late start was less than 45 minutes - and bus stop times change every year. She said consideration should be given to what serves South Lyon best. She said she is very passionate about Salem and no one has spoke favorably about Dolsen and there were many people opposed to being sent to Dolsen, which to her speaks volumes.

Stacey Catignani – An Elkow Farms resident said the Hardy Elementary story is not unique, emotions are evoked and they want to make their proposal heard. She said the homeowners made their decision based on Hardy Elementary not only academically, but the area. She said they offered some options in their proposal and to please keep their children at Hardy.

Moni Chand – An Elkow Farms resident said there had been one and ½ hours of outpouring for Hardy and she wasn't going to repeat everything that had already been said. She said they moved to Michigan without children thinking there was going to be a community school built on the future site. That didn't happen, but they found that all the kids would go to Hardy which is a great school. She said when she thinks of her children going to a lower standard school and that this wasn't the reason they bought in this neighborhood. She said she realizes the financial situation is unmatched, but to consider the outpouring of support for keeping their children in Hardy.

Brandy Foulkrod – A Dolsen parent who stated that all schools have the same curriculum yet they keep hearing how their teachers are horrible, and their kids are downright stupid. She said she went over the MEAP scores and Dolsen has actually done better in some areas. She said she wished people would stop

ridiculing their children and their school. She said she wanted everyone to remember the charge of the committee.

Lise Blades – A Lyon Township resident. She said she feels island hopping may be a valid consideration. She said she didn't want to see either school close, but she was sick of the people bashing Dolsen. She said she was embarrassed. She said considering home owners property values was not in the committee's charge. She said last week her son had been punched in the face and it wasn't a Dolsen student who did it, but that it was a Kent Lake student. She said she can't believe this has come to us-versus-them and asked the committee to stick to their charge.

Eric Wines – A Salem elementary parent who feels that their kids have to travel far to the middle schools and high schools and the only thing they have close is their elementary school. Now kids are facing long bus rides in elementary school too. He said that people who chose to live in Salem already have to deal with distance. He said he didn't know what school would be best to close and he trusts the people who have been around, but he didn't feel it an accident that people feel this way about Dolsen. He said the highest priority is education, and if Salem is a better building with better teachers, if the cost is more, it's worth it.

Craig Dashner – A Dolsen parent who said that no one wants their school closed. He said his daughter is very happy at Dolsen and there was no reason others wouldn't do well there. He said his daughter never lost anything due to Dolsen being an older building. He said that construction can happen anywhere, but his daughter is always in the school or in the confines of the playground so construction going on does not impact her. He said everyone has done research and what he is hearing is all over the map. He said he hopes administration provides accurate information. He said he is tired of all the negativity about Dolsen and it will affect the kids. He said if Dolsen closes, his daughter will make new friends. He said he is happy with Dolsen and would like to keep it open.

#### Miscellaneous Communications for the Committee

Melissa Baker provided Email communications to the committee received from the community with request that they be given to the committee to review. She also provided Salem Township Resolution 2010-03-09-01 from the Salem Township Board of Trustees supporting Salem Elementary remaining open and asked the committee to review it.

#### Requested Information

Melissa Baker provided the committee with a list of questions received from committee and community members during the last week along with answers. She reviewed each item with the committee and stated that these will be posted on the website.

#### Committee Discussion

A lot of people have requested we change from 80% capacity guidelines, isn't that a charge we've been given – are we allowed to change that guideline?

*Our charge is to allow 2-3 rooms for growth. If we don't and we start bringing teachers back we won't have options. We have flexibility, 80% is a guideline. At present, there are none at 80%, they range from 82% - 91%. We need to get away from this 80% perception and keep in mind that we*

*need to keep 2-3 classrooms open. On the web page, the projected growth, although small, is a conservative worst case scenario used for planning/budget purposes.*

The Q & A sheet shows both schools with 22 classrooms. This isn't what was shown before.

*In the original models, the totals didn't include kindergarten, Magnet, or preschool. (It was pointed out that this is the correct number of classrooms and they are shown in each model that has been presented.)*

A committee member stated that she read the letters from the last meeting and all the harsh comments cut and pasted towards Dolsen. She wanted to point out that she purchased her home in the Orchards of Lyon in 2003 and was told her children would be going to Kent Lake but before school started they were going to Dolsen just as the Elkow Farms residents purchased their homes thinking they would be going to Hardy and now could be redistricted to Dolsen. She said it was the economy that caused their property values to go down, home values have dropped everywhere. She said recently a house sold within one week in her sub (which goes to Dolsen). She said there are no playing fields at Dolsen and it is not new. She asked her daughter what she does on the playground and her daughter told her she swings, but most often she and her friends make up games. Her daughter has no complaints – and it's the kids who use the playground, not the parents. She said Salem has three revenue producing activities, and Dolsen has twelve. She said as far as future construction in the area causing noise, new home construction is noisy too. She said the newly created roundabout has helped with traffic and the accident count has gone way down. She said Dolsen has been accused of being a higher sex offender area which is not true. She said if you look at the child predator site you will find there are more in two other areas in the District than at Dolsen but she said they are everywhere. She said the playground at Dolsen is fenced, and at Hardy it is not. She said there have been no incidents on the playground or surrounding the school. She asked her daughter if there had ever been anything unusual and she said "just a chicken." She said the MEAP scores were released last Friday and she read the results to the group. She said she is tired of hearing about the Dolsen kids being underachievers and the school should be torn down. She said it's not new, but it's what's inside that counts. She said the Principal knows every student's name. She recently found that next year Mr. Soubly will retire and if it's Dolsen that remains open, Mr. Brickey from Salem would take over as Principal of Dolsen. She said one of her daughters now attends Centennial Middle School and gets all A's and it is the same with her 4th grade daughter. She said she is a nurse, a nice caring person and these comments about Dolsen are tough to swallow. She said she would never dream of talking about other schools, students, like this – she was not brought up this way.

#### Pros and Cons for Creating Islands and Committee Decision

Mike Casey stated that he had contacted school Districts, mostly transportation managers and also spoke with people who have a history with South Lyon Schools to come up with the pro and con list. Mike provided a handout showing pros and cons of "islands" and "boundary hopping".

Melissa Baker stated that even if elitism was not created, if they allowed a temporary island for a few, in 4-5 years when it was time to move them, they wouldn't want to leave their school and another problem would be created.

A committee member commented to the Elkow Farms, Hornbrook Estates, and Apple Lane residents – your child will not be at Hardy forever and there will always be change.

#### Continued Committee Discussion on Islands

A committee member stated that she was vehemently against islands and boundary hopping. She said other community members asked her why. She said they had to make changes, but islanding would be a disaster. She said everyone will want to do it. She said she felt they needed to stick to the guidelines and she knew it was emotional. She said she feels when redistricting happens again, people will say “well they did islands before.” She said it was a gut instinct not to do it. She said transportation costs would go up too. She said she felt drawing in islands was unacceptable.

A committee member said he totally agreed, there was no need to put fuel on the fire.

A committee member said she found the blended model (with boundary islands) intriguing.

A committee member said the emotionality is not a part of our charge.

A committee member said it would cause more problems, it will become a “move them”, “move me” situation.

A committee member said she had been hearing “do them, not me” all night. She said she understood the concern for the can of worms. I’m for the least amount of kids to be impacted and by a limited collection of islands; it will be kept to the kids that have to be moved.

A committee member said it would be a problem with the next redistricting too, it’s not just about these kids, but we’re talking about moving forward.

A committee member stated that she couldn’t get how this rule could be locked in – we’re doing it this time because we can?

A committee member said she wasn’t in favor of islands. She said once you set that precedent this would be hard to get around. She said she was an advocate in her own building and was concerned that with the blended model, already being a Title I school, her building would be impacted tremendously.

A committee member stated that the District had worked hard to eliminate islands 10 years ago and it was a slippery slope heading back in that direction.

Mike Casey stated that if we considered island hopping we would have to look at a lot more options and we have to come up with a recommendation by April 1st. He said he tried to come up with a Dolsen Model including islands but came to a road block – one schools ended up with too many kids and one with too few.

A committee member thanked Mike for the pros and cons. He said he didn’t feel the decision on islands should wait as they had an even bigger decision to make on a closing model.

A committee member asked that island hopping be defined.

Melissa stated that an island is a boundary within a boundary.

Mike explained a couple of examples of island hopping.

Melissa said this was an important decision and they needed to vote so they could move forward. She asked the committee to share any thoughts.

A committee member said it was hard not to be emotional. She said it was hard to sit there and take the bashing that had gone on tonight. She said the community needed to come together and bring a better day. She asked that the public support what they were all trying to do and realize when emotions are high sometimes the wrong decision is made. She said she didn't want this to be like Detroit where they all sit there calling each other names. She said to remember in the end, it's our kids.

### Vote

Melissa Baker asked who all was in favor of island hopping.

Three committee members raised their hand.

Melissa said the vote did not pass, and therefore we will not build boundaries that allow for islands.

### Committee Review of Models

A model for closing Salem was sent in by e-mail and provided to the committee. This model takes Hunters Creek out of the mix.

Was the socio economic equity was looked at for this model?

*No. We will get that information for the next meeting.*

*Note: With the economy, the free and reduced lunches are higher this year. The numbers we have are rough and will change.*

Looking at this model, the 30 students splitting to two schools from Kent Lake – can we re-work this so they go as a group?

*Mike provided a Salem Model #2 for the committee to review which allowed for these students to remain at Kent Lake.*

Bartlett is 23 under and that's a landlocked school, shouldn't they have more students added?

*Mike said he had worked on this #2 model for Salem based on models and thoughts from the committee and the public that he received at last week's meeting and over the past week. He said it takes Hunters Creek out by leaving them at Hardy because Hunters Creek has been moved so many times in the past. The other thing it does is eliminate the need to move those 30 kids from Kent Lake. He said he did this by using the extra kindergarten room, making it a grade 1-5 classroom. He said it solves the problem with those two areas. He said it may not be a final*

*solution but it might be better than the first model and a better model to compare to the Dolsen model.*

With Northville Crossing presented as a growth area and they will be at Sayre, couldn't this present a problem?

*That is why the committee needs to look at this model.*

A committee member stated that she likes that the Kent Lake students remained.

A committee member stated she liked that Hunter's Creek would not be moved again.

In looking at the Elkow Farms, Hornbrook Estates, and Apple Lane presentation proposal it was found that it didn't take care of the 30 students from Kent Lake and it sent Hunters Creek to Sayre.

The committee decided not to make the decision on closing one school over the other tonight. They decided to go home and study the information they had which includes a number of proposed models, take notes, and consider the guiding principles.

A committee member said she felt they needed another Dolsen model to look at.

It was suggested they look at the Dolsen models they had been provided including a new one prepared by Mike that includes islands. Although islands are not allowed, they may find something that will work.

Can you do a socio economic study for Mike's new Salem model so we can have that to think about?

*Yes, but don't expect those to be the percentages you see published next year. They are not picture perfect and are being used for this analysis only.*

Melissa proposed the committee add an additional meeting but the committee could not coordinate a date. They agreed to extend the next meeting longer if necessary.

The committee asked that it be stressed to the audience to keep their comments to 3 minutes, and if there were several people from the same area stating the same things, perhaps they could get up in a group to speak. The committee stated they wanted to have a timekeeper (Jennifer Murphy volunteered) for public comments, have the public mark which subdivision they were from on the yellow cards and call them in rotating order, allow for a one hour public comment session in the beginning, then hear the remainder of public comments after the committee does it's work. Melissa Baker asked for consensus on this.

Decision: Yes. Fist to 5 – consensus reached.

### Next Steps

Committee and community members are encouraged to email any thoughts related to the models to Mr. Casey at [caseym@slcs.us](mailto:caseym@slcs.us)

The goals for the next meeting include selecting a school for recommended closure, then tweaking that model/solution if necessary, and discussing grandfathering.

Future Meeting Dates

**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 10:00 p.m.