

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORUM ON GROWTH AND CHANGE

Community Comments:

(What concerns do you have? What are your thoughts or ideas? What else should we consider?)

- I am concerned about growing class sizes
- I think moving children to schools outside their communities is disruptive to their social development. Especially as private activities such as sports are based on house boundaries so kids being split between schools and other social groups isn't great
- I have to work in a portable due to highway construction – I do not support more portables. Not a great learning atmosphere.
- Get parents to develop a grant-seeking volunteer group. This group's sole purpose would be to seek and apply for grants for Everett Public Schools – Every little bit may help
- We support building new schools to handle the large student population growth, rather than moving students around as a temporary measure. Our neighborhood is very unhappy with the school boundary changed about 10 years ago. We hope that we don't have to go through that again by the school district (it really disrupted the community).
- Students are in 7th grade – private school. Which high school will they be in? Both are current JHS boundary for 2018-19
 - Will they be bussed due to over-capacity? Don't want kids to be bussed
 - What is the plan?
 - Will the expansion result in more kids being in portables?
- Location of high school? What will its boundary be? Lives on 35th in South end of district
- How will it be determined which students will go to JHS and which to HS No. 4 (parent of 3rd grader at Cedar Wood)
- Cedar Wood – has highly capable program – concerned that this is consistent at middle and high schools including the new high school?
- Does the district have a plan to have Advanced Programs already in place at all schools?
- Cedar Wood ES & Heatherwood MS
 - Option B gives access and options
 - Building infrastructure can be used for multi-age from year to year
- Likes option B the best – build new high school for the future –best long term option
- Option A is status quo – don't want more portables
- Option C - does not like bussing, inconvenience for parents
 - Will there be discontinuities in student relationships if CHS students are bussed to EHS? Example – Athletics, continuity of programs impacted

- Idea/example - Labs for science – have optional times like community college. Lab for multiple schools use. Do this at off hours?
- Penny Creek ES parent – Rezoning (redoing boundaries) is less popular
- Moving kids to Cascade – concern that friends don't want to be bussed
- Concern around elementary rezoning (no Penny Creek to Silver Firs)
- Would it start with rising class?
- If portables then security
- Were all Penny Creek updates dissolved?
- Heatherwood/Gateway/Jackson
 - Hard sell – increase property tax
 - Is there an option outside of new school?
 - Property taxes went up 20% due to Bond
- Property on 527 Seattle Hill Road – What's happening there?
- Forest View - 1 year old, infant
 - Overcrowded schools impacts kids, kids are at the core
 - High school – like the site
 - Focused bond
 - Okay with bussing – don't like portable idea
- Why are you already behind on this?
- Is it true that JHS portables are for 9th graders only?
- A high school is needed
- Cascade needs renovation too
- Why do we need to shift boundaries when we could make a high draw magnet to EHS to get kids to go there and balance out enrollment
- What about the impact on our middle schools with the increasing enrollment?
- Drastic decisions: double shifting – when/what would trigger those at high school? Bond failure? These may be least acceptable to community
- In order to build more portables @ JHS, on tennis courts, will that eliminate tennis programs – does that cut the program?
- Have we investigated corporate sponsorships of facilities? i.e. Google for STEM programs?
- All new housing leading to new growth and enrollment, do development companies have to pay a subsidy to help with increased enrollment?
- The space children learn in is important. Good, modern, spaces enriches children learning. Modernize
- Portables are not great – makes a big impact
- Would be great to build a new high school- support a bond
- Not in favor of the bussing option on board
- Concerns over length of time to permit and build, can the extra property be used for overflow in the meantime?
- As a short term solution, some of the more extreme solutions could be tried
- Tough to learn in overcrowded environments
- Supportive of adding classroom space for K-3 reduction
- Overcrowding - would the school board partner with charter schools to help with enrollment?
- Do developers pay fees to district when they build their housing developments?

- New construction definitely leading to new enrollment – what does EPS partnership in planning with private developers look like?
- Big property tax increase due to levy, STS, rising property values – concern over how to market and pass a new bond. The alternative to building/bond not pleasant.
- Concerns – Woodside remodel – what does that mean for our children?
- What is the timeline for opening Elementary No. 18?
- What is the timeline for opening Woodside ES?
- Has EPS considered different models of student learning opportunities vs traditional school models? Some examples are:
 - 10% of HS online learning
 - 25% of HS with half on-line and half in class
 - Divert resources to teach students how to learn on-line, virtual learning, etc.
 - This could save dollars and lessen the need for so many buildings when looking at the trend of increasing enrollments
- Portables do not (*provide*) the support needed in the services of programs
 - example – extra classroom space does not help science classes and the need for lab space and water
 - need more bathrooms, space for cafeteria
- Do class sizes get smaller as kids get into high grades?
- Is there a class size limit that you staff for?
- This year at Woodside ES, teacher changes were done due to class size. What happens next year?