



## Elementary Redistricting Committee **Agenda & Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020; 6:00 PM

**Location:** Via Zoom

**Attendees:** Elena Mack, David O'Donnell (Co-Chairs) **Members:** Angela Cassel, Rachel Davish, Jason Gerhart, Todd Hippauf, Laura Hottenstein, Tiziana Jones, Bobbie Keller, Roberta Rogers, James Zepp **Alternates:** Toni Becker, Susan Gable, Glen Iosue, Tera Remick

**Administration:** Nancianne Edwards, Assistant Superintendent; Wayne McCullough, Consultant; Eric Thompson, Principal SGC; Zach Garger, Acting Principal Pfaff

**Unable to Attend:** Jennifer Klady, Rachel Davish, and Zach Schoch, Chief Operating Officer

**Committee Goal: Charge to the Elementary Reassignment Options Committee**

The Committee is charged to (1) Develop options for the grade level configuration and redistricting of elementary (or K-6) students to be implemented at the start of the 2021-22 school year (2) Evaluate those options based on impact on academic program, impact on students and families, cost-effectiveness, efficiency, impact on facilities (including the future use of Quakertown Elementary and the Sixth Grade Center), requirement for construction, renovations, or modular classrooms, impact on transportation, impact on personnel savings, and other criteria as the committee deems appropriate. (3) Report its findings, decision matrix, and recommendations to the Board no later than January 31, 2021.

**Meeting Objectives:** To provide additional clarity around meeting logistics and agenda - review decision matrix from 2017 and establish needs for decision making moving forward.

**Schedule [120 mins]**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Mins.</b>	<b>Activity</b>
6:00 - 6:05 pm	5	<b>Welcome and Introduction of New Member (Elena and David)</b> <i>Mrs. Mack welcomed Rachel Davish who was an alternate for Richland as a new member due to one of the Richland members withdrawing from the committee.</i>
6:05 - 6:15pm	10	<b>Meeting Summary from 13 October (NE, EM, DD, WM)</b> <i>Mrs. Mack highlighted the topics covered in the planning meeting with Mr. O'Donnell, Mr. McCullough, Ms. Edwards, and herself. Elena and David will rotate in planning the agenda. Any items to be added should be sent to Elena for inclusion: <a href="mailto:elena_mack@ymail.com">elena_mack@ymail.com</a>. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Eileen and reach out to your alternate to ensure attendance</i>
6:15- 6:20pm	5	<b>Role of Alternates (David) ensure representation/ opinion counts</b> <i>Mr. O'Donnell expressed the need for all committee members to participate in the discussions. Alternates are not required to attend but are welcome to attend. The idea is if a member cannot make the meeting, the alternate can attend. Alternate members are welcome to participate and share their ideas.</i>
6:20 - 6:35pm	15	<b>Output of Summary (Elena &amp; David)</b> <i>Based on the Committee survey results, QE, SGC, and NES were the most requested schools to tour. Once the main points of the decision matrix have been determined, tours can be scheduled and the questions for principals can be narrowed down to give the principals ample time to answer the questions in advance. Tours will follow all Health &amp; Safety protocols and will only occur when there are no students in the buildings.</i>  <i>Ms. Edwards shared the new 2019 birth rate data. She indicated that these births were not impacted by COVID and there were 30 less births from 2018 to 2019. The five-year enrollment data was updated with the 2019 births using a one, three and five-year grade progression. The one-year progression shows extreme loss due to the pandemic. The one-year change is not representative over the five years. Using the three and five-year average of grade progression ratio changes - five years is the best to use for budgeting. Enrollment continues to decline. The five-year grade progression shows slightly over 4,000 students a decline from where we are now. Even if 100 students who left the district due to COVID come back, the trend is declining enrollment and it is slightly accelerating.</i>

<p>6:35-7:45pm</p>	<p>70</p>	<p><b>Decision Matrix from 2017 Review (David)</b></p> <p><i>There was extensive discussion among the Committee regarding the Decision Matrix and the weighted value of those impacts. Mr. McCullough explained that the PDE has a rated capacity for each building and gyms, multipurpose rooms, and cafeteria space is also considered. He further addressed the financial impact of what a school district can pay. School Districts are only permitted to raise taxes by a certain index. They have to weigh the cost of projects or reduction in services; is there the ability to pay for long-term projects.</i></p> <p><i>Items the Committee will consider: historical value of QE; importance of economic equality and diversity in the buildings; Title 1 schools and funding (this should not be affected); decisions on full day kindergarten (financial reasons unlikely - not viable for five-year plan); the cost to renovate QE into an administrative building; selling the 663 administrative building; could the Academy fit in the SGC with the 6th grade class (60 students ½ day - 30 students at a time); decline in middle school enrollment (1 year of 6, 7, 8 in Strayer would be crowded then would even out in 22-23);</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Gerhart shared Southern Lehigh and Upper Perk's school configurations: SL - K-3, 4-5, 6, 7-8, 9-12 UP - K-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-12</i></p> <p><i>Mrs. Roberts and Mr. Gerhart asked about what would happen if students return who left the district this year due to the pandemic. Mrs. Edwards advised that if potentially half of the students who withdrew returned, it would only be about 10-12 students per grade and would not have a huge impact on the final decision. Mr. O'Donnell inquired if there would be enough capacity in the buildings. Ms. Edwards explained that it should be erred on the side of leaving too much room instead of overcrowding.</i></p> <p><i>Questions were asked to Mr. Thompson about the sixth-grade student experience. Mr. Thompson stated the SGC has an experienced staff of middle level teachers and it is a unifying place for all elementary students. This is the first time all these students come together and will stay together through 12th grade. Mr. Gerhart asked about combining 5th and 6th grade students. Mr. Thompson said they can make anything work; however, what are you willing to trade to make it work. Mrs. Gable contributed that some schools are grades 5-8 and some are K-6 and that some students transition to middle school well and some do not. Ms. Edwards expressed that there is no research document which identifies one configuration that yields better outcomes. There is no right answer. Mr. McCullough suggested that there will need to be discussions regarding kindergarten and 6th grade as they are both unique. He also suggested using Forecast5 a program that is used to show different scenarios to show all the financial options.</i></p>
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7:45 - 8:00 pm	15	<b>Public Comment</b> <i>Mr. Spear suggested inviting Dr. Leight to speak to the committee regarding the history of QE.</i>
7:53 pm	N/A	<b>Adjourn</b> <b>Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 21, 2020</b>