

**CITIZEN PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
November 3, 2008
MEETING SUMMARY**

Subcommittee Work

The subcommittees met separately from 6:30 – 7:45.

General Meeting

Laura Barnes-Johnson, CPC Chair, welcomed everyone and introduced Kristy Eloranta, our new representative from Cedar Valley Community School and Larry Ehl, our new Board Position #2 representative. New rosters have been sent electronically.

Subcommittee Reports

Education – Co Chairs, Jason Strayer and Lisa Speer

Progress Reporting - Vicki Williams, Miriam Callaghan and Sam Gladstein presented information on what is available on Skyward for elementary schools vs. middle/high schools, and the various options used by different schools. They also reviewed the grading systems at all levels (K-12) and the different options used by teachers and different grading periods used by various schools.

Highly Capable Middle School Program – Tony Byrd updated the committee on the highly capable program at Brier Terrace Middle School. The district is intending to make a recommendation to the school board by December 16, 2008 to create this program.

Transportation– Chair, Darylyn Phraner

Craig Christensen, Director of Transportation, shared the latest bus ridership numbers with the committee. There is a need to increase ridership at choice schools, to make the cost of the busses equitable with the rest of the district. The transportation department looks at the average cost/student and is already very efficient. Based on the newest numbers, they are on target to hit the projected savings from the change in start times implemented fall, 2008. Currently 60% of transportation funding comes from the state, with 40% from local levy dollars.

Boundaries & Enrollment – Chair, Kate Shelby Martin

Laura Barnes Johnson, Chair, reviewed the by-laws as they pertain to voting and the process for subcommittee recommendations. Ellen Kahan, Assistant Superintendent, presented the final recommendation for the closure and consolidation of Woodway Elementary.

The following recommendation was presented:

Edmonds School District
Citizens Planning Committee
Enrollment Subcommittee
Second Reading Recommendation for Woodway Closure
November 3, 2008

At the request of the Edmonds School District Board of Directors the enrollment and boundaries subcommittee of the Citizens Planning Committee (CPC) has studied and developed plans for the closure of Woodway Elementary School. Closure of the school is being considered to reduce annual operational costs for the school district. For the 2008-2009 operating budget the district reduced 3.3 million dollars as a result of limited resources and increased costs. In order to be fiscally responsible, the district must continue to reduce costs and build capacity to meet budget challenges. The basic overhead required to operate an elementary school in the 2008-2009 school year has been estimated to be \$722,000 a year. Thus, taking one or more elementary schools out of service and providing an appropriate and equitable educational program for students at another facility would result in a substantial reduction of operational costs.

The proposal has been developed by the subcommittee and approved by CPC with additional input from staff, parents and community members. The final proposal was developed after careful consideration of a variety of possible closure options and with careful consideration for the students and families who will be impacted.

Recommendations:

1. CPC recommends that the boundaries of Woodway/Westgate/Sherwood Elementary Schools be redefined to consolidate the three school programs into Westgate and Sherwood Elementary Schools. All students currently residing in the Woodway attendance area and living east of Edmonds Way and Highway 99 access will attend Westgate Elementary. Students residing west of Edmonds Way and Highway 99 access will attend Sherwood Elementary. (See attached map for new boundary details.)
2. CPC recommends that upon approval of the Woodway closure proposal by the School Board, Westgate and Sherwood Elementary Schools be closed to open enrollment for the balance of the 2008-2009 school year. All current Woodway students will be assigned the same status as students enrolled in Westgate or Sherwood for purposes of class placement for the 2009-2010 school year.
3. CPC recommends that the choice be provided to Woodway students currently enrolled in fifth grade at Woodway to go Sherwood Elementary for their sixth grade year with transportation provided.
4. CPC recommends that upon approval by the School Board of the proposed closure plan for Woodway, Westgate, and Sherwood Elementary Schools be closed to open enrollment for a period of at least two years.

Darylyn Phraner moved that the CPC accept the recommendation. Ken Bogle seconded. The vote was as follows: Those in favor – 29, those opposed – 0, abstentions – 0. Motion passed.

Sue Venable, Assistant Superintendent, presented the final recommendation for the closure and consolidation of Evergreen Elementary.

The following recommendation was presented:

Edmonds School District

Citizens Planning Committee
Enrollment Subcommittee
Second Reading Recommendation for Evergreen Closure
November 3, 2008

At the request of the Edmonds School District Board of Directors the enrollment and boundaries subcommittee of the Citizens Planning Committee (CPC) has studied and developed plans for the closure of Evergreen Elementary School and the consolidation of Terrace Park Middle School in to Brier Terrace Middle School. Closure of the school is being considered to reduce annual operational costs for the school district. For the 2008-2009 operating budget the district reduced 3.3 million dollars as a result of limited resources and increased costs. In order to be fiscally responsible, the district must continue to reduce costs and build capacity to meet budget challenges. The basic overhead required to operate an elementary school in the 2008-2009 school has been estimated to be \$722,000 a year. Thus, taking one or more elementary schools out of service and providing an appropriate and equitable educational program for students at another facility would result in a substantial reduction of operational costs.

The proposal has been developed by the subcommittee and approved by CPC with additional input from staff, parents and community members. The final proposal was developed after careful consideration of a variety of possible closure options and with careful consideration for the students and families who will be impacted.

The Citizens Planning Committee recommends the following:

1. That the boundaries of Evergreen Elementary, Terrace Park School, and Mountlake Terrace Elementary be redefined to consolidate the Evergreen students into Terrace Park School and Mountlake Terrace Elementary. The new boundary bisects the former Evergreen attendance area as follows:
 - a) At the intersection of 244th St SW & 52nd Av W, trace 52nd Av W north to the intersection of 236th St SW & 52nd Av W
 - b) Trace 236th St SW west to the freeway
 - c) Follow the freeway north to the extension of 228th St SW

All students currently living in the Evergreen attendance area west of the newly defined boundary line will attend Mountlake Terrace Elementary.

All students currently living in the Evergreen attendance area east of the newly defined boundary line will attend Terrace Park School.

2. That upon approval of the Evergreen closure proposal by the School Board, Mountlake Terrace Elementary, and Terrace Park School be closed to open enrollment for the balance of the 2008-2009 school year. All current Evergreen students, including out-of-service-area students, will be assigned the same status as students enrolled in Mountlake Terrace Elementary or Terrace Park for purposes of class placement for the 2009-2010 school year.

3. That a choice be provided to Evergreen students currently enrolled in fifth grade at Evergreen to go Terrace Park School for their sixth grade year with transportation provided.
4. That upon approval by the School Board of the proposed closure plan for Evergreen, Mountlake Terrace Elementary and Terrace Park School would be closed to open enrollment for a period of at least two years.
5. That Terrace Park School be realigned from a K-8 program to a K-6 program, with the middle school program being moved to Brier Terrace Middle School.

Darylyn Phraner moved that the CPC accept the recommendation. Tim Fitzgerald seconded. The vote was as follows: Those in favor – 28, those opposed – 1, abstentions – 0. Motion passed.

Two community meetings are being held at Woodway Elementary later this week. A community meeting will be held at Evergreen Elementary on November 13, 2008, and at Terrace Park School on December 2, 2008.

Announcements

The next CPC meeting will be held on December 1, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the ESC.