



USD 497 News Release

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Boundary Advisory Committee Postpones Next Week's Public Input Sessions

The Lawrence Board of Education's Boundary Advisory Committee postponed two public input sessions scheduled for next week. Committee members want more time to request, receive, review, and incorporate into its boundary proposals a demographics consultant's enrollment and boundary analysis and mapping assistance. The school board last week approved encumbering up to \$45,000 for RSP and Associates to assist the committee with its charge to recommend boundary changes to better balance high school enrollment.

During its meeting tonight, the committee identified what assistance it needs to refine two boundary options under discussion. The first option would expand Lawrence High School's boundary area to the northeast in an "L" shape. The second option would develop a middle school feeder system.

Current high school enrollments are 1,781 students at Free State and 1,431 at LHS, a difference of 350 students. The committee noted that high school boundaries have not been studied since Free State opened in 1997. Members said they want to make sure to "take our time and get this right."

The committee identified the following as top priorities to receive from the consultant:

- A heat map to show real-time enrollment and demographics data as boundary adjustments are made to the options under discussion.
- Enrollment and student demographics analysis of boundary refinements of both the Lawrence High "L" and Middle School Feeder School options.
- An analysis of the balance of high school enrollments if the current 15th Street high school boundary line were shifted to 13th or 14th Street.

RSP has already received current enrollment data and planned to provide by next week five-year enrollment projections and high-resolution maps for the two options under discussion.

After the committee receives the information requested, it plans to meet to review and incorporate it into boundary change options, and reschedule public input sessions at both high schools. This new timeline is to be determined.

Review Boundary Advisory Committee meeting materials at www.usd497.org/Boundaries.