

Kennedy Jr. High
Community Council Meeting
August 27, 2008 – 3:00 p.m.

In attendance: Angie Christensen, Claudette Connell, Cathy Fuller, Amy Gerritson, Debbie Guymon, Kim Hemmert, Dr. Bill Kenley, Senator Karen Mayne, Lisa Peterson, Jeanne Quann, Beverly Thatcher, and Cherilyn Bramall.

Dr. Kenley – Welcome and thank you for taking the time to meet this afternoon. We will turn the meeting over to Bryce Holbrook and Michael Duncan from the Granite School District.

Mr. Holbrook – I want to thank everyone for reconvening this afternoon. We want to be accurate and informative with this information on the proposed boundary changes and be able to take your message to the Board members. I would like to take your recommendation back to the Board based on the information gathered by the Population Analysis Committee which we will present today. The board will decide whether or not this matter should go one step further to an open house in October. If this did go to an open house, Board members would be present to listen to feedback from parents.

The attached PowerPoint presentation was presented and discussed.

Concerns/Discussion:

What is the physical size of each of the Jr. High Schools? Which is bigger?

Mr. Holbrook - Kennedy Jr. High is a much larger school. The figures in the presentation are based on utilization capacity that is as the buildings are currently being used now. Hunter Jr – 1080 students and Kennedy Jr. – 1250 students.

Concern was brought up that the numbers that are projected with the change in boundary are much higher for Kennedy Jr. than were presented last week. Mr. Holbrook reviewed the numbers and added each grade as it rotated into the Jr. High, making the numbers more accurate. The numbers are also based on 100% of students in the area will attend their home school and that doesn't happen.

In the meeting that was held last summer, we as a community council decided that we felt this change would be shifting the enrollment problem from Hunter Jr. to Kennedy Jr. We proposed a secondary recommendation that we move 50 students from Silver Hills. Eventually Kennedy Jr. will get 50 students added to the school due to the growth in the boundaries of Silver Hills. Mr. Holbrook was unaware of any of this discussion since he joined the project.

What is the outlook for hiring teachers? A larger population of students can be a benefit for a school. The number of FTE we are given is determined by the district based on our enrollment. As the number of students goes up so does the number of teachers. Right

now we are adding and dropping students and won't have a set number for a couple of weeks. At that point we make adjustments in the number of teachers.

As a Community Council we re-wrote our trustlands budget to pay for additional teachers to keep the class size down. There is a real problem at Hunter High school where classes are big. We do not want big classes at this school.

If more students were to come to Kennedy would it increase the number of rels that we have? Now the rels are being used for a Parent Center, SL County after school program, Skills for Success classes and 3 classrooms.

Would we have a choice as to what kind of students come to Kennedy? Mr. Holbrook - In our studies, we don't study demographics. That would be considered discriminatory.

This was turned down in the spring, why is it being brought up again? Mr. Holbrook - We wanted to better express numbers and make sure accurate information was being given to the community councils at all schools involved.

Is Kennedy on its way to becoming a Title 1 school? We have been told that we aren't receiving Title 1 money but on the verge of being a Title 1 school. Mr. Holbrook - There are two Title 1 Jr. High Schools in the district. This school would never become a Title 1 Jr. High.

Who generated the numbers? Mr. Holbrook - Hunter Jr. requested the study in February/March because of their growth. The Population Analysis Committee was then asked by the Board to do a study and meet with the individual councils.

Who originated the original boundary changed in 05/06? Mr. Holbrook - That was done by the District to better align High School networks.

How do the parents at Jackling elementary feel? Mr. Holbrook - We are meeting with them at 1:00 tomorrow.

Could a portion of the proposed change be split in half? We could take half and Hunter Jr. could take half. We understand the problem and would like to help alleviate the problem at Hunter Jr. However we don't want to create the same problem here.

With special permits, parents have the choice to attend either school - theoretically.

Could our counselors go to Jackling in the spring with registration and "sell" the school to increase the number of students that special permit to Kennedy? Could we add something to the newsletter that we have space for students to special permit here? Dr. Kenley - We have to be careful to not recruit students. Technically right now we have stopped taking permits until we have finished our registration. We have some that we are holding on to that I feel confident we will be able to take.

Senator Mayne – I want the Council to know that whatever decision you make, I will support you 100%. But, be careful of what you do. It will be done and there will be no way to change.

There is growth in this area. Academy Park has a very high enrollment this year. Our community is changing. Our ESL and homeless populations are growing. With the changes in our economy, people are moving to the west side of the valley.

Would the district build an addition to Kennedy Jr. High? Mr Holbrook – most likely no. Kennedy has the largest sq. footage out of all Jr. High's in the district. The district would expand by building an additional Jr. High, which could be a decade out.

Dr. Kenley – It seems to me that as a Community Council we have three choices, which are:

- Accept
- Reject
- Further study – look at other options

A vote was taken on each of the choices.

3 in favor of Rejecting the boundary changes as proposed
2 in favor of Accepting the boundary changes as proposed
4 in favor of looking at other options to help the problem.

The following response was given to Mr. Holbrook to take to the Board.

The majority of Committee does not support the possible changes as currently presented. We would however be open to further options to help alleviate the over crowding at Hunter Jr. High.