



High School Growth Mitigation Community Forum

Gateway Middle School
Wednesday, February 6, 2019
6:00 -7 :30 PM

The following comments were recorded from community members at four flip charts during public forum:

- Extend elementary to 6th grade, Junior high to 7-9th, High school 10th-12th x2
- Casino Road is dangerous
- Don't allow any more variances to Jackson High
- Can we grandfather in kids already at Cascade (or any high school) to stay where they are?
- Why are we not looking to build higher (urban development) instead of new building?
- How early do we have to send kids to school (standing out in the dark on roads waiting for buses)? Are the kids safe?
- What happens to the middle school boundaries?
- Keep kids within a mile of the school (walkers) @ the school. X3
- Gateway only 6,7,8 & 9 grades
- Support of boundary changes
- Kids and siblings grandfathered in to current school x2
- My kids will be seniors at the time of the move. Can seniors be considered first for variances, so they can complete their senior year at Jackson
- Keep upper classmen @ their school. X3
- Is traffic (Boeing) and early traffic/dark traveling time being considered to move kids?
- Can we keep kids off freeway? (Closer to their home)
- Can we keep Running Start kids in their original school?
- Can we not move kids now and wait for 2020 bond/levy? Ok with portables
- Area around Emerson/Cascade locked down/dangerous/drugs. Don't want kids to go there.
- Very open to schedule changes before boundary changes
- Keep middle school kids together
- Look at equity and free/reduced numbers
- Look at keeping kids together that were together before elementary #18 boundary changes
- Program changes – IB program, similar programs @ all 3; Running Start, ROTC, Marching Band, Music
- Promote Running Start/expand it/easier to get in
- If area #5 of Jackson moves to Cascade, then they should move to Ike as well
- Purple #1 doesn't make sense; have to pass 3 schools to get to boundary change school
- Keep elementary kids together
- The #2s and #5s make sense

- West side of #4 – divide by power line as natural barrier and send to Cascade
- #2 orange are walkers to Jackson, less than a mile, should stay at Jackson; go to Heatherwood, don't take them from their peers/friends x2
- At least let students already in Jackson or Cascade High have choice to stay or leave. (Students are doing Running Start can stay in their school)
- I heard area #1 added last, should be out.
- Once boundaries are approved, facilitate kids going to new school in fall of 2019 (so can do all four years at same school)
- Cascade doesn't have same tech/STEM program/courses (AP Advanced Computer Science)
- Concerned about rating of Cascade, student's future college, career, etc.
- Need bond/levy for new high school, can we put it out sooner than 2020?
- School Board should get on a school bus and ride the whole school route from Jackson High area to Cascade
- Why are we not looking at area south of Jackson High?
- Minutes reflect partiality to Mill Creek city limit residents (from committee website)
- Can Juniors/Seniors be grandfathered? (This comment made by 15 in this group)
- If I am a staff member at JHS/CHS, can my children get a variance?
- If Juniors/Seniors are grandfathered, can siblings stay too?
- Can we stay where we start? All levels (this comment made by 3 in this group)
- If we have to travel, will start and end times change to accommodate?
- Do you have the legal right to do this?
- How long is it okay to be on a bus each day?
- What is being done to work with Snohomish School District? Since Snohomish enrollment is decreasing? Can boundaries between districts be adjusted?
- What happened to other options? 3-year high school, staggered schedules, magnet programs
- Move neighborhoods together?
- HS is a difficult age to separate kids
- Why not SeaHill Road south?
- Are there impact fees being levelled on developers for new developments? If not, why not? If so, where is the money being used?
- Did you take into account students already impacted by ES Boundary change?
- Why did you choose orange #2 to move?
- Can we keep middle school students together?
- How do you make things fair for student athletes, special programs (computer) etc.?
- How about athletes in programs that are not offered in target school? All extra-curricular programs not offered?
- Why is ES #18 are not being considered to move? New developments and houses getting preferred treatment over old existing neighborhoods
- What is the number of variances at JHS now and will variances continue to be allowed?
- Keep ES together?
- Use power lines as a boundary? In SF#4 east of power lines w/#3 in SF
- What are growth projections with new boundaries?

- Are academics equivalent across all 3 high schools? Will they be rebalanced if necessary?
- In meeting minutes, it said not to move west of 35th and not break up HW, Why?
- Has anyone driven the revised commutes during school hours?
- Is area near B-Evt Hwy considered? (part of Woodside). This should be a shorter commute (timewise).
- Re: Student athletes: Any consideration for booster contribs, involve – jackets, letters, etc.?
- Is there an equal # of students from Gateway and Heatherwood? Share the impact.
- Why moving orange #2 (currently HWMS)? Keep at JHS
- Will MS boundaries be changed too?
- Will we split up kids in MS and again in HS?
- Week 5 meeting minutes said 2 proposals to be presented tonight?
- #2 orange is walking distance to JHS, this should not be moved.
- Will public see the final proposal before it's submitted to the Superintendent?
- Why not reconfigure to Junior HS vs MS? Complimentary program change
- Orange #2(immediately west) and area east of Murphy's corner is all one neighborhood. This neighborhood should stay together. Either move in tact or stay in tact
- If my student in SF ES misses bus from JHS, he/she can walk home. If CHS, parent has to pick up. 2.6 from JHS, 6.7 from CHS
- Google Maps from my door to CHS; 17-22 minutes @ 6:40-6:50 AM. How long will my child be on the bus?
- Why are we moving areas further away from CHS when we could be moving closer neighborhoods? JHS area closer to CHS than SF ES?
- Did you take in to consideration families already affected by ES boundary?
- What program accommodations will be in place to on-board students to their new high school?
- Will there be transportation for all school activities (after school, teacher planning days, athletic or club activities)
- Will we adjust "o" period for a longer commute? Students need sleep. Distance is a big issue.
- Can students within 3 miles of JHS stay at JHS?
- Plan longer term, keep PC together. Orange area 2 & 5 to Eisenhower and then to CHS
- What will happen when current school offers programs different from new school? Ex: athletics, robotics, orchestra etc.
- Special needs kids to stay at JHS
- Continuity between MS and HS. ES is less important
- Will variances continue to be allowed? Why would someone in the neighborhood have to go farther?
- Can we publish how many variances at JHS?
- How are you addressing "address" cheats?
- Are variances allowed and what types? Ex. Student wants ROTC/Everett HS
- Would variances based on diversity reasons be considered?
- How many committee members are in each zone? Are they evenly represented?
- Can changes be phased in?

- Please consider alternate options – portables, staggered starts, etc.
- Do not move seniors
- Recently annexed Mill Creek areas are moving vs. Old Mill Creek
- Safety concerns about distance traveled/freeway and safety concerns of high school itself
- What has been done to increase rating of other schools?
- Make some same programs offered at each school. And standard of teaching.
- Recently built, high density, apartment complexes have resulted in overcrowding. Should be moved first.
- Consider taking kids from Heatherwood and move to Cascade; as would be closer bus than Gateway kids to Cascade
- Area #1 (eastern) has additional housing being developed. Is that being taken into account? These new should be moved.
- Trade southern border of #4 to NE of area #1 (east) Break up #4
- Look again at neighborhoods just recently moved from elementary boundary changes
- Keep area #2 (orange) at Jackson, only 100 students, and should remain with Heatherwood peers
- Consider keeping students from middle schools together vs. elementary
- Consider previous revision of elementary school boundaries – current MS and HS students attended elementary under different boundaries
- 11th and 12th graders should be grandfathered into Jackson so as not to change their programs, sports, clubs etc.
- Keep Penny Creek ES together at Cascade
- Split #4 area along power lines
- #2 should not be changed as all the other kids go to the same Heatherwood MS and will get isolated. Also, the kid in 6th grade went to Mill Creek ES and hence the boundary change based on elementary does not make sense.
- Make sure not to move yellow #1 from Jackson. Low income areas should stay to balance FRL levels and not make Jackson \$\$
- Offer kids that want to move early to stay at their high school. Let that happen
- Splitting kids from middle schools doesn't make sense.
- #2 in orange Northpoint Meadows area should stay at Jackson because many walk there.
- Review current variances north of 132nd that are feeding into Jackson High School
- Area #2 (orange) should stick with MCE peers. If Area #2 needs to go to Cascade, the entire former MCE boundary area should be moved as well.
- Heatherwood MS students should stay together.
- Keep elementary feeder schools together
- Move #2s and #5 and split area #4 along power line; west should go to Cascade
- Penny Creek goes to Eisenhower. Change MS boundaries and have middle schools stay together.
- Could we get a list of other possible solutions that have been explored (as opposed to a boundary change) and why they would not work for our school district? Thank you.
- Should move Tambark Park area to Cascade as only been there five years compared to Silver Firs 30+ years. Part of community

- Kids going to middle school in Northpoint area will not know any kids at Cascade as they would not have gone to Penny Creek.
- Have School Board or committee to provide feedback back to some of these recommendations so members of community know that they were heard.
- Area #2 is the area near Thomas Lake. Variances into JHS – what happens? Are they moved out of JHS?
- Option to ask for a voluntary variance from JHS to another HS?
- Keep MS together as much as possible.
- Separate area #4 by the power line (a barrier) and take 2 and 5 & west half of divided area 4 to CHS
- Emulate Lake WA's boundary FAQ
- Will CHS need portables with this proposed move?
- Please don't move a student who is in their senior year!
- In area 5, move new apartment students and not long-term home owner students.
- Don't move 11th and 12th graders!
- Group 2 at JHA is too close to JHS (maybe under 1 mile) to move!
- CHS does not have the AP computer science (and other clubs etc.) compared to JHS
- Families with former JHS students can their students be kept at JHS (legacy's)?
- Is there a plan to verifying addresses to ensure JHS students actually live in the service area?
- JHS group 2 will never go to ES with Penny Creek and won't know their peers in MS & HS.
- Which superintendent will make this recommendation to the board?
- Has the committee looked at statistics of potential "drop outs", potential student decline in involvement? (lower grades etc. mental health impacts)
- Not fair to families who have fund raised and financially supported programs and clubs at JHS to move their students to another HS
- Why not bus students from Tambark Creek and not our students from the northern area of JHS?
- Let's build a new HS?
- Bring us a bond before April 2020.
- Is there a chance a new HS could be built?
- JHS area 2 is the only group that will be separated from Heatherwood MS. Please keep #2 with Heatherwood/JHS (keep middle schools together).
- My student was at MCES and is now at HWMS. She is sad and concerned that her area, area2, may be moved to CHS (keep middle schools together).
- It is difficult for the juniors/seniors who helped build the cultures at their schools and move them to a different school.
- Why will my child be moved to CHS? We are in the SW corner of Area 4 (41st Ave)? Why not draw the southern boundary of group in a straight line?
- Emphasis should be placed on the shortest bus times than on keeping ES students together.
- Will my student get moved? She is a freshman at JHS and this does not seem fair that she may have to go to another high school!
- Comment – We are moving because of this boundary change.

- Area 5 should be moved from Gateway to Ike and then on to CHS.
- Maintain coherent neighborhood; example, move neighborhood west of area along w/Area 2 or don't move Area 2 at all.
- This HS boundary move will cause undue stress on my children.
- Area 2 is too close to JHS to move to CHS.
- Current students should have the option to stay at JHS (especially juniors and seniors).
- Move may affect grades and college entrance.
- Has the committee looked at student survey data? (JHS is at 17% approval rating)

Following are comments submitted in writing on the Let's talk about high school growth! Forms.

- I live in Area 4; the area behind Bartell's at Seattle Hill and 132nd. My concern is if those students who live outside of JHS boundary who are variances into JHS boundary will be forced to follow the boundary lines as I think they should before new boundary lines affect others. Also, I would like to suggest that the District ask for volunteers who may wish to relocate to CHS or EHS from JHS. My personal concerns are the boundary change affecting not only my children's education quality, but also the schedule of a long bus ride and earlier wake up time. And the boundary change will likely bring down my home value if it's changed from JHS to CHS.
- Can seniors stay at current school? Can we start the change Sept. 2019 for incoming freshmen so they don't have to attend one year then switch schools? What is happening with variances? Do they have to request new every year? And, is the District saying "no" to all these requests?
- It was disappointing that there weren't many answers given. I would really like to hear the reasons the decisions are made and not just hear people jump to uninformed conclusions.
- Ravensdale Town Homes are two blocks from Jackson High School. It happens to be closer than other schools in the boundary. The proposed school, Cascade HS, is 5 miles away. We live in Mill Creek in a complex with very few kids, with parking impacted at Jackson people within walking distance should be considered.
- You own the property on B/E HWAY; what about building a middle school there and giving Heatherwood to JHS? What about all the growth on the east side of 35th? Will they go to Cascade? The seniors should be grandfathered in. So far, the choices make sense, or enough sense. Thanks
- What will the policy be on variances? What about special needs kids?
- Put the bond back on the ballot ASAP!! Make the new built neighborhoods/houses move before the older neighborhoods.
- Put the bond measure on the ballot as soon as possible. Get the new high school built ASAP!! Newer established homes should move first before older neighborhoods.
- My child will be a sophomore the year the changes are made. I don't think a child should have to change schools once they start a school. They should be able to go to the same school they started.
- Let residences choose solutions. Propose several options such as boundary change, increase tax slightly to finance portable classrooms, house owners get priority

staying in Jackson while renters can attend another high school, etc. The Board is considering long term solution to school but have they considered long term impact to the community? Our district has great reputation because of education. Will this erode the reputation? The Board should consider solution that will maintain the integrity of our community. Would request the board to consider other solutions besides boundary change and allow residences to choose and decide.

- Can this be done in phases? Moving 740+ students all at once seems to be a bit too harsh.
- Why does Gateway MS have to carry the whole burden? (not fair) It is far less bus ride for Heatherwood MS kids to go to Cascade HS. Share the burden???
- As important as where the school is, is the quality of its education. The quality of programs, education, staff, etc. should be equal to or greater than what is offered at Jackson.
- I recommend no more variances for students to Jackson. I recommend that people who live in the city of Mill Creek go to Jackson as that is where city taxes are going.
- Kingbury is triangulated between Seattle Hill Road and 148th. We are in Silver Firs Elementary. We are near to Jackson compared to few areas of #1 but been proposed to migrate to Cascade. The logic for boundary division is inconsistent and we don't support that.
- Do believe that students that start at one HS should be able to finish at that HS. Before freshman enrollment, give notice and option to enroll 4 years at school they'd be transferred to.
- Allow Students who are enrolled in HS "A" to remain if imp't sequence of classes is not available at HS "B" they'd be transferred to.
- Allow students at HS "A" to NOT transfer to HS "B" if none of their peers are transferring (hard to track, I know, but socially imp't to many kids, I think). Personally, hard to think about leaving my neighborhood where I can see to new Snohomish HS, driving past Jackson HS, just to drop by my kid's school several miles later. Just "bureaucracy". Sigh...
- There are many questions and comments that I can make, but I think the most important consideration is CONTINUITY. In other words, given this is HS, the time when kids are becoming adults and, in many cases, getting prepared for college, I would hope that kids get to remain at the HS they first attend. So, in 2020, kids are having to go to a new school but the changes begin with the incoming class. This would be a "win win" for all since no one would change schools and probably the best thing for the emotional health of the kids.
- Northpointe community (13900 block and 34th Drive)
My concern is our kids will not have a "home school". They already got kicked out of MC to attend Penny Creek with strangers to then be moved back to the middle school in our area, to then be moved away to Cascade with more strangers. Bus ride times would increase resulting in lack of afterschool sports/activities.