Boundary Advisory
Committee:
Middle School
Boundary Discussion

Meeting #4 02/07/24

Meeting Agenda:

- ☐ Review Public Input Activity
- ☐ Develop Committee
 Recommendation



RSP & Associates

RSP Quick Facts:

Founded in 2003
Professional educational planning firm
Expertise in multiple disciplines (GIS, Planning, Facilitation)
Over 20 years of planning experience
Over 80 years of education experience
Over 20 years of GIS experience
Projection accuracy of 97% or greater

RSP Clients:

RSP was started with the desire and commitment to assist school districts in long-range planning.

RSP has served over **130** clients in:

South Dakota

Tennessee

Wisconsin

Arkansas Minnesota
Colorado Missouri
Iowa Nebraska
Illinois North Dakota
Kansas Oklahoma

RSP Planning Team:

Robert Schwarz, CEO

Military, County, City, and School District Planner
University of Kansas – Master of Urban Planning (MUP)
American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)
Accredited Learning Environment Planner (ALEP)

Ginna Wallace, Planner

University of Kansas – Master of Urban Planning (MUP)
American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)

RSP Recent Projects:

Eudora Schools, USD 491

Enrollment Analysis, 2022/23

Shawnee Mission Public Schools

Enrollment Analysis, 2021/22 Boundary Analysis, 2021/22

Dodge City Public Schools, USD 443

Enrollment Analysis, 2021/22

RSP has worked with Lawrence Public Schools for the past eleven years – assisting the district to make sound planning decisions for the students and community.

2024/25 Boundary Process

- 4 Committee Meetings
- Public Feedback Opportunities
- Two nights of feedback
- ☐ Electronic survey (January 31st to February 6th)
- 2 BOE Meetings

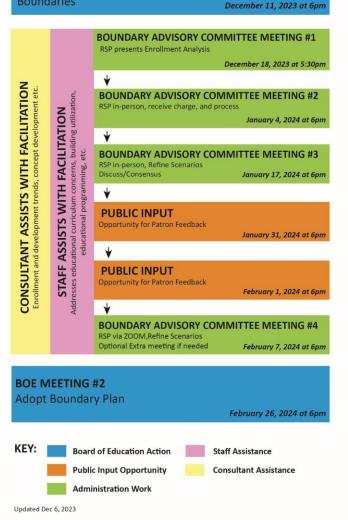
Potential Board Adoption: February 26, 2024



2024/25 BOUNDARY PROCESS

BOE MEETING #1

Board of Education receives updated Enrollment Analysis, Boundary Criteria, and Process for Middle School Boundaries



Boundary Objectives

- ☐ Plan for the opening of Liberty Memorial Central STEAM Academy (2024/25)
 - Available to all LMCMS and to any grade 6-8 student residing in or outside USD 497 with approval of a district transfer request
 - LMCMS boundary will remain as primary student assignment area
- ☐ Create the "secondary" boundary assignment
 - If students residing in LMCMS do not elect to attend the STEAM program, then a secondary boundary will be in place for their attendance
 - Benefits of LMCMS secondary boundary:
 - ✓ Better ability to plan/forecast number of students in other middle school buildings.
 - ✓ More efficient to staff and prepare resources for in future years
 - ✓ Maintain neighborhood connectivity and feeder alignment

"Design an innovative learning center at LMCMS that meets the board directive, attracts families and students, and has community engagement so that all students are ready for high school, college, and careers." – STEAM Design Committee



STEAM@LMCMS

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ПППП

LMCMS aims to redesign the way students learn through innovative, inquiry-based experiences that spark curiosity, encourage discovery, and motivate students to tackle everyday challenges.

The LMCMS specialized STEAM program will:

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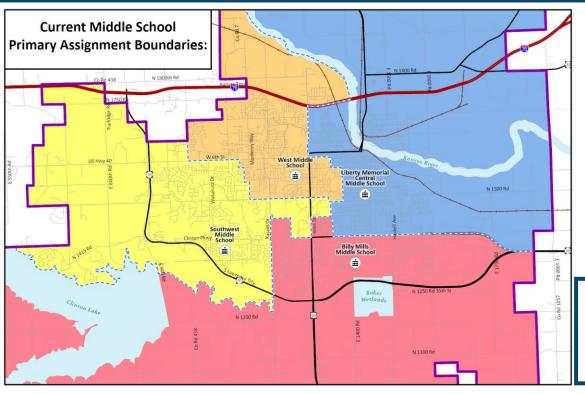
- Empower students to learn by doing as they solve practical challenges through collaborative, hands-on experimentation.
- Connect English, math, science, and social studies concepts through integrated STEAM learning projects.
- Cultivate family/community relationships to fuse our educational goals and the resources and needs of our community.

Through inquiry-based learning, technology, innovation, and practical application, we will ensure that students are prepared for the challenges of the future.

Overview of LMCMS STEAM Program

	E voted to implement a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, ICMS starting in 2024/25 (Board decision Dec. 11, 2023)	Arts, Math) Program at
	Increase enrollment to better utilize facility Improve curriculum and student program offerings Create a district-wide and out-of-district draw into USD 497	IMPORTANT: More information about the STEAM Program is being fully vetted by the STEAM Design Committee. More detailed information to come Spring 2024.
ST	EAM Programming (high-level overview)	
	Redesign education with innovative teaching and learning that spa discovery, and motivates students to tack everyday challenges	rks curiosity, encourages
	Connect English, math, science and social studies concept through Offer topical courses in areas of student interest: 3D Design, Coding, App Cr Flight and Space, Science of Technology, Magic of Electrons, Green Architect	eators, Energy and the Environment,
	Celebrate creative expression by guiding 6 th graders to explore the	fine arts (band, choir, theatre, art)
Ma	ain Takeaway: What does this mean for Boundary Advisory	Committee?
	Board directed the BAC to analyze middle school boundaries	
	Considering three concepts for middle school Primary Assignment	Boundary
	Proposing a "Secondary Assignment Boundary" for LMCMS	

Overview of Middle School Boundaries

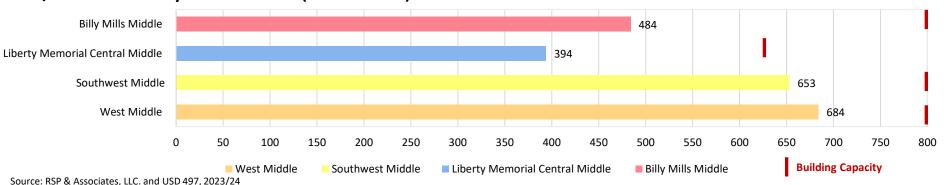


Observations

- Current Middle School capacity can accommodate student population
- LMCMS has the lowest enrollment with less than 400 students; capacity for this school is 625 students
- Billy Mills enrollment is 2nd lowest with less than 500 students; capacity for this school is 800 students

Main Takeaway: To improve balance between middle schools, Billy Mills Middle and LMCMS should increase in student enrollment.

2023/24 Enrollment by Middle School (Grade 6th-8th)



Boundary Concepts

BAC Consideration of Primary Boundary Concepts
Primary Boundary Comparison and Discussion
BAC Proposed Secondary Boundary Concept

Introduction to Concepts

Boundary Advisory Committee met three times:

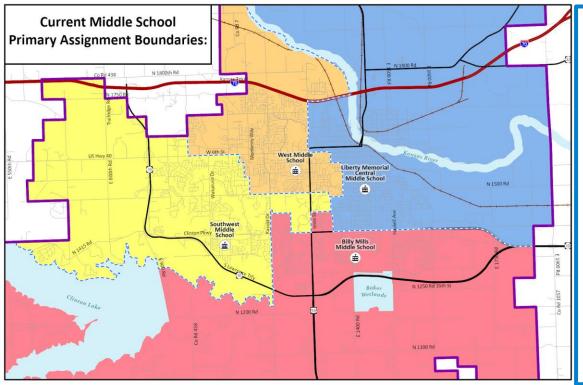
- Meeting 1: Overview of Middle School Objectives and Enrollment Analysis
- Meeting 2: Discussion of boundary concepts
- Meeting 3: Refining of boundary concepts

BAC (at this time) is:

- ☐ Considering three concepts for district-wide Middle School Primary Boundaries
 - Current Boundaries: Maintain current boundaries with implementing the proposed secondary boundary for LMCMS
 - Concept A Boundaries: Minimal adjustment to current students to improve balance between middle schools while implementing the proposed secondary boundary for LMCMS
 - Concept B Boundaries: More adjustment to current students to maximize balance between middle schools while implementing the proposed secondary boundary for LMCMS
- ☐ Proposing one concept for Liberty Memorial Central SECONDARY Assignment Boundary
 - Benefits of creating a secondary assignment boundary for LMCMS:
 - ✓ District can plan staffing and transportation more efficiently year to year
 - ✓ Provides students the two assigned schools while integrating an attendance area structure
 - ✓ Maintains neighborhoods connectivity to schools

<u>IMPORTANT:</u> If students do not want to attend their primary or secondary school, they can apply for a transfer in the district transfer portal (contingent on facility space and staffing)

Current Middle School Projections (Primary Attendance)



Observations:

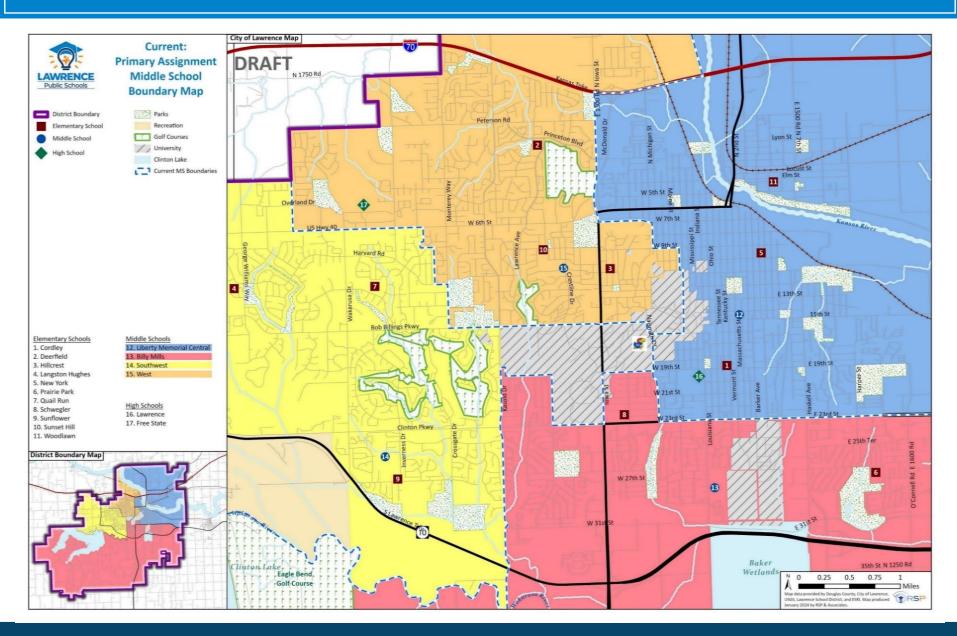
- Billy Mills Middle School is projected to be under utilized over the next five years
- Liberty Memorial Central Middle School is projected to have the highest utilization in 2028/29 (about 475-500 students residing)
- West Middle School has the highest utilization over the next four years
- District-wide utilization is forecasted to be around 72% over the next five years

Primary Attendance Projections:			6th to 8	th Grade S	tudents			Utilization Percentage			
Current Middle School Boundaries	Capacity	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Billy Mills Middle School	800	475	499	501	495	503	59.4%	62.4%	62.6%	61.9%	62.9%
Liberty Memorial Central Middle School	625	463	492	479	478	495	74.1%	78.7%	76.6%	76.5%	79.2%
Southwest Middle School	800	592	556	560	570	617	74.0%	69.5%	70.0%	71.3%	77.1%
West Middle School	800	659	664	636	625	598	82.4%	83.0%	79.5%	78.1%	74.8%
Middle School Total:	3,025	2,189	2,211	2,176	2,168	2,213	72.4%	73.1%	71.9%	71.7%	73.2%

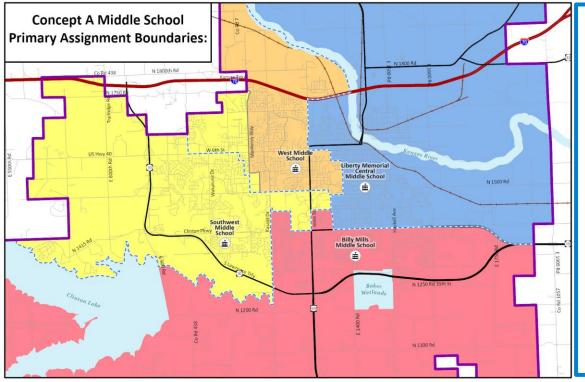
Source: RSP & Associates, LLC. 1/4/2024

- 1. Projections are based on student reside. Virtual students are not included in analysis.
- 2. Orange shading indicates when projected enrollment exceed building capacity.
- 3. Green shading indicates when projected enrollment is less than 70% of building capacity.

Current: Primary Assignment Map



Concept A Middle School Projections (Primary Attendance)



Observations:

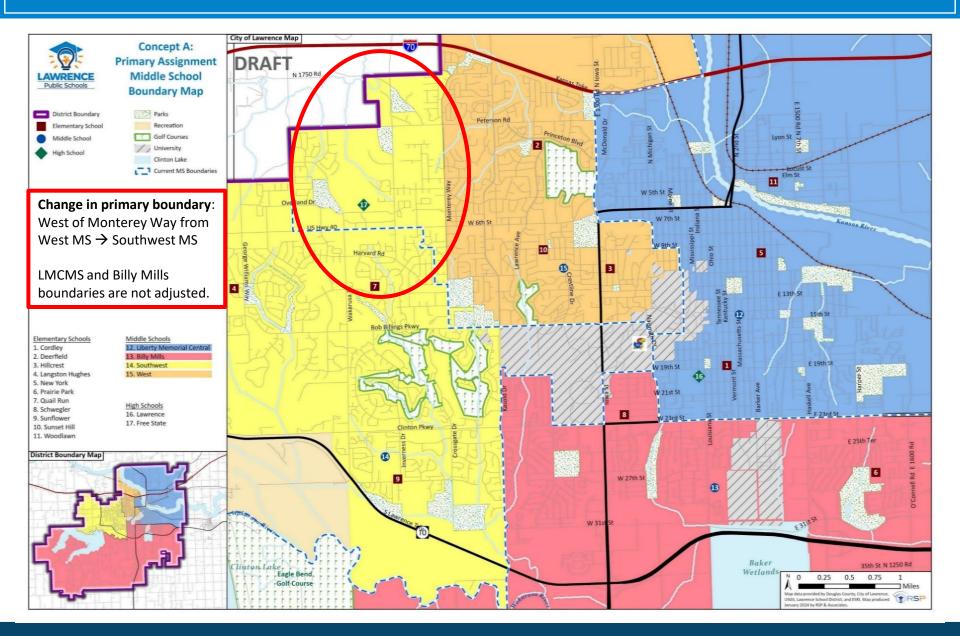
- Adjusts the primary boundaries between Southwest and West middle schools
- Helps to balance west-side enrollment and better utilize Southwest MS:
 - Southwest MS expands northeast to Monterey Way & district boundary
- Creates a complete feeder for Quail Run Elementary → Southwest Middle

Primary Attendance Projections:			6th to 8th Grade Students				Utilization Percentage				
Concept A Middle School Boundaries	Capacity	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Billy Mills Middle School	800	475	499	501	495	503	59.4%	62.4%	62.6%	61.9%	62.9%
Liberty Memorial Central Middle School	625	463	492	479	478	495	74.1%	78.7%	76.6%	76.5%	79.2%
Southwest Middle School	800	697	665	661	670	705	87.1%	83.1%	82.6%	83.8%	88.1%
West Middle School	800	555	554	535	527	509	69.4%	69.3%	66.9%	65.9%	63.6%
Middle School Total:	3,025	2,190	2,210	2,176	2,170	2,212	72.4%	73.1%	71.9%	71.7%	73.1%

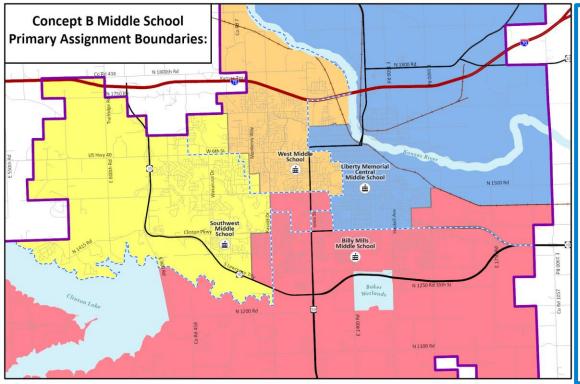
1/4/2024 Source: RSP & Associates, LLC.

- 1. Projections are based on student reside. Virtual students are not included in analysis.
- 2. Orange shading indicates when projected enrollment exceed building capacity.
- 3. Green shading indicates when projected enrollment is less than 70% of building capacity.

Concept A: Primary Assignment Map



Concept B Middle School Projections (Primary Attendance)



Observations:

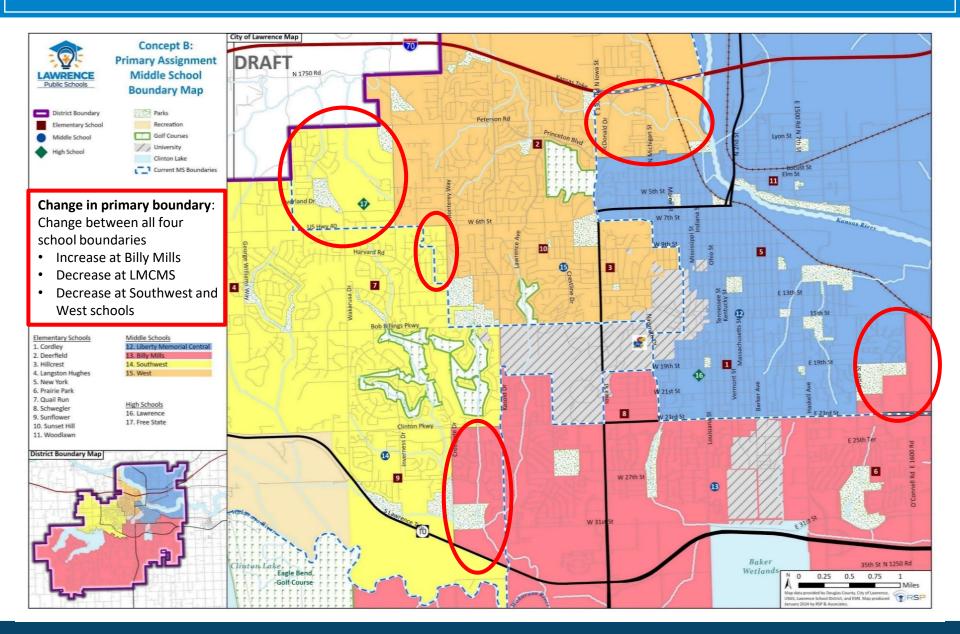
- Adjusts the primary boundaries to improve middle school balance
- Target of 70-75% in each building:
 - Billy Mills MS expands northwest to 19th Street & Harper Street and west to Crossgate Drive
 - Southwest MS expands east to Monterey Way and northwest Peterson Rd & Folks Rd
 - West MS expands south to 2nd Street
- Creates a complete feeder for Deerfield Elementary → West Middle

Primary Attendance Projections:			6th to 8th Grade Students				Utilization Percentage				
Concept B Middle School Boundaries	Capacity	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Billy Mills Middle School	800	555	581	583	574	592	69.4%	72.6%	72.9%	71.8%	74.0%
Liberty Memorial Central Middle School	625	420	452	444	446	451	67.2%	72.3%	71.0%	71.4%	72.2%
Southwest Middle School	800	591	553	552	564	597	73.9%	69.1%	69.0%	70.5%	74.6%
West Middle School	800	624	624	597	583	573	78.0%	78.0%	74.6%	72.9%	71.6%
Middle School Total:	3,025	2,190	2,210	2,176	2,167	2,213	72.4%	73.1%	71.9%	71.6%	73.2%

Source: RSP & Associates, LLC. 1/12/2024

- 1. Projections are based on student reside. Virtual students are not included in analysis.
- 2. Orange shading indicates when projected enrollment exceed building capacity.
- 3. Green shading indicates when projected enrollment is less than 70% of building capacity.

Concept B: Primary Boundary Map



Feeder Analysis

Current ES to Middle School Feeder:	Billy Mills MS	Liberty Memorial Central MS	Southwest MS	West MS
Cordley ES	27%	73%		
Deerfield ES		9%		91%
Hillcrest ES		66%		34%
Langston Hughes ES	10%		90%	
New York ES		100%		
Prairie Park ES	73%	27%		
Quail Run ES			53%	47%
Schwegler ES	100%			
Sunflower ES	14%		86%	
Sunset Hill ES				100%
Woodlawn ES		100%		

Source: RSP and USD 497 1/23/2024

Concept A ES to Middle School Feeder:	Billy Mills MS	Liberty Memorial Central MS	Southwest MS	West MS
Cordley ES	27%	73%		
Deerfield ES		9%		91%
Hillcrest ES		66%		34%
Langston Hughes ES	10%		90%	
New York ES		100%		
Prairie Park ES	73%	27%		
Quail Run ES			100%	
Schwegler ES	100%			
Sunflower ES	14%		86%	
Sunset Hill ES				100%
Woodlawn ES		100%		

Source: RSP and USD 497 1/23/2024

Observations:

- Currently, New York, Schwegler, Sunset Hill, and Woodlawn are complete feeders to the middle school boundaries
- In Concept A: Quail Run Elementary becomes a complete feeder to Southwest Middle school
- In Concept B: Deerfield Elementary becomes a complete feeder to West Middle School

Concept B ES to Middle School Feeder:	Billy Mills MS	Liberty Memorial Central MS	Southwest MS	West MS
Cordley ES	27%	73%		
Deerfield ES				100%
Hillcrest ES		66%		34%
Langston Hughes ES	10%		90%	
New York ES		100%		
Prairie Park ES	79%	21%		
Quail Run ES			81%	19%
Schwegler ES	100%			
Sunflower ES	41%		59%	
Sunset Hill ES				100%
Woodlawn ES		100%		

Source: RSP and USD 497 1/23/2024

Students Impacted Analysis

Student Impacted Analysis:	Concept A Reside					
Current Reside	Billy Mills MS	Liberty Memorial Central MS	Southwest MS	West MS	Students Impacted Total	Percent Students Impacted
Billy Mills MS					0	0%
Liberty Memorial Central MS					0	0%
Southwest MS					0	0%
West MS			69		69	16%
Total 6-7 Impact:	0	0	69	0	69	5%

Source: RSP and USD 497 1/23/2024

Student Impacted Analysis:		Concept				
Current Reside	Billy Mills MS	Liberty Memorial Central MS	Southwest MS	West MS	Students Impacted Total	Percent Students Impacted
Billy Mills MS					0	0%
Liberty Memorial Central MS	12			18	30	10%
Southwest MS	39				39	10%
West MS			38		38	9%
Total 6-7 Impact:	51	0	38	18	107	7%

Source: RSP and USD 497 1/23/2024

Concept A:

- concept A impacts 69 6th to 7th graders with a movement from West Middle School to Southwest Middle School
- This would impact about 5% of the current 6th to 7th grade student population

Concept B:

- Concept B impacts 107 6th to 7th graders with a movement between all four middle schools
- This would impact about 7% of the current 6th to 7th grade student population

Concept Comparison:

Boundary Comparison: Projected Enrollment

Target: Improve balance between middle school (75% utilization)

Feeder Analysis Target: Improve

number of elementary schools feed directly to a middle schools

Students Impacted

Target: Lower impact of current students

Current Boundaries (BAC Consideration)

- Billy Mills MS forecasted under 65% utilization
- West MS forecasted as the most utilized school (75-82%)
- of utilization between middle schools
- Four complete elementary to middle schools

 No students impacted in primary boundary change Concept A Boundaries (BAC Consideration)

- Billy Mills and West MS forecasted under 65% utilization
- Southwest MS forecasted as the most utilized school (82-88%)
- In 2028/29, a difference of 26% of utilization between middle schools
 - Five complete elementary to middle schools
- Makes Quail Run Elementary a complete feeder school to West Middle School
- 69 students (5%) impacted in primary boundary change
- Southwest & West MS impacted

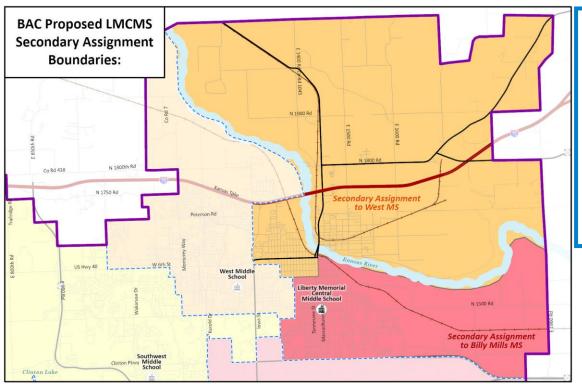
Concept B Boundaries (BAC Consideration)

- Billy Mills MS forecasted to increase to 74% utilization
- All schools are balanced around 70% to 75% utilization
- In 2028/29, a difference of 3% of utilization between middle schools
- Five complete elementary to middle schools
- Makes Deerfield Elementary a complete feeder school to West Middle School
- 107 students (7%) impacted in primary boundary change
- All four schools impacted

Important:

- ✓ The Boundary Advisory Committee is <u>considering</u> the three Primary Boundary maps
 - ☐ Current, Concept A, or Concept B
- ✓ The Boundary Advisory Committee is <u>recommending</u> the Proposed Secondary Boundary Map for LMCMS

BAC Proposed: LMCMS Secondary Assignment Map



Main Takeaway:

- □ Area identified on map remains as primary assignment to LMCMS (see blue dotted line)
- RED: Secondary assignment to Billy Mills Middle School
- Orange: Secondary assignment to West Middle School

IMPORTANT:

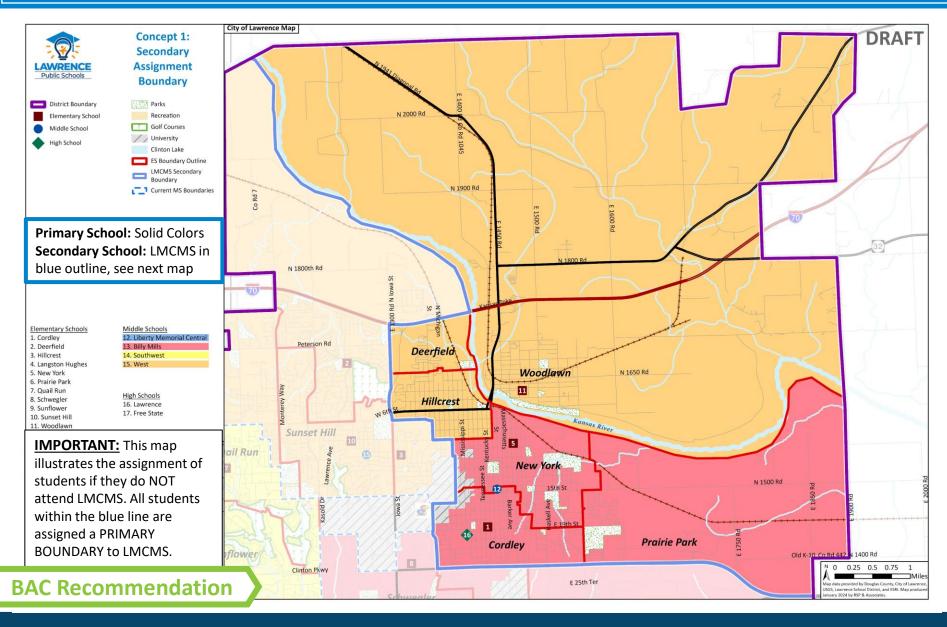
This map illustrates the assignment of students if they choose to NOT attend LMCMS. All students within the blue line are assigned a PRIMARY BOUNDARY to LMCMS.

Proposed Secondary Assignment Map was created using the current Elementary boundaries:

- ☐ Students in **Cordley, New York, and Prairie Park** elementary boundaries would be assigned secondary boundary to **Billy Mills Middle School**
- ☐ Students in **Deerfield, Hillcrest, and Woodlawn** elementary boundaries would be assigned secondary boundary to **West Middle School**

BAC Recommendation

BAC Proposed: LMCMS Secondary Assignment Map



SES Analysis for Middle School Boundaries

Current Boundary	
	F/R
Billy Mills Middle School	51%
Liberty Memorial Central Middle School	55%
Southwest Middle School	22%
West Middle School	36%
Grand Total	39%

Source: USD 497

Concept B	
	F/R
Billy Mills Middle School	53%
Liberty Memorial Central Middle School	53%
Southwest Middle School	20%
West Middle School	37%
Grand Total	39%

Source: USD 497

Concept A	
	F/R
Billy Mills Middle School	51%
Liberty Memorial Central Middle School	56%
Southwest Middle School	23%
West Middle School	37%
Grand Total	39%

Source: USD 497

Secondary Zone	F/R
Billy Mills Middle School	53%
Southwest Middle School	22%
West Middle School	40%
Grand Total	39%

Source: USD 497

DISCLAIMER:

- Data provided by USD497
- Illustrates percentages of student qualifying for FRL status by reside

Observations:

- SES tables provide a snapshot of demographic analysis
- ☐ Small shifts in percentages from current to concept boundaries are due to movement of boundaries and out of district student assignment
- ☐ Changes in percents may be due to changes in the numerator (students with SES status) or denominator (total middle school students)
- All concepts maintain within 5% of the current demographic balance between schools

Public Input

Results

Verbal Feedback Themes from public input (includes emails)

General

- O Why are we creating/implementing a secondary boundary for Liberty Memorial?
- Questions about STEAM Program
 - "Will Central have sports, theater, etc.? If they are extra small next year, what is the plan for making sure those kids have opportunities?"
- Feedback for not changing middle school boundaries without understanding interest level at Liberty Memorial
 - "Why we can't just leave the boundaries as they are and offer students transfers as schools have space. LMCMS-boundaried students who did not want STEAM would apply for a transfer and would be accepted to another school that has space. This would give the district control in trying to balance the 75% capacity across the three remaining schools instead of leaving it to chance, especially in the first couple of years where the district has no data on who might want to opt out."
- Consideration for changing Elementary to Middle School feeders
 - Deerfield / Hillcrest request to feed directly to West Middle School (Pinckney impacted families)
 - Langston Hughes request to feed directly to Southwest Middle School (Broken Arrow impacted families)

Concept A

- Positive feedback for creating complete feeder for Quail Run Elementary
- Negative feedback on utilization of Southwest Middle

Concept B

- Positive feedback for balance of utilization
- Negative feedback on breaking of Sunflower to Southwest feeder
- Concerns from Crossgate community adjustment from Southwest to Billy Mills MS
 - Transportation/proximity of students
 - Impact of adjustment on demographics of schools

Written Feedback (sticky notes)

Night 1:

- o I am a parent of a Sunflower Elementary 3rd grade (and a University professor/Asst. Dean). I am completely opposed to "Concept B," which would send my song 5 miles away to Billy Mills, when he can currently walk or ride his bike five minutes down the sidewalk to Southwest MS. Which literally shares a road, parking lot, and track/field with Sunflower. Concept A will bring Southwest to 87% capacity over the next few years, rather than at the projected range of 74-77%. I am in favor of keeping the boundaries as they are. I have not heard enough information about the proposed STEAM concept plan specifics at LM and yet we are already deciding boundary changes? If the district truly believes strongly in this concept (which I do as well in theory), then why are we moving every middle school boundary to accommodate LM students potentially transferring? The idea that any of us can request a transfer is prosperous as we all know those requests are denied left and right. Finally, I would suggest that the consultant listen to public input not walk around talking down to those of us to whom they are paid to supposed to listen to.
- o Concept B might seemingly be a good idea for utilization, but has a LOT of flaws. The boundary lines in some areas make zero sense. The "feeder" schools are obvious that that are connected (Sunflower & Southwest). You are suggesting that those who have a 5 min walk to school, now have to be driven to school. Those that could walk home would now need to enroll in an after school program (\$) because they have working parents and it's the safest option. At some point I will have a Sunflower student and a middle school student who should be at Southwest. Make it make sense that I would have an elementary student at Sunflower and one at Billy Mills, which it should be an obvious Sunflower/SW combo because they are connected! I would encourage consultant to drive these to fully understand instead of just mapping it out and saying this looks good. Keep the boundary the same until we know what the STEAM program will do. Concept A doesn't do anything for utilization in the school that need student and teacher.

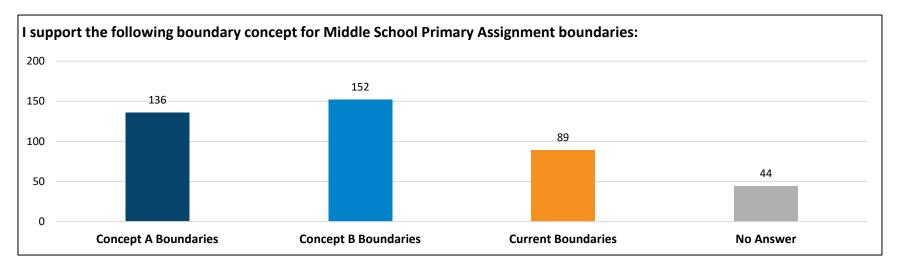
Night 2:

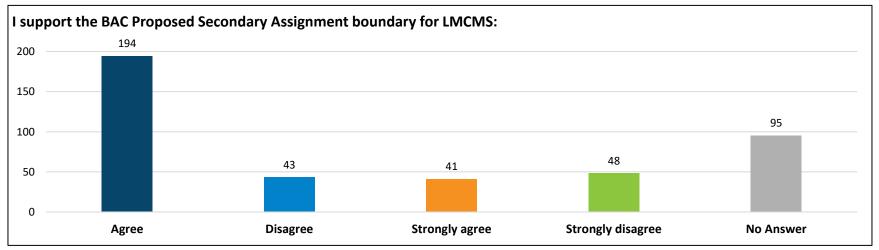
- The current boundary works for my family. My 6th grader loved West and the drive to the school is convenient for our northwest Lawrence location.
- This concept would double the travel time to and from school. Difficult for students and parents especially when student participant in extracurriculars
- We are a Lawrence family attending Langston Hughes. We want to maintain community between elementary and middle school. Our kids
 community is at school. There are minimal kids that could move with them. Shifting +/-40 kids to maintain relationships would be a huge benefit
 starting over with new kids.
- o The plans seem the most equitable of where capacity is concerned.
- o Can we not change any boundary until we see that happened with numbers at Steam? Is that an option?
- This concept could double our travel time to and from school my student is in zero hour and extra curricular activities hard for working parents!

Survey Results

Observations:

- 421 total responses to survey
- Answering questions was not required; some participants chose to not answer questions and only provide comments.





Source: MetroQuest Survey, January-February 2024

Survey Comment Feedback

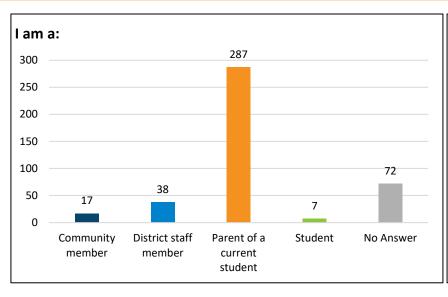
See 11x17 Handouts for all comments

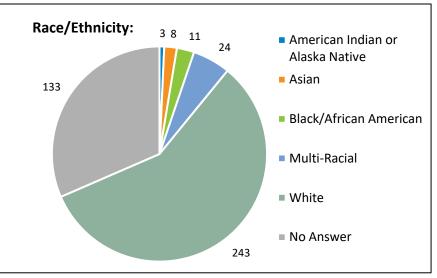
- 33 comments/questions on the Current Boundary Map
- 55 comments/questions on the Concept A Boundary Map
- 54 comments/questions on the Concept B Boundary Map
- 61 comments/questions on the Proposed Secondary Assignment Boundary Map

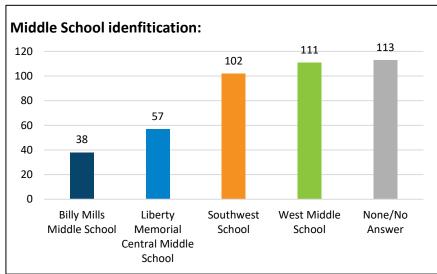
Themes of Feedback (Chat GPT):

- **Concerns about Student Impact**: Many respondents express concerns about the potential impact of boundary changes on students, including their access to resources, stability, and friendships.
- **Desire for Stability and Flexibility**: Some comments indicate a preference for maintaining current boundaries to provide stability for families and allow for flexibility in school transfers.
- **Logistical Considerations**: Questions and concerns about logistical aspects such as transportation, school capacities, and enrollment balance are raised, indicating a need for more information on these factors.
- **Equity and Demographic Balance**: There are concerns about equity and demographic balance, particularly regarding the distribution of resources and support for schools.
- **Preference for Feeder School Models**: Some respondents advocate for implementing a complete feeder school model, where students from specific elementary schools feed into designated middle schools, to streamline transitions and community cohesion.
- **Safety and Discipline Concerns**: Several comments highlight concerns about safety and discipline issues in certain areas, suggesting that addressing these issues is crucial for retaining families.
- **Call for Phased Approaches and Clarity**: Suggestions are made for implementing boundary changes in phases to ease transitions for students, along with calls for clearer communication and explanations of the proposed changes.
- **Socioeconomic Considerations**: Some respondents express concern about the potential for boundary changes to exacerbate socioeconomic disparities and privilege in certain schools or areas
- Student Well-being and Mental Health: Several comments highlight concerns about the potential negative impact of
 the boundary changes on students' mental health and well-being, particularly regarding the disruption of friendships
 and social connections
- **Preference for Simplicity and Clarity**: Some respondents express a preference for simpler and clearer boundary configurations, suggesting that overly complicated proposals may not be logical or practical.

Survey Results Demographics







Observations:

- 421 total responses to survey
- Majority of survey responses indicated they were parents of current students and were white racial group
- When asked what Middle School they identify with, West Middle School had the most results of the four middle schools but 113 participants selected no middle school or did not answer this demographic question

Source: MetroQuest Survey, January-February 2024

BAC Discussion

What moves forward as a recommendation to the board?

- Maintain current MS primary boundaries?
- Implement Concept A primary boundaries?
- Implement Concept B primary boundaries?
- ☐ Implement Proposed LMCMS Secondary assignment boundary?