

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 303**  
**School Configuration Committee**  
Meeting Minutes

**Date:** December 12, 2012  
**Place:** Board Room – Commodore Campus  
**Time:** 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Welcome & Update

Superintendent Faith Chapel welcomed committee members and announced the last of the major research/background areas – demographics and staffing – would be the topic for the meeting. She also asked folks to forward to her attention, other information items they would like covered prior to beginning scenario discussions in January. It was noted the demographic report completed in May 2012 had been provided to the committee for review prior to this meeting. Director of Facilities and Capital Projects Tamela Van Winkle would provide highlights from that report, followed by small group discussions. At the conclusion of the small group discussions, the larger group will form again and receive staffing information by individual schools. The whole group will talk about next steps at the end of the meeting. Ms. Chapel made note that two other demographic studies had been completed for the district, one during the creation of the 2005 District Master Plan, and one conducted during 2008.

Demographic Data

Ms. Van Winkle presented highlights from the Bainbridge Island School District (BISD) Enrollment Trends and Projections Report produced in May 2012 by Les Kendrick – Educational Data Solutions, LLC. She began her presentation with a review of the report’s Executive Summary, noting the District’s enrollment had declined in recent years after an extended period of growth. During the period of growth, demographic data indicated continued growth and the possible need for a new middle school and, perhaps, a new elementary school. Considering this data, the district purchased land (Sands Avenue) identified as a site for a new elementary school. In the past decade, enrollment at the high school increased. Ms. Van Winkle noted with this increase, the high school did not have a core facility that would support student enrollment over 900, and the district addressed this need.

In the past decade, enrollment growth has slowed on Bainbridge Island, in the county, and across the Puget Sound region. This is a reflection of fewer births and slower population growth. New and existing home sales have slowed since 2006 in both the county and the district, leading to a net loss of students since that time. Forecasts of enrollment for the district extend out over a 10 year period in the report, with a range of forecasts that include low, medium, and high enrollment predictions. Tending to be on the conservative side, Ms. Van Winkle noted the district will consider the medium range forecast.

Ms. Van Winkle stated the purpose of the May 2012 demographic study was to provide an update of the long range enrollment projections. Keeping with board practice of updating the district’s demographics every three years is critical to support the decisions related to budget,

facilities and staffing. The report is divided into distinct sections: enrollment and demographic trends of the past two decades; key demographic indicators for future enrollment (births, population growth, census data, new housing); and a discussion of the methodology and assumptions used in the final forecasts. The group reviewed graphs depicting the K-12 enrollment trends for school districts in Kitsap County and the percent of county K-12 enrollment by individual school district from 1991 – 2011. The data indicates BISD enrollment was at its highest in 2005 at 4,223 to an enrollment of 3,858 in 2011, which is a loss of 8.6%. After reviewing the enrollment highs and lows of other Kitsap County school districts, it was noted one of the drivers of population growth is jobs – and there are few large employers in Kitsap County. It was noted most of the growth in K-12 enrollment in the Puget Sound region since 2007 has been concentrated in a few select districts, with either major employment centers or that are close to major job centers. These include Seattle, Bellevue, Lake Washington, Issaquah, and Renton.

Ms. Van Winkle reviewed the Kitsap County trends and future birth rates, housing growth, and other indicators related to K-12 enrollment predictions. Following this section, the group reviewed grade level enrollment trends, the district’s enrollment history, population forecasts, recent census data, and housing forecasts.

Reviewing the demographic report’s forecast assumptions, it was noted the initial year of the forecast (2012) was based on a 3-year weighted average of the most recent grade-to-grade trends, including the most recent “birth-to-K” ratios. Subsequent years are based on the average grade-to-grade trends of the past 10 years, which encompasses both low and high growth years. Ms. Van Winkle stated the district is focused on the medium forecast from the report, which includes: a) birth-to-K ratio of 7.3%; b) annual population growth is assumed to be .4% less in the next decade than in the previous decade; and c) about 1000 new housing units will be added in the next decade. The possible impact of the recent *McCleary vs. Washington State* decision on building capacity was also briefly noted. Group conversation during this portion of the presentation included the “cause agents” for changes in enrollment growth or decline, the impact of climate change on the influx of families into the area, and how to attract families to the district.

### Small Group Discussion

Ms. Chapel distributed guiding topics for the small group discussion related to the demographic data. The topics included: 1) enrollment/demographic trends for the past two decades; 2) demographic trends/indicators for the next decade; and 3) implications for school and grade level configuration planning. The small groups were given thirty minutes for discussion. At the conclusion of the thirty minutes, Ms. Chapel pulled the larger group together and asked representatives from each discussion group to share their conclusions. *Group two* (Sheila) noted the data over the past two decades was not as reliable as one would wish, and there are so many factors involved that one can make a “rough” guess but it was difficult. As for the demographic trends for the next decade, one trend may be for more multi-generational families. For the most part, the report indicates a “stable” outlook with a slight decline. Implications for the future may be that the ELL and low income population could rise and the district needs to take that into consideration in their planning. The same holds true for the special needs population. *Group one* (Peter) talked about the trends up and down over the past couple of decades and tried to project forward. The group found it interesting that the low forecast correlated with the enrollment

between 1994/95, the medium forecast matched enrollment between 1998/99 (the year before Sakai opened), and high forecast was similar to that of 2000/08. The group noted the numbers alone don't necessarily mandate a school closing, and other factors would need to be considered (e.g. delivery models, curriculum, etc.) in decision making. *Group four* (Melinda) talked about the McCleary decision and its impact on facilities. They also talked about technology and current computer labs that are "hard wired" (MSP requirements). However, future labs may be wireless via tablets. This group also noted that, according to the report, Blakely's enrollment grows through 2020. Consideration should be given regarding the impact of moving Blakely's school population into a central location on such things as traffic. *Group three* (Mike) discussed the implications for the future was to remain flexible. Regarding trends for the next decade, the district should plan for both ends of the forecasts, as well as the middle, taking into consideration job growth in Seattle, the future of the ferry system, and attracting and keeping students for online learning. It was noted a small change in a district this size can have larger impact. Ms. Chapel noted one of the common themes expressed by each group was flexibility, as we don't know for certain what the future will bring.

#### Staffing Data

Ms. Chapel distributed the 2012-2013 staff by building as reflected in the budget for committee members to review prior to the next meeting. She noted that as the committee begins discussion on scenarios, it is important for them to understand the potential impacts of change. The spreadsheet notes the type of positions that are currently in each of the schools.

#### Plans for January Meeting

Ms. Chapel asked folks for topics they would like additional information. One committee member asked for information about staffing ratios, special education "boundaries," cost for closing a school, data on whether adding an additional transition (when Sakai came on board) impacted the graduation rates, interest in programs at Commodore – possible growth potential, policy and legislative trends (McCleary), and data regarding the special education "bubbles" coming through the system and their impact on facilities.

Finally, committee members agreed the next meeting would be held January 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. At that meeting, the committee will look at grade level configurations and school size. Ms. Chapel noted four configuration scenarios have come forward over the last several committee meetings. They include: 1) stay the same; 2) K-8 grade level; 3) K-5 & 6/7/8, and 4) K-6 & 7/8. The group will look at the numbers connected to each of these scenarios and how the current facilities match those groupings. Ms. Chapel underscored this was just the starting point for discussion.

**Next Meeting:**  
**January 17 & 30**  
**February 13 & 27**  
**March 13 & 27**  
**April 17**  
**May 8 & 22**