
MEMORANDUM

TO: HEARING EXAMINER
FROM: STAFF, SARAH VANAGS, ASSOCIATE PLANNER
SUBJECT: REDMOND SCHOOL CAPACITY AND BOUNDARY PLANS
DATE: AUGUST 5, 2015
CC: FILE

Attached is the final approved recommendation by the Lake Washington School Board for student capacity and allocation by school.

The documents show how many current and future students will be reallocated from a school within the current boundary to a new school established by the updated final 2015 boundary recommendations. This approved recommendation addresses capacity projections through 2018. The school district does not currently have a plan developed to meet projections beyond 2018.

Kathryn Reith with the Lake Washington School district confirmed that the memo previously released by the school district regarding the assigned schools for students from new developments within North Redmond has been superseded by the attached document and approved re-boundaries. Additionally, she has expressed that the school district is extremely aware of the over-capacity crisis in North Redmond. The Lake Washington School District attempted to pass a levy for a new school within North Redmon. The school district is looking into alternative solutions to the current capacity issues and obtaining additional funding for a new school.

The re-boundary as adopted does not affect safe school routes for children from the new development proposed. The children will be provide bus transportation and currently have safe pedestrian access as required by law.

Link to document:

<http://www.lwsd.org/News/Reboundary/Pages/default.aspx>

Contact information for Kathryn M. Reith : 425-936-1342

Description of Recommendation, Redmond Learning Community

This section is stating how many students from one school will now be required to attend the other school listed. For example, 65 future students of North Redmond will be required to attend Rockwell. Additionally, it shows the capacity projections through 2018.

Note: Descriptions are approximate. Please review the map for exact specifications.

- Alcott Lake Road to Blackwell Elementary (maintains middle school at IMS) (79 students, 1 future student)
- Dickinson to Wilder – N. of Novelty Hill Rd/E. of Redmond Ridge Dr (1 student)
- Dickinson to Alcott – E. of 59th CT/S. of NE 62nd St (91 students); and E. of 235th Ave NE (44 students)
- Einstein to Dickinson – E. of Avondale Rd NE/S. of Novelty Hill Rd(28 students, 4 future students); NW of Avondale Road/E. of 179th Ave NE (The Colony) (60 students)
- Rockwell to Mann – E. of 176th Pl NE/N. of NE 104th St (Abbey Road) (67 students)
- Rockwell to Redmond – W. of 156th Ave NE/S. Of NE 90th St. (Avalon Parkplace) (44 students)
- Mann to Einstein/Rockwell – move all temporary boundary change development areas back to original school (29 Einstein, 65 Rockwell future students)
- Wilder to Einstein – Hussy Plat development area (10 future students)

Approximate number of current students affected: 414

Approximate number from future development: 109

Approximate number of elementary students moving from Redmond Middle feeder to Evergreen Middle feeder: 88 (impact to Middle schools: 44)

Enrollment and classroom capacity projections

Capacity Summary							
Elementary School	Classrooms Available			Classrooms Needed			
	14-15*	Capacity to be added	15-16 through 17-18	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18
Alcott	23	4	27	22	26	25	26
Dickinson	19	1	20	19	20	21	22
Einstein	19	1	20	20	18	19	21
Mann	21		21	20	20	20	19
Redmond	16	11	27	15	20	23	24
Rockwell	26		26	28	25	25	25
Rosa Parks	31	1	32	26	28	28	28
Wilder	27		27	24	25	25	26
Total	182	18	200	174	182	186	191

*Includes existing portables. Redmond El available classrooms will be 21 in 2015-16 and 27 in 2016-17 and beyond

Note: Shaded area indicates school would be over available classroom capacity

Enrollment Projection						
Elementary School	Approximate Capacity*		Enrollment*			
	14-15	15-16	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18
Alcott	529	621	531	590	594	615
Dickinson	473	484	493	478	508	533
Einstein	437	460	482	424	450	474
Mann	483	507	470	484	483	473
Redmond	392	645	381	490	550	591
Rockwell	598	598	673	585	594	609
Rosa Parks	713	736	609	647	665	657
Wilder	621	621	580	601	603	610
Total	4,246	4,672	4,219	4,299	4,447	4,562

*Enrollment and capacity numbers excludes Quest (add 114 students at Alcott, 100 students at Redmond)

Enrollment projections are based on current enrollments, King County birth rates, plus known planned development. Projections do not include assumptions for grandfathering.

Frequently Asked Questions: Temporary Boundary Change for Einstein and Rockwell Elementary Schools

FAQs about the space issues in the Redmond Learning Community, as well as potential solutions and the temporary boundary committee

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History and causes

Q. Why didn't the district build a school to accommodate the growth in student enrollment for the Rockwell and Einstein attendance areas?

A. In 2010, the district sought voter approval of a bond measure that included funding for the construction of two new schools in Redmond Learning Community. Unfortunately, the measure did not pass. The district has placed a new bond measure on the ballot in February 2014, which includes funding for a new school in the North Redmond area. If that bond passes, a new school would be built and would open in the 2016-2017 school year.

Q. Why doesn't the district prevent the construction of new homes in Redmond if schools are over capacity?

A. Home construction is regulated by King County in unincorporated areas and by the City of Redmond within Redmond city limits. The law does not allow home construction to be prohibited so long as the local district has student capacity within the entire school district, not just in a specific attendance area. There is some capacity in other schools but our district covers 75 square miles: some of that capacity is far away.

Q. Why doesn't the district require developers to pay for new schools to be made available prior to home construction?

A. State law does not permit a school district or local jurisdiction to require developers to pay for the construction of a school before homes are constructed. The law does allow city and county governments to require the payment of school impact fees, but those fees provide for less than 10% of the total cost of school construction. The Lake Washington School District does pursue the payment of school impact fees to the extent permitted by law. The City of Redmond adopts district impact fee schedules (single family and multi-family unit residences) on an annual basis.

Alternative solutions

Q. Why doesn't the district just place additional portable classrooms at Rockwell and Einstein?

A. The two school sites do not physically support the placement of additional portables. We would not be able to get permits to place additional portables on the sites. If it was possible to add portables, more students would tax the school's infrastructure and shared spaces, like the cafeteria, even more than they are now.

Q. Why doesn't the district increase class size at Rockwell and Einstein?

A. The district has a standard for how it staffs schools, providing a certain number of teachers for the total number of students in various grade levels. It would not be fair to Einstein and Rockwell students to be in significantly larger classes than other students and could affect their learning. The same issue of taxing the school's infrastructure and shared spaces would still apply.

Proposed scenarios

Q. Did the committee look at many different possibilities?

A. Based on the input from the school communities, the committee only considered scenarios limited to unoccupied housing developments for reassignment to Mann Elementary. Given the number of additional students expected in the Rockwell and Einstein areas, there were only a few possibilities that met the need.

Q. How did the committee determine which scenarios to share with parents?

A. The committee developed complete data on each possible scenario, including how many students at which grades would move to Mann, how it would impact the number of classrooms needed in each school, and the impact on the availability of All Day Kindergarten. They analyzed the impact of each scenario, its pros and cons, and came to consensus on which ones to present.

Q. Will the final boundary be one of these two scenarios?

A. The committee will consider the input from parents in determining if they should recommend one of these two scenarios as they are currently outlined or make modifications. They will present the recommended scenario to the superintendent, who will determine what to present to the school board. When the district created a new boundary for Carson Elementary School in Sammamish, the committee modified one of its final three scenarios based on public input and recommended that altered scenario to the superintendent. It ultimately was adopted by the school board with that change.

Q. Who will make the final decision?

A. The superintendent will make a recommendation to the school board, who will make the final decision.

Q. Why didn't you develop scenarios that adjust attendance boundaries so that all schools are within the schools' student capacities?

A. All elementary schools within the Redmond Learning Community exceed permanent capacity. Mann Elementary can accommodate the placement of four portable classrooms. If the bond measure passes, authorizing the funding of additional elementary schools, a broader boundary adjustment process will be undertaken.

Student numbers

Q. Why does the district allow variances into Rockwell and Einstein when they are overcrowded?

A. The schools have been closed to variances with very few exceptions, only as required by law.

Q. Will adding more students to Mann mean bigger classes?

A. No. The district uses the same staffing formula for all schools. Mann will get more teachers to serve the additional students based on that formula.

Educational program decisions

Q. Will schools have the same number of All Day Kindergarten (ADK) classrooms available?

A. District standards call for one ADK at each school. If additional space is available, the school may provide additional ADK opportunities. If ADK demand exceeds the available classrooms, a lottery is used to determine placement. The two different scenarios affect the projected availability of classrooms for ADK at each of the three schools.

Q. When will a decision be made as to the number of ADK classes that will be available?

A. Kindergarten registration will begin on February 6. The all-day kindergarten lottery will be held on February 12 to determine which students will attend the available sections of ADK.

Q. Will classroom space be available for Arts and Science?

A. District standards do not provide for dedicated classrooms at any elementary school for arts and science. District standards do require one music room per elementary school. If classroom space is available, the principal may decide to reserve spaces for other uses.

Other facility use

Q. Will the Rockwell, Einstein, and Mann PTSA be allowed to use portable space for programs?

A. While the contribution of the PTSA is fully recognized and greatly appreciated, district classroom-use standards do not provide for a dedicated PTSA room at any school. If space is available, it is within the prerogative of the principal to provide such a space to the PTSA.

Q. Does Mann have after school care?

A. The YMCA of Greater Seattle runs a before and after school care program at Mann Elementary School.

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