

Considerations for future boundary change needs

Rattlesnake Elementary boundary changes

Rattlesnake Elementary is currently at maximum capacity and students are levelled out of the school each year due to lack of space to accommodate them in the school.

During the course of the MCPS Elementary School Boundary Study, demographic projections for each school were reviewed and boundary adjustment options for each school were considered.

The overall district projections indicated that by 2028, MCPS would not need to open a 10th elementary school to accommodate projected growth.

The projections for Rattlesnake Elementary indicate that the school will experience peak enrollment in the next two school years and then slowly decline by about 50 students by 2028. However, the committee recognizes that it is hard to predict growth trends occurring in East Missoula that may necessitate opening Mt. Jumbo Elementary in the next 10 years.

District administration advised the committee that the following scenarios would have to occur for MCPS to consider opening Mt. Jumbo Elementary:

- 1) At least 200 elementary school age students residing in East Missoula**
- 2) A compatible use partner to co-occupy the building to help defray operating costs**

In order to eliminate unnecessary student and family transitions, the Elementary School Boundary Study Advisory Committee recommends the MCPS Board of Trustees consider re-opening Mt. Jumbo Elementary School as soon as these two scenarios occur.

The Advisory Committee also recommends that necessary upgrades to safety and security upgrades are completed at the school prior to opening.

Chief Charlo Elementary boundary changes

During the course of the boundary study, change area #26, the space between Heaven's Gate Road, Hillview Way and Rimel Road, was identified for students to move from Russell Elementary to Chief Charlo Elementary.

Currently there are only two students residing in this area. However, there is a large property for sale that could create new development within the next 10 years. In addition, Rimel Road does not currently extend through to connect with Hillview Way.

The Elementary School Boundary Study Advisory Committee recommends the MCPS Board of Trustees consider adjusting the boundaries for Chief Charlo and Russell Elementary schools when:

- 1) **Development of the area occurs**
- 2) **Rimel Road construction is complete and connects this area with Hillview Way**

Paxson, Lewis and Clark, and Franklin Elementary boundary changes

During the course of the boundary study, change area #14 and change area #22 were proposed to make adjustments to the Paxson, Lewis and Clark and Franklin boundary areas. There is uncertainty about middle school boundary changes which may occur in the 2019-20 school year that would impact the students in Change Area #22 and there is concern about future construction work needed to significantly alter the roadside friction that exists on Russell Street between 3rd and Mount Streets.

The Elementary School Boundary Study Advisory Committee recommends the MCPS Board of Trustees consider future adjustments to the boundaries for Paxson, Lewis and Clark, and Franklin Elementary within the area proposed as change area #14 and #22. They suggest that change area #14 is implemented in the 2020-21 school year along with any updated middle school boundary changes.

The committee members further recommend that some adjusted version of change area #22 occur to accommodate even distribution of enrollment numbers for each of these three schools. Change area #22 will also require the proposed road construction to redevelop the area of Russell Street between 3rd Street and Mount to allow for safe routes to school for students who do not take the bus.