

Boundary Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Summary

May 7, 2019

Committee Members in Attendance

Andy Anderson
Laura Arellano
Joel Bergh
Erika Boyd
Ronnie Burt
Sharla DeMedeiros
Meghan Dougherty
Michael Herschenfeld
Kathleen Legrand
Jennifer Littlefield
Deanna Mercer
Melanie Plowman
Eric Ramos
John Rocha
Valerie Sterne
Emily Vitris
Patricia Williams

Staff Members in Attendance

Melissa Laursen
Beth Wilson
Michelle Cavazos
Kris Hafezizadeh

Visitors

See attached list

I. Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

II. Public Comment

- *Baranoff ES stakeholder* – Prefers Plan 12 as it meets the primary and secondary criteria the best; there have been 125 traffic incidents in the area, and 75 specifically at Slaughter and Brodie intersection making it a dangerous route to Kocurek; major roads should be used as boundaries; there are no school zones at the Brodie and Slaughter intersection.
- *Baranoff ES stakeholder* – Keep Shady Hollow United; Some of the proposals break up the Shady Hollow subdivision, all the kids should be assigned to the same school; keep the Shady Hollow neighborhood at Baranoff because enrollment is trending down and there are only 35 kids in the northern Section of Shady Hollow – the primary criterion would still be met; the district needs to consider the impact of this decision as many families will choose charter and private schools.
- *Menchaca ES stakeholder* – Hillcrest HOA President; concerned about Plan 12 which reassigns the Hillcrest neighborhood from Menchaca to Kocurek; this

proposal does not meet the criteria; provided a handout to the BAC which stated Hillcrest is farther from the Kocurek campus than the Menchaca campus by more than a mile; and the Hillcrest families helped shape the new Menchaca campus to be completed in the 2020-21 school year.

- *Baranoff ES stakeholder* – Oak Parke resident and child psychologist; research indicates that when a child switches schools, there is a big emotional impact; having students walk down Slaughter to Kocurek is dangerous; prefers Plan 12 that reassigns Olympic Heights to Menchaca and Hillcrest to Kocurek as it meets all of the secondary criteria; take the “harm reduction” approach.
- *Kiker ES stakeholder* – Parent and student in Back Bay area; the boundary proposals are not acceptable; neighborhood has been zoned to Kiker for 30 years and are invested in Kiker; the district should match their investment decisions with the homeowners investments; student is a Kiker Biker and the proposal rips apart the neighborhood and his friends; biking is freedom; keep the neighborhood and the Kiker Bikers together.
- *Baranoff ES stakeholder* – Brodie Springs resident; feels that the BAC has listened because new maps have been created; the Brodie Springs neighborhood backs up to Shady Hollow, and should stay together with Shady Hollow; will keep fighting for what is right for the kids.
- *Baranoff ES stakeholder* – Brodie Springs resident; moved from Chicago for better public schools; moved specifically to the Brodie Springs neighborhood because of the highly rated schools; cares about the performance of the schools and is concerned that the alternative school is rated 4 out of 10, not 9 out of 10 like Baranoff; the teachers are good at the alternative school – but they can only do so much as they must teach to the majority of the class.
- *Kiker ES stakeholder* – Parent in South Bay area; concerned about traffic safety and does not want the kids to cross SH-45; the new school will be wonderful for the Avana neighborhood because they are located south of SH-45; do not sacrifice safety to meet enrollment goals.

III. Approval of minutes

The April 4 minutes were approved with the addition of Sharla DeMedeiros in attendance. The April 11 minutes will be presented at the next meeting.

IV. Discussion of attendance area for the new southwest elementary school and other associated boundary changes in the region, which may include Baranoff, Boone, Cowan, Kiker and Kocurek

Michelle Cavazos, Chief of School Leadership, presented information on the impacts of overcrowding, state and local school performance, academic programming, and transition planning for the proposed boundary changes.

A few of the impacts of overcrowded schools include:

- Class sizes can be a little larger – which places more of a challenge on the teachers.
- The core areas (gymnasium, and cafeterias) become overcrowded.
- Lunch times begin very early (in the 10 o'clock hour) and end late (after 1 pm).

Ms. Cavazos also discussed negative impacts on under-enrolled schools, including, often times they are not able to have as many program offerings. It was also explained that there are standard programs that must be offered at all schools, and through the school changes process, the district will look to see what academic programs could be added. In addition, the district measures a schools' success beyond the standardized testing, and also considers local accountability. For example, in 2018, Baranoff scored a 99 in local accountability, while Kocurek scored a 93 (both A's). Lastly, it was explained that once the boundaries are determined, transition planning will occur.

Kris Hafezizadeh, Executive Director of Transportation, discussed the district's transportation policy, and how hazardous routes are identified. Transportation has already started conversations with the City of Austin's Safe Routes to Schools team regarding the boundary change scenarios as many of the proposals would change bussing eligibility. The City of Austin has agreed to pilot a crossing guard at the intersection of Brodie and Slaughter. If ten or more students cross at this intersection, the crossing guard would most likely remain.

Questions and comments from members:

- Concerned that the hazardous route policy is limited to freeways – the fundamental problem with this limitation is that neighborhood roads become major arterial routes, but do not meet the definition of a freeway. The district should revisit this policy. Concerned about the students walking along Slaughter Lane to Kocurek.
- Concerned that the crossing guard at Brodie and Slaughter may not be effective. What is the duration of the pilot? What happens if it goes away?
- Is the age of the student considered into the transportation policy?

Three new scenarios were introduced, as requested by the BAC at the April 11 meeting:

Plan 11 – Kiker/Baranoff – reassigns Circle C North to Mills and Avana and Greyrock to the new southwest elementary school.

Initial reactions from BAC:

- The new school should be opened up at a higher utilization.

- The projected enrollment at Mills assumes the school will still be opened to transfers – can the demographer determine a projected enrollment assuming the school is frozen to transfers?
- Was the Park Place neighborhood considered? How many elementary students reside in Park Place?
- The district should not open up a school below 75% of its capacity, especially when the district is having conversations around closures and consolidations.
- Was Bridges of Bear Creek considered for a boundary change?

Plan 12 - Baranoff/Kocurek/Menchaca – reassigns Olympic Heights from Baranoff to Menchaca; and Hillcrest from Menchaca to Kocurek.

Initial reactions from BAC:

- Error on the Olympic Heights scenario – one of the portions of Olympic Heights was separated from the rest of the neighborhood.
- Concern that the Hillcrest neighborhood has been working with the district on the new Menchaca Elementary, funded by the 2017 bond program, and this scenario reassigns the neighborhood to another school.
- This plan disrupts more schools than other scenarios to address overcrowding at Baranoff.
- Baranoff enrollment projections do not include the Pre-K going back to Baranoff next school year.

Plan 13 - Cowan/Boone – reassigns the Bella Vista, The Brodie and Ridgeview apartments, Maple Run, and Deer Park at Maple Run from Cowan to Boone.

Initial reactions from BAC:

- This scenario gets Boone to 77%, the highest of all of the scenarios, which is good.

The guidelines for rating the maps was discussed. The BAC requested that the planning team rate the primary criteria, and the BAC rate the secondary criteria because there is subjectivity to it. The BAC will submit their ratings, and the planning team will average all of the ratings to come up with a starting point for discussion.

The BAC agreed to start with the Boone and Cowan ratings at the May 29 meeting, as there are fewer scenarios for discussion.

V. Wrap-Up

Future Meeting Dates – May 29 and June 13

VI. Adjourn (8:44 PM)

**BOUNDARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
VISITOR SIGN-IN SHEET
May 7, 2019**

	NAME	SCHOOL AFFILIATION
1.	Ashley Fredo	Baranoff
2.	JUAN TORRES	Baranoff
3.	Nathan Behncke	Menchaca
4.	Tamara DeHay	Baranoff
5.	Liam Dohn	Kiker
6.	Lauren Bean	Baranoff
7.	Jessica Wilson	Baranoff
8.	Greg Allen	Kiker
9.	Christine Chavez	Baranoff
10.	Debbie Oliver	Baranoff
11.	Michael Sinclair	Baranoff
12.	Chris Andyt	Baranoff
13.	Bill Kaynter	Baranoff
14.	Lizette Resendez	Baranoff
15.	Shawn Bodah	Baranoff

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	NAME	SCHOOL AFFILIATION
1.	BRET HIRSCA	BARANOFF
2.	Tangela McDayall	Menchace
3.	EMILIS Smith	
4.	Jeremy Bean	Baranoff / Brodie Spys
5.	Sergio Mendinca	Baranoff / Brodie Spys
6.	Christy Reddison	Baranoff
7.	Jennifer Kratky	Baranoff
8.	Leora Davis	Cowan
9.	Chenille Kendrick	Cowan
10.	Daniel Miranda	Cowan
11.	Frances Dier	Cowan
12.	Elise Janicek	Kiker
13.	Deepika Sangam	kiker
14.	Kathryn Almos	Baranoff
15.	Brian Mangum	Kiker

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May 7, 2019

	NAME	SCHOOL AFFILIATION
1.	Quinn Holab	Menchaca
2.	Cody Lancaster	Baranoff + Oak Parke = C
3.	Angela Rullspurger	" "
4.	Chelsey Thomas	Kiker
5.	Kristin Poole	Kiker
6.	Joe & Noriko Hoffer	Menchaca
7.	Liba Evans	Baranoff
8.	Jackie Thomas	Kiker
9.	Shelby Brownridge	Baranoff oak Parke
10.	Erica Katz	mills
11.	Ashley Jones	Baranoff - Brodie Springs
12.	Colette Ford	Baranoff - Wildwood Kellynwood
13.	Corinna Miller	Baranoff - Oak Parke
14.	John (Jack) Miller	Baranoff - Oak Parke
15.	Jacob Youngblood	Baranoff - Shady Hollow

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	NAME	SCHOOL AFFILIATION
1.	Katie Fuselier	Baranoff (Brodie Springs)
2.	NATALIE TRAN	KIKER
3.	BRYANT TRAN	KIKER
4.	Smyth Johansson	Kiker
5.	Mingming Chen	Kiker
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