

Fox Hills Community Council Meeting Minutes

2/21/2014 at 9:00AM Media Center

Attending:

Sarah Wagstaff – chair, Brenda Shamo-magnet parent, Clarissa Burton-parent, Lynn Cooper – Principal, Wendy Whatcott-parent rep, Dawn Plaudis – parent/crossing guard, Stephanie Bailey-parent, Ina Hamilton -Family Center Coordinator, Kelly Zalit – parent, Jason Napier –parent, Lisa Napier-parent, ReNae Curtis – parent rep, Victoria Forester – parent, Wendy Maughan-Parent, Laurie Stringham-parent, Bryce Holbrook-Planning and Boundaries Granite School District

Excused: Beckie Carter – Vice-chair/staff rep

- I. Cultural Club – meet Fridays? Fridays are hard for Ina, but they don't conflict with band. 1:10-2:00 or Thursdays after school
 - a. Use a bilingual parent
 - b. A month for each culture – ½ time language, ½ time culture Dora style (Hola means hello) integrated with plenty of English aimed so even younger children can understand,
 - c. Goal- to get more involvement with inter-cultural friendships
 - d. Engagement/games/activities, not more sit down and listen
 - e. Through Family Center, Ina will head with 3 parents to help
- II. House Bills – would allow parents to see test questions. Mr. Cooper and most schools strongly opposed, because it would invalidate the test results.
- III. Senate Bill – 85% of funding to schools. Would need to hire for each school financial people.
- IV. Boundary Change – Bryce Holbrook is starting to investigate the concerns and needs of our community regarding a boundary change to Fox Hills Elementary that would move about 150 students from the neighborhood (which neighborhood is undecided) going to Fox Hills Elementary and send these students to South Kearns Elementary. Reason for the change – South Kearns currently has 398 students (70% capacity as of Oct 2013) and Fox Hills has 850 students (130% capacity as of Oct 2013.) Fox Hills has 7 classes in rels (relocatable) classrooms and South Kearns has two empty classrooms.
 - a. A map was passed out which had the neighborhoods around South Kearns and Fox Hills and the number of students in each sub-area. The numbers are the possible students in each area of school age, some may be in charter schools, private school or home schooled, but most attend the school they are currently assigned too.
 - b. Some parents in the LOTR¹ neighborhood expressed the concern that 4015W is a busy dangerous street to cross. A new intersection was recently placed across from the Kearns Post Office on 4015 W that has a U-turn. There have been many accidents at this intersection (5515 W 4015 S) since it was completed mid 2013. Adding a crosswalk and elementary age children would be hazardous. On the north intersection (to the East of

¹ LOTR – Lord of the Rings neighborhood, the area with 125 students attending Fox Hills (the street names are taken from the Lord of the Rings books

Kearns Junior High School) they merge the two lanes down to one. No traffic study has been conducted yet. (the crossing guard parent made this comment)

- c. Everyday a few children from the north part of the neighborhood with 294 students, jaywalk across 4000 W up on Twilight Dr. Dawn sees them as she does her crossing further south on Zodiac Dr.
- d. Part of the 294 group on Zodiac have a straight shot over to Fox Hills, which is much closer than South Kearns. You could put a boundary down south on Misty Way. The 36 student block on the far west of Fox Hills boundaries has no streets going to the north. Their only outlet is to 6200 South, so it makes sense to keep them in Fox Hills Boundaries for ease in getting to school. Could a kiddie walk be put in there on 6015 S? There isn't room. (VF who lived in that neighborhood as a child)
- e. Every school uses the same ratio, 27 students to every teacher. The district usually gives more teachers to the elementary levels and less teachers to the older grades. South Kearns is a Title 1 school so they have extra funding and their ratio is 25 students to every teacher or they may have used that money to hire more aides.
 - i. LS – Can we still pick Fox Hills after the boundary change?
 - ii. BH – You can request a special permit it's up to Mr. Cooper if he will grant them
 - iii. LC – I grant all the special permits.
 - iv. How many siblings of Magnet students do we have at Fox Hills?
 - v. LC- about 60 to 70 siblings
 - vi. What about moving the magnet program as a block to South Kearns
 - vii. BH – that would only cause the over crowding to be at South Kearns. There are 167 magnet children + 65 siblings that would put South Kearns at 80 students over capacity.
 - viii. LC – We have 830 students enrolled at Fox Hills. It was 850 in the fall, but as the economy has been improving we've seen many two family household change back to one family households.
 - ix. LS – Why move the boundaries if parents don't care about having their students in the relos? Parents are very happy with Fox Hills, we don't want to choose which neighborhood to lose.
 - x. VF/SW – our third graders complain about the relos, the cold, the walking outside back and forth from the school without coats. My son has been sick more often this year.
 - xi. BH – There's a different feel in the relos
 - xii. BS – Magnet program used to be across the street by the new parent parking lot. (ie; program actually began in the portables behind the school 3rd, 4th, 5th 6th graders)
 - xiii. CB – it's really hard to park, during events. Also parents park in drop-off zone during unloading time, they clog it up.
 - xiv. LC – We need a parent to help monitor the roundabout
 - xv. SW – Parking and dropping off students would be helped by the boundary change.

- xvi. Magnet program was moved here when the school's population dipped.
- xvii. WW – why have magnet students stay when it forces out neighborhood students?
- xviii. (addressed to BH) We want to know more about South Kearns test scores, their programs. Are they a good school?
- xix. DP – Safety is my first concern. I don't want my kids crossing 4000W. (LOTR)
- xx. BH – that crazy intersection does sound like an issue
- xxi. DP – I'd let my kids go to South Kearns if there was a bus from my neighborhood.
- xxii. BH – The district probably wouldn't do that. Busses cost \$20,000/year for the driver and gas alone.
- xxiii. DP – a new crosswalk and crossing guards would be about \$1,000/year and you'd probably need new lights for the crosswalk.
- xxiv. LC – there is open enrollment, everyone can choose which school they want to go to.
- xxv. BH – We talked about that. Boundaries take years to change.
- xxvi. LC – I would accept others to roll up the grades until they grow out of the school.
- xxvii. LS – We had a boundary change at my local elementary (magnet parent) and the district wouldn't work with families, even sixth graders who only had one year left were forced out.
- xxviii. BH – boundaries are firm but siblings could stay through, that's the principal's decision. District won't get involved unless there is enough parental outcry. There's a chance that that could still happen – that kids would get forced out before generationals' finish.
- xxix. KZ – Why are kindergarteners and sixth graders at the same school? I'm from California where we have middle schools. What if instead of the boundary change we took the sixth graders and moved them over to Kearns Junior High(KJH)?
- xxx. LC – We have 106 sixth graders at Fox Hills.
- xxxi. KJH's enrollment is close to 900 this year. 2014-2015 school year they will be at 609 students, because the ninth grade is moving to the High School.
- xxxii. BH – That's not something that I have control over. If you want to move the sixth grade that has to start with a community grass-roots effort with all the schools in the Kearns Network. The parents have to be behind it and take it to the board. Cottonwood High school tried it a few years ago and it fell flat on it's face because the community didn't support the change. For the Ninth grade moving to High School Kearns Network requested it, the board studied it, then granted it. The new 6th, 7th and 8th grade schools would have to come from community grass roots effort.
- xxxiii. SW – Could we get the change in place in time to prevent the boundary change?

xxxiv. BH – You’d want to move carefully and make sure that you had support in place. The change for the ninth grade moving to the High Schools took two years to work through.

- f. BH- Let me summarize
- i. No way to safely cross over 4015 W on the north side.
 - ii. Students could be bussed across 4015 W
 - iii. North part of 294 section (cloud neighborhoods cutoff on Twilight or Sun Dr.) the jaywalkers could be sent to South Kearns.
 - iv. Neighborhood parents are concerned about being pushed out of their school by the magnet students.
 - v. You want to know about the benefits of South Kearns, are there certified in gifted programs?
 - vi. CB – the average child would be offended if we couldn’t stay.
 - vii. VF/DP – Special needs students need help, they want help
 - viii. JN – I work with numbers for my job. What external forces are causing the student numbers to rise? Why will we change boundaries now? How many special permit students do we have from South Kearns?
 - ix. BH- those are great questions. I don’t know.
 - x. How many students in South Kearns’ boundaries are currently attending Fox Hills?
 - xi. BH- only one student in South Kearns’ boundaries is currently attending Fox Hills.
 - xii. LS – How often do the populations at schools cycle? Are we dropping down?
 - xiii. BH- That’s an excellent question. I don’t know. The economy has impacted us by huge shifts that we couldn’t predict. No IB program on the west side. We no longer bus to Churchhill and Wasatch. I was the principal at Churchhill. There was a perception of lower class sizes, when it was really 28 students/ teacher. It was the programs that drew people there.
 - xiv. CB-(cloud neighborhood) Why change? When the population drops, will we change back?
 - xv. BH- No, we can’t ping-pong back and forth.
 - xvi. LS – what about better HVAC controls for the relays?
 - xvii. LC – The whole system is waiting for upgrades, the district is moving us back to more individual control in each classroom for heating and cooling.
 - xviii. BH – I need to meet with South Kearns Community Council and learn more about their neighborhood resources.
 1. SW- What’s your timeline?
 2. In April(2014) I’ll give the board a progress report, then come back here (Fox Hills) with the results of South Kearns and board’s ideas.
 3. The board also meets in June 2014, Sep 2014 and Dec 2014
 4. My study will run through Dec 2014, unless the board decides it has enough information to make a decision sooner.

5. The study/boundary change would take effect July 2015 (14 months away)
 6. The board likes to take it's time and look at carefully. We won't know until whenever?
- g. CB – Why doesn't the magnet program have its own school? They could build themselves their own program.
 - i. It leaves siblings out
 - ii. Isolates those kids
 - iii. Could build its own building adjacent to the GTI. (BH – not likely, building schools is expensive)
 - h. BH – The reason why magnet is at Morningside is because they were shrinking. Canyon Rim was closed. Woodrow Wilson was sold to Salt Lake City. If another school was closed we could move all the magnet there, but that means that they will be bussed further. I don't think the district wants to do that. That's why there are two, no three magnet locations.
 - i. DP – Fox Hills is one of the biggest walking schools in the district. I see over 100 kids a day at my crossing.
 - j. BH- I don't know why Fox Hills was picked for the Magnet program. To get the sixth graders to the Jr. Highs. You need to look at all the community councils in Kearns network (the feeder pattern into Kearns High School) look at nine elementary schools. You need consensus from other schools, brainstorm how to approach. The ninth grade study took 2 years. Cottonwood High School tried to do it two years ago it fell flat on its face. KHS worked a long time to get 9th graders moved
 - k. LS – I know, I was involved in it
 - l. SW- Can we email you if we have more questions?
 - m. BH – BEHolbrook@graniteschools.org. I'm doing another boundary study and receiving emails already for that.
 - n. LS – It took 4-5 years to integrate the magnet kids with Fox Hills
 - o. BH – every school's community council is invested in their school. You've done well in presenting your sides and thinking logically. I don't always find that when I present at other schools. This job requires me to have PR skills. Thank you.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Next Community Council meeting is March 21 at 9 AM in the media center.