



Elementary Redistricting Committee **AGENDA and MINUTES**

Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2020; 6:00 PM

Location: Via Zoom

Attendees: Angela Cassel, Zach Garger, Jason Gerhart, Christina Harmonosky, Todd Hippauf, Laura Hottenstein, Tiziana Jones, Bobbie Keller, Jennifer Klady, Elana Mack, David O'Donnell, Roberta Marie Rogers, Eric Thompson, James Zepp Alternates: Toni Becker, Rachel Davish, Susan Gable, Glenn Iosue, Tera Remick Guest: Jim Ficcaro

Unable to Attend:

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:

- Welcome and Introductions
- Review Charge to the Committee
- Comments from former Committee member, Jim Ficcaro
- Review Tools
- Discuss Process
- Determine Information Needs
- Set Future Meeting Schedule
- Public Comments

Schedule [120 mins]

Time	Mins.	Activity
------	-------	----------

6:00- 6:20 pm	20	<p>Welcome and Introductions (N. Edwards)</p> <p>Each member and alternate will introduce themselves and share three words that represent why they volunteered for the committee.</p> <p><i>Each member introduced themselves and the three words they shared were used to create a Wordel (see in Team Drive). Major three words used: Involvement, Community, and Service</i></p>
6:20- 6:30 pm	10	<p>Review Charge to the Committee (N. Edwards)</p> <p>See Charge language above in the agenda</p> <p><i>Ms. Edwards discussed the overview and charge provided by the Board. Discussion of the future use of SGC and QE. The committee makes recommendations to the Board and Board is the final decision-maker.</i></p>
6:30- 7:00 pm	30	<p>Comments from 2014 Redistricting Committee member, Jim Ficarra</p> <p>Jim was instrumental in the work of the 2014 Redistricting Committee and was the driving force behind the creating of the committee. Jim has agreed to come and share his experiences with the new committee and to answer any committee member questions.</p> <p><i>Ms. Edwards explained about "open areas" and historical soft boundaries in the district prior to 2015-2016. Balanced class sizes, divided neighborhoods. Introduced Jim Ficarra, a parent-leader who participated in the process in the fall of 2014.</i></p> <p><i>Jim Ficarra spoke about the experience in the previous committee. Shared some of the challenges faced in 2014. Three categories of challenges:</i></p> <p><i>Goals-defined by the board, understand the problems and challenges deeply, impact on students and families, class sizes, busing, costs, facility limitations</i></p> <p><i>Resources and Support-what is possible, available, feasible, gathering data, information, scenarios from the administration and teachers, own research as a group, what is happening around the country, every effort to minimize the human impact</i></p> <p><i>Group Dynamics-remaining focused, realign conversations to focus upon the goals, five stages-forming, storming, norming, performing, adjourning</i></p>

		<p><i>Ms. Edwards shared the ability to hire a PASBO consultant to complete geo-mapping and other specific tasks. Expertise in the administration to provide information, as well as a "disinterested" third-party.</i></p> <p><i>Inquiry into whether the group was interested in selecting co-chairs.</i></p> <p><i>Prime directive to guide the committee's work in the past. Is this the desire of the group? Can help in guiding and decision making.</i></p>
7:00-7:10 pm	10	<p>Review Tools - Google Team Drive Access</p> <p>Members will be sent a link to accept access to the Team Drive set up for the committee. Update: We are waiting to confirm that everyone is ok with their personal e-mail and phone being shared in the team drive with the committee members (only) and then will share the drive.</p> <p>Tools shared at the meeting (that will be added to the Team Drive) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Log of e-mails received Enrollment Projections through 2025-26 Sample blank Decision Matrix template Decision Matrix template from TV Reassignment Sample enrollment by different grade groupings Sample enrollment/section analysis worksheet <p><i>-Team drive for the committee</i></p> <p><i>-Development of a possible decision matrix, similar to the process in the TV committee in 2017.</i></p> <p><i>-Building capacity analysis documents</i></p>
7:10-7:30 pm	20	<p>Discuss Process</p> <p>Determine Information Needs</p> <p>The Committee will first have to work through building usage and grade level configuration options to identify one or more preferred approaches. Then new boundary lines will need to be determined that meet the Committee's objectives.</p>

		<p>Some suggested items the Committee will need (thank you to Mr. Gerhart for providing his suggestions):</p> <p>Building capacities and room layout, limitations, restrictions, and any other vital building information</p> <p>Current and former QCSD boundary lines of the last 3 schoolwide redistricting and when they were completed (Covering at least 10 years)? <i>Ms. Edwards note: This information would only be available for the 2014 redistricting and the Tohickon Valley Reassignment committee.</i></p> <p>Former QCSD redistricting committee meeting minutes of the last 3 schoolwide redistricting (Covering at least 10 years) <i>Ms. Edwards note: This information would only be available for the 2014 redistricting (to some extent) and the Tohickon Valley Reassignment committee.</i></p> <p>Questions from Committee members:</p> <p><i>Question from D. O'Donnell about how the previous group identified the priorities-driven by objectives, spirit of objectives.</i></p> <p><i>-Question from R. Rogers about how to create a group in a remote atmosphere-strategies from previous group to work through contentious issues and have cooler heads prevail-responsible and accountable to each other, open-mindedness</i></p>
7:30-7:40 pm	10	<p>Set Future Meeting Schedule</p> <p>The committee members identified Wednesday evenings as the best time to meet and we identified the following meeting dates. Dates in brackets are possible alternates or additional meeting dates if needed, so members are encouraged to reserve all of the dates even though some might not be needed. Meeting times will be 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Meetings will be virtual so watch for a meeting link the day before each meeting.</p> <p>Wednesday, September 23, 2020 Wednesday, October 7, 2020 [Wednesday, October 14, 2020] Wednesday, October 21, 2020 Wednesday, November 11, 2020 [Wednesday, November 18, 2020] Wednesday, December 9, 2020 Wednesday, January 6, 2021</p>

		<p><i>[Wednesday, January 13, 2021]</i></p> <p>Wednesday, January 21, 2021</p> <p>A mailbox has been set up for parents to submit questions or comments to the committee - ElemRedistrict@qcsd.org The email address will be published after this meeting and will be monitored beginning on September 24.</p> <p>Thank you all for coming and agreeing to serve! See you on October 7!</p> <p><i>Meetings will be held virtually at this time. It may be possible to have an in-person meeting but uncertain at this time.</i></p>
7:40-8:00 pm	20	<p>Public Comments</p> <p><i>Roberta Rogers-Question about how reality matched the projections of the TV closure.</i></p> <p><i>Withdrawals in the last three months? 209</i></p> <p><i>Floor plans and equity for all students with regard to special-areas</i></p> <p><i>Different grade breakdowns - does this affect teacher certifications?</i></p> <p><i>New developments and zoning, class size balancing at grade levels, building usage and IU fairshare</i></p> <p><i>Student teacher ratio target for each school - currently unbalanced due to hard boundaries.</i></p> <p><i>How is IU and special education using spaces designated by buildings?</i></p> <p><i>How accurate are enrollment projections? Will explain methodology when giving numbers. Any model has pros and cons underlying the way it is set up. Can capture trends based on history but not capture spikes caused by some event.</i></p> <p><i>Initial Questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>-Partner with PASBO for a consultant-Mr. Hippauf</i> <i>-Two-fold process-redistrict, then decision about QE-Mr. Hippauf</i> <i>-Process flowchart, previously used in the state and country-Mrs. Mack</i>

		<p>-Current staffing and class sizes-Mrs. Gable</p> <p>-Busing-Mrs. Gable</p> <p>-Projected and possible retirement, staffing needs-Mrs. Gable</p> <p>-"Pain points" to address-class sizes, ratios, art on a cart, equity issues-Mrs. Klady</p> <p>-What space exists in the buildings (outside of the pandemic)-Mrs. Roberts</p> <p>Organization for the group-agenda for the next meeting - Mrs. O'Donnell</p> <p>What are important priorities for the redistricting committee in general (equity? travel times? class sizes?) - Mrs. Rogers</p>
--	--	--