

Boundary Summary

Capacity has been a major focus of our PTA and school administration for the past several years. Our Legislative Liaisons (Angela Cough and Justin Anderson) have been on point to gather West Seattle PTAs together (Presidents, Vice Presidents, and Legislative Liaisons) to bring our community concerns to the right people, including those at Seattle Public Schools (SPS) and the School Board. This included meeting several times to confirm and align our viewpoint, composing and delivering many emails with our immediate capacity concerns at elementary and future concerns for middle and high schools, and included actual proposed solutions. The proposed solutions included boundary revisions along with utilizing the current Schmitz Park elementary site to relieve the immediate capacity pain at Genesee Hill. We were told our concerns were heard, but using Schmitz Park was not an option due to cost and that boundary changes would be done for the 2018-2019 school year. A Capacity task force was also created last year by the district with the goal to develop recommendations for the superintendent. We were fortunate to have Genesee Hill parent Michael Godfried on this task force who shared information and updates throughout the year. In the end, the task force did have some recommendations and a plan to continue to meet quarterly for the next two years.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the process and schedule for making the final decision on the 2018-2019 Boundary change?

Our community meeting on 10/27 at Genesee Hill was our first opportunity to share feedback, ask questions, and express concerns. The district will continue to review feedback and revise a scenario for a proposal throughout October and November. On December 7, the district will submit the proposal to the Board Operations Committee who will either Approve, Reject, or Send Back for Revisions. The proposal will be first introduced to the School Board on January 3, 2018. On January 17, the School Board will take action – Approve, Reject, or Approve with Revisions.

When will the final proposal be submitted to the Genesee Hill school community?

Information will be shared prior to the Operations Committee Meeting on December 7.

How will this information be shared with families not on the PTA before a recommendation is made?

They will send information out to all impacted families and make information available for the school to distribute in any other various formats. The proposal will also be available on the district website under the School Boundaries section.

What is the PTA advocating for on the 2018-2019 boundary change?

The PTA is advocating for 100% grandfathering of current assigned 2017-2018 students and the scenario that delivers the best material movement of students over time. Our belief is that the school is functioning at 718 students and does not need to get to the “right size” 660 capacity overnight. A change to the boundary that adjusts Genesee Hill from six kindergarten classes per year to four or five classes would solve the capacity issue.

Who participated in the meetings with the district to come up with the proposed scenarios?

In preparation for the proposed 2018-2019 boundary changes, the district first met with the principals. At the next meeting, they included the principal, PTA President, Vice President, and Legislative Liaisons from both Lafayette and Genesee Hill. In that meeting, four scenarios were reviewed, but those options didn't include grandfathering data and had a much smaller proposed change area. SPS was asked to look at a broader area and include the numbers with and without grandfathering. We wanted to be able to clearly see the impacts to both schools. We would also like to see the data at the cohort level to make sure there aren't any surprises there. The proposed scenarios were unveiled at the coffee with the Principal on October 27 without a preview by the above committee. The district was unable to give a preview as we are just one of many boundary/ assignment meetings they are preparing for and holding.

Can I share my concerns directly with the Associate Superintendent Flip Herndon and Enrollment Planning Director Ashley Davies?

There are two scheduled Student Assignment Plan and High School Boundaries open house meetings (11/8 at Cleveland High School and 11/9 at West Seattle High School). Although these meetings are not focused on the Genesee Hill proposed boundary change, both Associate Superintendent Flip Herndon and Enrollment Planning Director Ashley Davies will be there. The format of the open house should allow people the opportunity to voice their concern or ask a specific question.

Can I share my concerns directly with our School Board Representative Director Leslie Harris?

School Board representatives have monthly informal community meetings scheduled where you can talk with them directly. The next community meeting with Director Leslie Harris is scheduled for 11/18 at the Delridge Branch Library from 3:00-5:00 PM. You can also schedule a meeting in the Board Office at the John Stanford Center on Wednesday mornings from 7:00-8:00 AM. To schedule, contact the Board Office at boardoffice@seattleschools.org or Director Harris at leslie.harris@seattleschools.org.

What was the purpose of the Coffee with the Principal meeting on 10/27?

The purpose of the meeting with the District was to hear from the community about their concerns in a way that can positively shape the final proposal. We think this approach is positive and productive and will lead to a better outcome in the end.

I was unaware that the coffee with the Principal was a meeting with the District and Lafayette about boundary changes. How did I miss that?

We communicate meeting schedules and opportunities as soon as we become aware of them. In this case, we first communicated about the potential boundary changes at the September 28 General PTA meeting. Mr. Kischner shared that the district was reviewing boundaries and that a Coffee with the Principal would be scheduled as soon as there were details to share. We also sent an email follow-up to PTA membership immediately following the General meeting. Once the district confirmed they would have data to share, the 10/27 Coffee with the Principal was scheduled and communicated in the 10/19 Thursday Bulletin. The Bulletin included detailed information about the Coffee with the Principal and that Associate Superintendent Flip Herndon and Enrollment Planning Director Ashley Davies would be in attendance. Signs were also posted at the school and at Schmitz Park aftercare program. We proposed this meeting time to schedule a meeting quickly and do it at a time when many parents could be available with a week's notice. The idea was that many parents had already decided to be at school that day to help with Harvest Festival and F.U.N. The timing and format of this meeting fit the true spirit of presenting data and considerations and hearing from the community about its priorities and concerns.

How is “grandfathering” defined?

Grandfathering means that students currently at a school impacted by a change can remain at the school. This applies only to the students at the impacted school(s) the year prior to implementation of the change. For a change proposed for the 2018-19 school year, all students who attended Genesee Hill during the 2017-18 school year in grades K-4 would be grandfathered. Their default assignment would be to Genesee Hill, meaning that they would not have to do anything to stay at Genesee Hill all the way through 5th grade. If a grandfathered student wanted to attend Lafayette, the family would fill out a choice form during the school choice process, and they would be able to attend Lafayette in the coming school year. Siblings who have not yet attended the school are not grandfathered. Siblings can apply during Open Enrollment for School Choice and they would receive a sibling tiebreaker which gives them highest priority.

What about grandfathering future siblings?

The current definition of grandfathering is just those kids currently enrolled in the 2017-2018 school year. Siblings who have not yet attended the school are not grandfathered. The PTA and school administration agrees that 100% grandfathering of current students along with their siblings would be the option that causes the least amount of pain to our current Genesee Hill community, but SPS has not previously included siblings as part of the grandfathering policy. We asked SPS to include looking at several levels of grandfathering in their options including future siblings. That scenario has yet to be shared.

What if my student has been grandfathered in a previous boundary change?

family with a grandfathered assignment can remain at the school until they reach the highest grade offered at the school. Any family that may have been impacted by a previous boundary change would not be impacted by this change since their previous grandfathered status would allow them to remain at the school.

Will transportation be provided to Lafayette students in the changed boundary area?

If a student is outside the walk zone for the school and lives within the boundary area, transportation will be provided following the usual school district transportation rules.

What happens if my student is a bus rider and is grandfathered in this boundary change. Do they still get to ride the bus to Genesee Hill?

Historically, grandfathered students are not provided with transportation. That said, providing transportation for grandfathered students is still being considered and the last two approved boundary change proposals *did* include transportation for grandfathered students.

Would it be possible to have families that move into the current Genesee Hill boundary zone in the 2017-2018 school year be zoned to Lafayette?

We are waiting for a response from the district.

Have families in the proposed change area been asked directly for their school preference or will they be asked?

No. This is not part of the typical process. Once a scenario is finalized and a proposal is created, they pull the list of all students living in the area and will let them know about the change being proposed. Information will be available for all families, as well.

What is the prioritization of students on the Open Enrollment Wait List? (Will siblings of existing students be prioritized over grandfathered students who live further away/are not within the boundary?)

Grandfathered students are not re-prioritized and are guaranteed a seat if they want it. A student's grandfathered status does not change with a boundary change. Siblings have to apply during the Open Enrollment process in February. This year's dates are February 5 to February 16, 2018. SPS will work with the school leaders to accommodate siblings to the extent possible.

Why does this boundary change only include Lafayette and Genesee Hill?

The focus of SPS is to find immediate relief for Genesee Hill. Lafayette's enrollment as of October 2017 is at 394 with a "right size capacity" of 550, making them under-enrolled. Genesee Hill's enrollment as of October 2017 is at 718 with a "right size capacity" of 660. The boundary to the West (Alki) and South (Fairmount Park) are not included in this review as both schools are at or above their "right size" capacity.

What about the Schmitz Park campus? What is the plan for that location?

Schmitz Park is currently being used as a Pre-School and a before/after care location. Both Lafayette and Alki are currently included in the BEX V proposal. If passed, a location would be required to house students temporarily during the remodel/rebuild.

What is the methodology used behind the current enrollment projections and what has changed to adapt this methodology over the past five years?

Our short and long-term projections are updated annually and based on historical and recent enrollment trends. As was mentioned during the presentation to Genesee Hill families on October 27, growth across Seattle has added additional variables to projections that they continue to add and adjust to. In the case of Genesee Hill, they have seen an increase in the number of families who live in the area who choose to send their children to Genesee Hill compared to other schools. They call this an increase in the capture rate for Genesee Hill. More information on the projections process is available on the Enrollment Planning [website](#).

Why couldn't we make the necessary boundary adjustments before the capacity issues occurred?

We are waiting for a response from the district.

What about validating residency within the boundary?

We are waiting for a response from the district.

What is the timeframe for the rebuild of Lafayette and Alki?

Lafayette and Alki are both on the list of projects under consideration for BEX V. The list of possible projects was presented to the School Board on September 26, 2017 at the [BEX V Planning Work Session](#). BEX V is not anticipated to go for a vote until 2019, and the order of the projects has not been finalized. The District is at least four years away from a replacement of Lafayette and Alki.

Does SPS have a seat at the table with regard to HALA discussions?

Although the HALA meetings have finished, members of the Enrollment Planning and Capital Planning teams work with the city on a variety of topics related to growth and development across the city.

Is the District considering density and real estate development in areas for apartments and condos - will these developments bring additional families due to affordability and density?

Yes.

Does the distance/safety of walking to school factor into boundary decisions?

Yes.

How will these options affect classroom splits in both schools?

The number of splits per school varies based on several factors including who decides to stay or move to Lafayette. Even without boundary changes, schools may have splits. Thus, it is difficult to predict how the options would affect splits.