

Summary of email and phone comment received by MCPS since Advisory Committee #4 and Open House #3

Phone Conversations:

Rattlesnake Parents opposed to Change Option #1	11
Paxson parents opposed to Change Option # 13	1

Emails:

Rattlesnake Parents opposed to Change Option #1	7
Lower Rattlesnake Families in support of Change Option #1	1
East Missoula Families in support of Change Option #1	1
General Missoulians in favor of Change Option #1	2
General Missoulians in opposed to Change Option #12	1
Paxson Families opposed to Change Option #13	1
East Missoula in favor of reopening Mt. Jumbo	1 (group letter from County Council)
Lewis and Clark Family opposed to Change Option #3	1
Jeannette Rankin Families opposed to Change Options #6,9	1
Question on how do I make public comment?	1

Hatton Littman

From: Becky Douglas <beckyddouglas@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2019 10:09 AM
To: Hatton Littman
Subject: Elementary Boundary Study Comment

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Dear MCPS and Ms. Littman,

First, thank you for all you do to educate the young citizens of Missoula and surrounding areas. My family is so grateful for your work. Second, thank you for your thorough boundary study process that is encouraging input. What a monumental task.

In addition, I am writing in support of keeping the Rattlesnake community together. I am not in support of the current OPTION 1 that would break up my neighborhood and remove the safe route to school that our new home would afford. We live at 1811 Traynor Drive, and chose that home because of its proximity to parks, our work, and the ability of our kids to bike safely to work. If they were to now have to go to Lowell School, My young children would have to cross tracks and go through downtown with lights and tons of intersections. I do not feel comfortable with this, and we would lose our ability to commute with many close friends just north of us (Traynor is on the line of folks that would go to Lowell). It also affects all sorts of other things, like the teams they play on and the community that we create. We purchased this home and have been pouring our sweat and heart into it with the assumption that we would stay in the Rattlesnake district.

And the long-term repercussions for our commute to middle school is very upsetting. We specifically are moving further east, which is closer to our land-based business located in Potomac, so we do not have to cross town with three kids. If we ended up at C.S.Porter, we would have completely defeated the purpose of moving closer to our workspace.

I went to one of the first meetings at Rattlesnake and enjoyed learning about Mt. Jumbo School. I hope that you are able to use that building to its fullest capacity sometime soon.

Thank you for your consideration. Let me know if you have any questions.

Becky Douglas Delp



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Hatton Littman

From: tiffanyabateman@yahoo.com
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 5:23 PM
To: Hatton Littman
Cc: Liz
Subject: Boundary Study

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Hello Hatton,

I'm writing you to express my concern of what I've been hearing regarding the boundary Study and I'm hoping you can shed some light on it for me.

I've been hearing that they are going to bus the East Missoula children to Lowell?

I understand that the Rattlesnake families don't want their children to go to any other school and I feel like because of where they live they are getting more of an upper hand on what the outcome will be. I also feel like the East Missoula children are getting the shaft when it comes to them because of where they live. It truly does make more sense in the long run to divide the Rattlesnake it self and send those kids to Lowell. It's a closer distance for them. And If the final decision is going to be based on where the children live I'm very disappointed in how this is being run.

I unfortunately cannot make most of the meetings due to work but I have been following them. If I'm way off base please let me know.

Thank you,
Tiffany Bateman

Sent from my iPhone

Hatton Littman

From: Jennifer Oakland <jenniferloakland@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 11:36 AM
To: Hatton Littman
Subject: Exact process question

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Hi Hatton,

I am a Rattlesnake Elem parent and attended your initial talk at the school re: boundary adjustments as well as the second open house at Russell. I am on a trip with my family and was unable to attend last Thursday. I understand that three options have been presented. If members of the public have opinions, should these be shared with our committee representative? Or the board of trustees? Or you?

Thank you for all that you are doing in this huge process.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Oakland

*Sent from my iPhone

Hatton Littman

From: Bracha Tenenbaum <bracha.b.rothschild@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 2:54 PM
To: Hatton Littman
Subject: Boundary comment

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To whom it may concern:

I am a parent in the Lower Rattlesnake. For the upcoming boundary adjustment, I support Option #1 and am excited by the prospect of sending my child to Lowell Elementary. Lowell has a 13:1 student-teacher ratio, whereas at Rattlesnake, our current school, the ratio is 17:1. Furthermore, Lowell's student body is three times as diverse as Rattlesnake ES— that's very important to me and other parents who care about justice and equality.

When I bought my home, I knew that its designated elementary school was subject to change. I am glad MCPS is considering Lowell for our neighborhood.

Thanks very much,
Bracha Tenenbaum

Hatton Littman

From: Malinda Lueck <malindallueck@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 9:46 AM
To: Hatton Littman; Pam C. Wright; rcnygren@mcpsmt.org; kristie.scheel@gmail.com
Subject: school boundary study comment
Attachments: Comments for Boundary Study to Submit.docx

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Good morning,

Attached is our letter containing comments regarding the school boundary study. Thank you for your continued commitment regarding this process. Have a great spring break!

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Comments on School Boundary Study

Submitted by Malinda and Jimmy Gaudry

As parents to two children attending Rattlesnake Elementary from the Lower Rattlesnake neighborhood we would like you to take our comments into consideration as you complete the boundary study. We have worked to incorporate our thoughts into the framework that is being used for the study. In alignment with the framework and guiding principles the Lower Rattlesnake neighborhood should remain in the current school boundary.

Framework for Selecting Boundaries:

Goals/Objectives (Balance building utilization and reduce overcrowding in schools)

- McKibben projections for 2023 show student population at Rattlesnake (current boundary) reducing by 2023 and in 2028 the population is set to reduce again. By maintaining the current Rattlesnake school boundary the following objectives are supported:
 - allowing for growth in the Rattlesnake school (Objective a)
 - With reduced population growth projected the Rattlesnake school will be able to accommodate future student populations in the current school boundary
 - reducing minimizing the need for future boundary adjustments (Objective b)
 - No future adjustments would be needed if current boundaries are maintained because the student population shows a projected decrease
 - adherence to state accreditation standards for class size and schools size (Objective c)
 - With the projections showing an incremental reduction in student population in five years and then again in ten years there is no need to change current boundaries for the Rattlesnake school district.
 - Impacting the least amount of students in the short term (Objective d)
 - Map 1 (WGM), as the alternative that would change the Lower Rattlesnake boundary, would displace the most students of any of the maps presented.
- The alternative presented by the WGM group show map 1 as an option that impacts the most students in the short term and alternative map 2 impacting the least. Choosing the map 2 option supports the Objective d.

Guiding Principles of the Strategic Facilities Plan

- The McKibben report, WGM maps, and safe routes to school map in conjunction with the guiding principles all support the need to keep the Rattlesnake school boundary as it is.
 - As previously conveyed regarding the discussion of the goals/objectives. Student populations are sustainable with current school size and enrollment over time. (Guiding Principle a and b)
 - Maintaining current boundaries for Lower Rattlesnake families allows for safe routes to school to be utilized. East Missoula does not currently have a safe route identified and none of the current options resolves that. (Guiding Principle c)

- Map option 1 would remove the safe route option for Lower Rattlesnake (impacting students). **The Safe Routes maps show that there is no safe route for students to go to Lowell from the Lower Rattlesnake area.** This presents numerous safety hazards for bike/walk connectivity for students to get to school. Those hazards include:
 - The junction of west Greenough and Vine street because it is difficult to access the bike lane due to excessive speed of cars coming down Greenough. This stretch of road becomes icy in winter, drivers do not follow traffic regulations, and the unpredictability of drivers can be hazardous.
 - Seasonal safety hazards due to puddling water on the I-90 underpass. This creates an impasse for those wishing to ride bikes on this route.
 - The railroad crossing can be unsafe for bikes/pedestrian to cross to get from Lower Rattlesnake to Lowell.
 - The increase in traffic in the downtown area would ultimately make it hazardous for any Lower Rattlesnake student to bike or walk to Lowell. Students would need to navigate busy street crossings and turning lanes with no bike lanes being present.
- Lower Rattlesnake students currently have a well-established safe route to get to school. Map 1 changes would remove that safety feature.
- Google maps show that pedestrian and bike routes are shorter for children to get to Rattlesnake elementary than they are for the Lowell school
- Trails and sidewalks allow for safe access to Rattlesnake Elementary
- Maintaining the current Rattlesnake boundaries meets the goal of providing diversified housing options within the school boundary (Guiding principle d) with East Missoula, Rattlesnake (Upper and Lower) provide everything from rentals housing and apartments to high end single family homes.
- Rattlesnake elementary serves the Rattlesnake community. This includes upper and lower Rattlesnake. This is our neighborhood and our neighborhood school. (Guiding principle e)

Additional Criteria for Guiding Boundary Changes

- Google maps shows that the driving route from lower Rattlesnake to Lowell to be longer than to Rattlesnake elementary. (Criteria a)
- Keeping the Rattlesnake boundary intact for all of those that live in the Rattlesnake area (upper and lower) will keep neighborhood cohesion (Criteria c)

Further Considerations:

- With the consideration of reopening the Mt. Jumbo school this could help serve future needs should the Rattlesnake school need space. This is especially true if East Missoula sees further development.
- Could the reopening of Mt. Jumbo school serve as a middle school to alleviate overcrowding?
- East Missoula students are already being bussed to Rattlesnake. One solution might be to send those busses to Lowell and leave the Rattlesnake community intact
- High level of development is projected by Lowell district therefore Lowell will have an ample student population in five years.

Hatton Littman

From: Eva Dunn-Froebig <evapdf@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 5:19 PM
To: Hatton Littman
Subject: MCPS Boundary Study comment

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Dear Ms. Hatton Littman:

I am commenting on the MCPS boundary study, specifically as it relates to the Riverfront neighborhood (the neighborhood east of Russell St. and south of the Clark Fork River) in the Paxson Elementary School District. I encourage the Advisory Committee and the Missoula County Board of Trustees to keep this neighborhood in the Paxson district for the following reasons.

Safety

Paxson is the only elementary school that is walkable and bikeable from this neighborhood. Students can safely take the Riverfront Trail east until they get to the university side streets, where there are sidewalks to get them to Paxson. Other schools have major barriers in the way such as Broadways St. (Lowell), Russell St. (Franklin and Hawthorne), and Reserve St. (Hawthorne). Also, it makes no sense to send kids in this neighborhood further west of downtown.

Equity

If one of the goals of the Advisory Committee and the Trustees is to keep or make the elementary schools more diverse when it comes to income, the Riverfront neighborhood should remain in the Paxson district. This neighborhood has a median household income of \$33,313 with 28.3% of residents below the poverty level compared to a median household income of \$86,950 and 19.6% of residents below the poverty level in the University neighborhood. It's worth noting that the Riverfront neighborhood income data is skewed due to residents living in the high-priced condos in the Sawmill District.

Out of District Students

It came to my attention at the Advisory Committee meeting last week that students from out of district are attending Paxson because of one of its special programs, Spanish Immersion. If this wasn't occurring Paxson would not be close to capacity.

Growth Data

The consultants also presented growth data at the Advisory Committee meeting and the results show the current Paxson district growing by about 6 or 7% in the next 5 years and then declining by about the same 10 years after that.

Based on these reasons I believe it would make no sense to move the Riverfront neighborhood out of the Paxson district.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

Eva Dunn-Froebig

Hatton Littman

From: Brian Johnson <johnsonbrianpatrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 4:54 PM
To: Hatton Littman
Subject: Boundary Discussion Feedback

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Ms. Littman:

My name is Brian Johnson. I believe my wife and I live in the current Franklin boundary area, and I know we both work in the current Lowell boundary area, both of us in leadership positions serving families and children every day. We are starting a family ourselves.

I'm a poor kid, from a poor neighborhood, in Great Falls. A noticeable blend of poor families, and families of greater means, throughout my school age years, is a clear contributing factor to my success today. It did me a lot of good to have a sleepover at the doctor's kid's house, and I believe that his parents learned something from being around my mom and grandma on the playground, too.

My sister, 10 years my junior, who lived in 13 different foster before that age, was accepted to the Columbia University MFA program this year, after finishing an MA in American Studies at the University of Wyoming.

Why am I sharing all that with you?

Anyone paying even the slightest bit of attention realizes that the rich families are up in the Rattlesnake and the poor kids, from backgrounds like mine, attend Lowell, Franklin and other places. That's a broad brush, but true enough.

I'd like to speak for the poor kids. It does not surprise me in the least that their mom's and dad's (and grandparents... and foster parents... and aunts... and case workers...) don't have time for meetings and maps and committees.

Blend Lowell and Rattlesnake boundaries, and thereby better blend the class realities of the community of families who make up both schools.

I'm not exactly sure of the schools and boundaries, but to draw East Missoula kids into Lowell is the worst idea of all. Creating higher concentrations of poverty in fewer of our elementary schools is going to take Missoula the wrong direction for generations.

The public education system is one of a shrinking number of social and civic institutions that should help us cross the economic class divide. We need to have the courage to make that true. We need to be that committed to ALL the kids.

I am aware of a comment made at a previous committee meeting, something to the effect of: "the Rattlesnake community needs to stick together." Oh how strongly I disagree.

Our task is to educate OUR children, to deliberately reach, in public education, beyond comfortable boundaries for the good of EVERY kid, not just those whose parents can attend PTA meetings or, more to the point, afford or be lucky enough to live in the area with the good school, that doesn't have too many "problem" kids.

I'm not really sure what the right forum for sharing this opinion is, but I'd be glad to express it to anyone who asks.

I'm for all kids, but I am for the "problem" kids, first. If we get it right for those kids, everything else will fall into line.

The only meaningful question is: do we care to get it right for those kids?

Sincerely,

Brian Johnson
406-926-9797
100 Parker Ct. Missoula MT 59601

Hatton Littman

From: Sarah Perry <waterdress@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 11:20 AM
To: Hatton Littman
Subject: Boundary Survey Update

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Good Morning Hatton,

I wanted to add to my last email a couple points. Number one, a couple years ago when we went through construction of our school, we were under the impression it was to make more space to ensure our community was adequately served. We have a tremendous amount of open space inside our school building which does not appear to be used for education or community purposes. If we had known that the cap of 500 students would be hard and fast, and an extra 25 or so would not be allowed, I believe many of us would have been much more involved in voicing better use of space to accommodate said fluctuation between 25 or 50 students over the years. I am in support of additional modules if that is necessary. I am also saddened to see the prospect of our East Missoula neighbors being bused to Lowell. As of now, I feel they are an integral part of our school and community. I am guessing that East Missoula will grow a lot over the next few years and may require a school of its own at some point, but until then, they are Rattlesnake kids too!! Also, I fear they will also not be properly informed of the new option until it is too late for them to comment. A text such as the one just sent out does not let East Missoula parents know that their children may be ripped from their current school as soon as next year. Just as I feel Lower Rattlesnake parents were not adequately informed. Also, several neighbors have told me that early on they were ASSURED by our superintendent that we DO NOT need to worry about Option One or being annexed into Lowell school. If this is NOT true, please adequately set the record straight, as some of these parents truly believe there is no chance of Option One occurring. When I spoke with these individuals, they said I was overreacting because the Superintendent told them IN PERSON, that Option One WILL NOT happen.

Also, I want to add that Rattlesnake Elementary and Pineview park are a community gathering place for Rattlesnake families up and down the entire valley (and East Missoula kids too). We often ride our bikes or walk in the warmer months after school to meet other families. It is a wonderful midway point for upper and lower Rattlesnake families to gather. In the winter, we'll zip over in the car to meet people to play in the snow together. As these things happen after school hours, but as a part of school community, I decided to video tape the route at 5:20 yesterday from Lowell to my house (via car). And then at 5:35 from my house to Pineview/Rattlesnake elementary. It took 14 minutes and 28 seconds to get from Lowell to my house. It verged on being dangerous to drive. There is absolutely no way my daughter could bike or walk to Lowell for a playdate, even if accompanied by both her step dad and myself. Between traffic, the roundabout, traffic lights where cars were getting jammed up in the left hand turn lane, and the railroad tracks which often have a train, it would be extremely dangerous, again, even if accompanied by several adults. I am happy to share this video, though I don't know how to email it. With the video from my house to Pineview/Rattlesnake, you can see that she does not have to cross any major roads. She does not have to cross or be on Van Buren at all as it is legal to bike and walk both directions on Missoula Avenue. This is the case for every lower Rattlesnake family west of Van Buren. Driving purposefully, and documented, at least 5 miles under the speed limit, this drive, .5 miles

less than the distance to Lowell, took me 5 minutes and 31 seconds. There was hardly any traffic and no dangerous crossings.

Again, please clarify with everyone if what the Superintendent told people in person is not true. They need to be informed. Also, please inform our East Missoula neighbors with more urgency that their child may be switching schools next year. I personally would be upset, as my daughter's best friend lives in East Missoula.

Also, I want to reiterate that I understand boundaries are being evaluated all over town. The Rattlesnake is unique in that it is literally, geographically, its own community. It would be such a strange, counterintuitive, and dangerous choice to annex our children into a community completely separate in location from ours. I also am very much in favor of channeling more taxpayer funds to our other schools and communities if they are in need! I believe, as East Missoula becomes a part of our city, their infrastructure needs to be bolstered, and I hope to see that happen.

thank you for reading and passing on my additional comments,
Sarah

Hatton Littman

From: Miller, Scott <Scott.Miller@mso.umt.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 4:23 PM
To: Hatton Littman
Subject: potential school boundary change

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Dear Hatton,

As a Lower Rattlesnake resident and parent of a Rattlesnake Elementary student, I am writing to voice my opposition to Option 1 for three reasons: the disruption to our community, safety concerns and demographics. Regarding the first point, the Rattlesnake valley is a contiguous and highly connected community defined by its unique geography. My kids and my neighbors' kids move freely along the Rattlesnake corridor and have consequently developed a deep sense of place. This community connection will be disrupted by the proposed boundary change. Related to this point, our neighborhood is currently a safe and easy bike ride to school. This would not be the case in the event of a boundary change, due to the railroad crossing, increased traffic etc. I urge the MCPS to weigh the preservation of safe bike/walk routes heavily during the decision process. Finally, although a few grade levels at Rattlesnake are presently at capacity, my understanding is that the demography of the valley will be changing over the next few years (a drop of ~50 students).

This school boundary change would have negative consequences for our community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott Miller

1327 Jackson St

Hatton Littman

From: Amy Scott Smith <amssmith@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 11:29 AM
To: Hatton Littman
Subject: school boundary comment

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Hello

I haven't been able to attend the open houses to comment. And I will be out of town starting tomorrow morning, so won't be able to comment on the interactive map when it opens back up. I hope it is appropriate to forward my comment to you for consideration by the committee. My child attends Jeannette Rankin and we live on 42nd St.

I respect how challenging this process is, and that you will never make anyone happy. However, I remain incredibly frustrated with the fact that the school district opened a new school that was already at or over capacity before undertaking this boundary relocation study. Now our child, and lots of other children, are looking at yet another school change.

We moved to our neighborhood before our daughter was born because it was walkable to both the elementary school (Cold Springs) and middle school (Meadow Hill). Those were very important considerations for us. Now our daughter is on a bus for 20 minutes every morning to get to school; and in the car for 15-20 minutes every evening on our way back home (we utilize the campfire after school program). This bums us out greatly. But, short of re-opening Cold Springs, we realize there is little we can do.

The new boundary options for us indicate a possible shift to Chief Charlo. Chief Charlo is not walkable/bikable from our house -- not only is it up a steep hill, there are no sidewalks or bike lanes for most of that trek. I presume we will not have a bus as technically it is only a mile away. Therefore, we will have to drive her up the hill to school, then turn around and drive back down the hill for work; likewise after work, drive up the hill past our house to pick her up and then back down the hill to home. I don't know if campfire operates an afterschool program there; but, if not, we'll then have to figure out a new afterschool program and transportation. As a two-working parent household, this is a strain not only on our family, but also our employers as we will be unable to make it to work on time and may need to leave mid-day to provide transportation to an afterschool program.

While none of these options are great, I'm frankly not sure what's the lesser of two evils -- a 20 minute bus commute to school, or parents having to drive to school preventing us from getting to work on time. And unfortunately for our daughter, most of her friends and classmates live in neighborhoods that won't be subject to the boundary changes.

At the end of the day, my gut tells me that it would be far more difficult for my daughter to switch schools as a forth grader, leaving well established relationships with friends and teachers, and then again switch schools at 6th grade, after just getting used to a new school (and riding a bus) this year.

Thus, while grandfathering is difficult at Jeannette Rankin, I plead that the committee please strongly consider finding a way to make it work.

Amy Scott Smith
amssmith@gmail.com
406-239-1883

Hatton Littman

From: Austin Wright <awright@aegis-eng.biz>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 12:38 PM
To: Hatton Littman
Subject: School Boundaries
Attachments: school boundry thoughts.pdf

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Ms. Littman

I wanted to reach out to you considering I was not able to make it to the meeting on the 14th and feel the need to reach out and express my feelings on the boundary changes.

Our family bikes and or walks a considerable portion of the year to and from school. Currently we live near the cross streets of Bancroft and North Ave West. My children are getting to the age where commuting alone is becoming an option, in 2 of the proposed changes our home would be in Paxon district requiring them to cross 2 streets, Park and Higgins, that are higher traffic through corridor streets on their way to and from school without any controlled intersections on their way.

It looks like the existing maps try to address this routing our neighborhood to Lewis and Clark School and neighborhoods that have more than one major street to cross having the availability of bussing or controlled intersections for walking and biking. As we do not have an option for school bussing or public bussing to school I would really prefer the boundaries around the schools change to maintain the sustainable transportation we have.

Considering the walkability and bike ability of the Paxon and Lewis and Clark Neighborhoods to the schools is it possible to adjust the neighborhoods that are bussed into Paxon and Lewis and Clark? These neighborhoods could be bussed to the schools that are lower in numbers?

A picture is worth a thousand words so I attached a pdf with these thoughts on the map.

Thank you for your time and please feel free to contact me if I can help explain any of this.

Austin Wright

Aegis Engineering Inc.

128 W. Alder St.

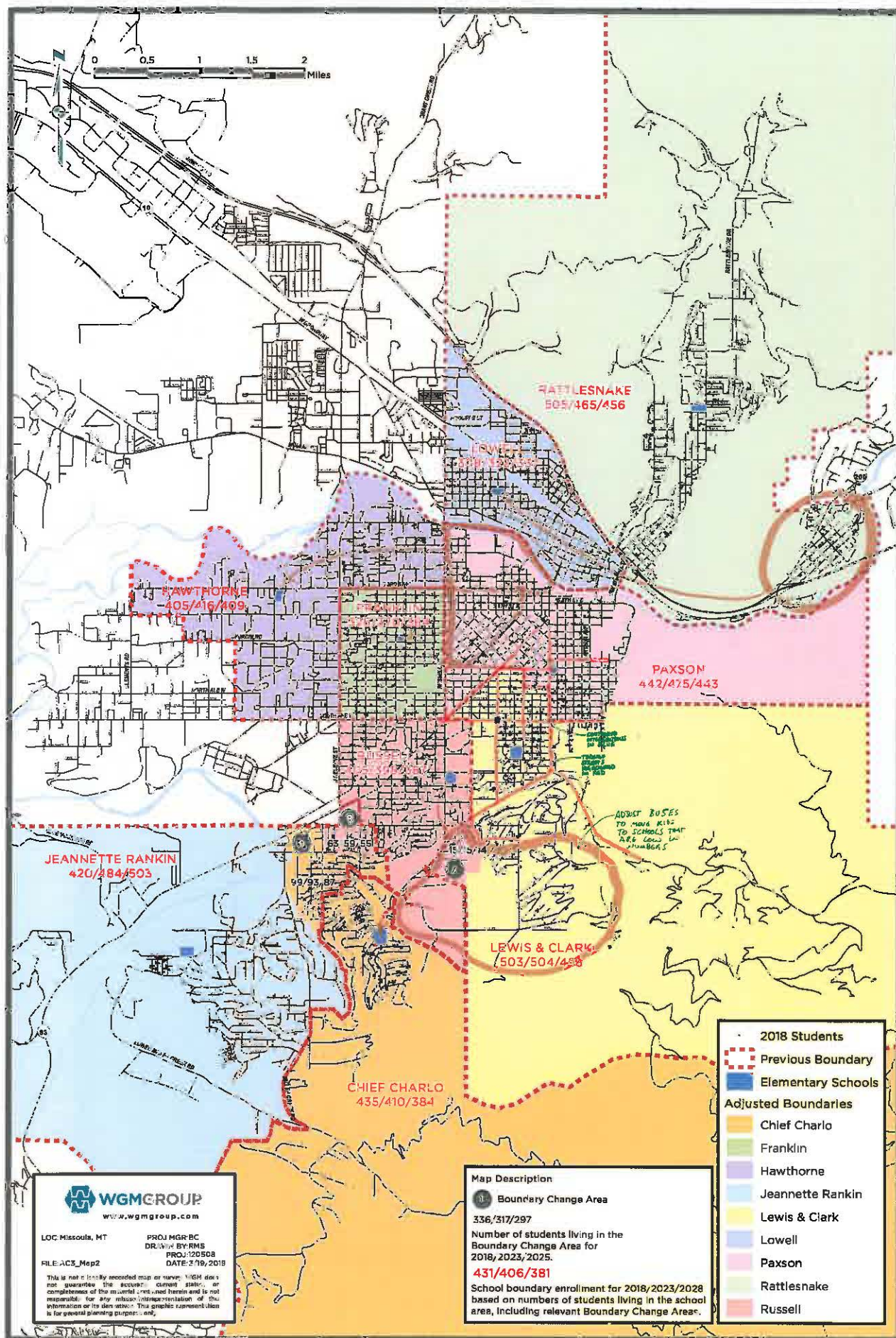
Suite A

Missoula, MT 59802

P. 406.274.6862

E. awright@aegis-eng.biz

[Website](#)



ADJUSTED ATTENDANCE BOUNDARIES - OPTION 2

MCPS ELEMENTARY ATTENDANCE BOUNDARY STUDY

Hatton Littman

From: Ryan Laws <constructiveinnovationllc@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 7:32 PM
To: Hatton Littman
Subject: Fwd: school boundaries

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>
> To whom it may concern,
> It has recently come to my attention the plan to relocate the boundaries which define some schools attendance. I am adamantly against relocating students whom reside in the Rattlesnake neighborhood to Lowell Elementary. I understand that Missoula is growing but this seems ridiculous. Not only are we footing the bill as taxpayers for all of the recent renovations but now our kids must leave their neighborhoods to travel to a school in another? We chose the Rattlesnake neighborhood for the following. and many other, reasons:
>
> 1. To live in a defined neighborhood and to foster a sense of community.
> 2. To live in a neighborhood with a safe passage to school for our daughter.
> 3. To live near our friends and fellow students of my daughter.
>
> This choice came at a cost which we accepted for our daughters long term education and small community feel. We paid higher than market prices for our home and in turn pay higher than normal property taxes to be here. If one of the plans is to bus kids from E. Missoula to the Rattlesnake then why not bus them to Lowell? It's closer and doesn't affect the kids of the Rattlesnake. Please consider the kids.
>
> Concerned Parent,
> Ryan Laws
>
>

Hatton Littman

From: Kathy Zeiler <kzeiler@RMEF.ORG>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 2:28 PM
To: Hatton Littman
Subject: Rattlesnake Elementary School - Boundary Discussion

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Hi Hatton,

I wanted to write and put in my comment on the proposed plans for changes to the Rattlesnake Elementary school boundaries. I understand the reasons for MCPS to do this study and I fully support it. However, I have several concerns about one of the proposals (#1) currently on the table.

This proposal is splitting the upper and lower Rattlesnake into two schools and bussing the East Missoula kids in. They would be bussing past my house to go to the school that I live less than a mile away from. My son can ride his bike to and from school in the spring and fall with a group of kids and parents from our neighborhood. This time of year he walks home a couple times a week with the same group. He does not have to take any main roads and the route is safe.

We chose our location because of its vicinity to the school he would attend. I researched the school and selected our home when he was one year old with this access specifically in mind. The children in East Missoula will be bussed regardless of which school they attend on any of these proposals, so moving kids who live within walking and/or biking distance doesn't make sense to me.

In addition to my personal opinions, it looks to me like the current projections for Rattlesnake actually show the enrollment decreasing at that school. Because the Rattlesnake is in a valley and not really open to expansion, I think changing the boundaries to move the lower half out of the school just shrinks that school for the sake of evening out other schools. I don't think that does anything for the value of homes in the Rattlesnake and is detrimental to those of us who work hard to be there.

I am a single parent and I have a sole income. Living in the Rattlesnake has been a sacrifice for me financially, which I was willing to take to give my son what I thought was the best education and environment I could find. We have strong ties to the school: he plays soccer every spring and fall with these kids, he goes to Cub Scouts with the Rattlesnake kids, I volunteer for book fairs and PTA fundraisers, we volunteer for projects cleaning up Rattlesnake Creek and removing noxious weeds, we want to be involved in our community. This school feels like a part of our community and I think it would be a shame to split that community it two.

Thank you for your time,
Kathy Zeiler

Hatton Littman

From: Cristina Boeing <crislaws@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 7:56 PM
To: Hatton Littman
Subject: School Boundaries

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For your consideration.

I've recently learned of the plan to relocate the boundaries for children who attend Rattlesnake Elementary. Please do not do this. This doesn't make sense to us or anyone else we have spoken to. We moved to the Rattlesnake specifically for our daughter to study here. This would create an unneeded hardship for all of our kids to be bussed to another school when they can safely walk or ride their bikes from home. Please consider other options.

Thank you,
C. Boeing

Hatton Littman

From: Kali Becher <kgbecher@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 10:17 AM
To: Hatton Littman
Subject: Elementary School Boundary Study comment

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Good morning Ms. Littman,

First of all, thank you so much for your work on this project--I'm sure it has been challenging! I really appreciate that MCPS is looking at how to resolve growth and overcrowding.

I apologize I can't make it to the meeting this evening as I have to work late. I live in the Northside and it seems like there have not been a lot of comments from this area. My husband and I moved to the neighborhood nearly 10 years ago and have seen a lot of change. While many of the changes have been positive, it has also made me worried about increasing economic divisions. I wasn't planning on getting engaged in this process since I knew our daughter would still be in the Lowell school district, but after looking at a few of the proposed changes I felt the need to weigh in.

I think it absolutely makes sense to expand the Lowell school district, it sounds like the school has room and now that it recently had upgrades (thank you!!) it is even more ready to accept more students. However, I think the expansion needs to carefully consider existing socio-economic divisions in order to increase equality and opportunity for all, not reinforce and exacerbate existing divisions. Boundary change number 1 seems like a logical and beneficial change. I realize many parents in the lower Rattlesnake neighborhood likely moved there for a variety of reasons, but I'm guessing schools were one big reason. Though this would be a hard shift for them, I also see that their investment in their child's school and education could go very far if it was focused on Lowell. A rising tide lifts all boats. More parents engaged and invested in Lowell will improve opportunities for *all* students, which will help to increase equality in an area with high poverty. On the other hand, boundary change number 12 could result in just increasing the socio-economic divisions in our education system. The similarities between the Lowell school district with change number 12 and the poverty map are striking. School boundaries should cross socio-economic divisions, not be drawn along these divisions. I strongly believe that having classes mixed with a variety of students from different backgrounds helps everyone as it increases empathy and understanding and improves education outcomes.

The recent college admission scandal has shown very clearly the insidious ways that our system increases inequality, and that it starts very early. I think this boundary study and change is a great opportunity to work on improving socio-economic equality in our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in.

Sincerely,

Hatton Littman

From: East Missoula Community Council <emissoulacc@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 10:43 AM
To: Lisa Thomas (mtlisathomas@gmail.com)
Cc: Hatton Littman; Doug & Joan Combs (ddcombs@bresnan.net); Ryan Alter (ryan@alterenterprise.com); Dick Ainsworth; Mark Thane
Subject: Re: Elementary School Boundary Study
Attachments: Letter to MCPS.pdf

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Hatton and Mark,

I've attached our EMCC letter of support for Mt Jumbo Elementary School being brought back into use for its intended purpose. I plan to be at the Elementary School Boundary Study meeting on Thursday and will bring a copy of the letter with me. We are excited to be included in this study and plans going forward. Let us know what we can do to help you in this endeavor.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter!

Sincerely,
Lee Bridges, EMCC Chair
Dick Ainsworth, EMCC Vice Chair
Lisa Thomas, EMCC Secretary
Ryan Alter, EMCC Treasurer
Doug Combs, EMCC Member

On Mon, Mar 18, 2019 at 9:40 AM <mtlisathomas@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi all,

I want to clarify that splitting the K5 grades between Jumbo and Rattlesnake schools was an idea that may come to the table, and has been done before with Jumbo and Prescott schools. It was not my suggestion.

Thank you all for your work and support for our students.

Lisa Thomas

Secretary

East Missoula Community Council

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 17, 2019, at 12:11 PM, East Missoula Community Council <emissoulacc@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you for the reminder, Hatton! I have it on my schedule to attend the March 21st meeting.

As mentioned previously, one of our goals for the EMCC is to have Mt. Jumbo school reopened for the use it was intended for. At our last EMCC meeting, Lisa Thomas, our Secretary, suggested splitting the grade levels; for example, k-2 at Mt. Jumbo and 3-6 at Rattlesnake. (Wasn't that how you put it, Lisa?) The EMCC is ALL for it! Whatever brings Mt Jumbo School back into it's intended use, we support.

Dick, Lisa, Doug, Ryan: let's get a letter put together to submit by email and I can submit it at the March 21st meeting in hardcopy. Lisa, would you help us draft it, since you are our go-to-person on education and know what we want? If you would email us a draft, we can finalize it and get it submitted.

Great work, everyone! Thanks Hatton and Mark! You'll be hearing from us!

Sincerely,

Lee Bridges, EMCC Chair

Cc: Dick Ainsworth, EMCC Vice Chair

Lisa Thomas, EMCC Secretary

Ryan Alter, EMCC Treasurer

Doug Combs, EMCC Member

On Thu, Mar 14, 2019 at 2:30 PM Hatton Littman <hlittman@mcps.k12.mt.us> wrote:

Lee:

Thanks for your desire to remain connected to this boundary study. As a reminder, here is some information we shared with the community today. I hope you can join us next week at the open house meeting. If you do have public comment to share in the form of a letter, feel free to submit it to Mark and I at any time. The social pinpointing map is not equipped to take long submissions and comments.

Best,

H

Our Advisory Committee has been working hard since then and we look forward to hosting our third Elementary School Boundary Study Open House on **Thursday, March 21, 2019, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** We will meet in the Russell Elementary School dining room at 3216 Russell Street. There is ample parking in the lot between the school and the YMCA.

Feel free to stop by at any time from 6-8 to **see the options for boundary adjustments being contemplated by the Advisory Committee.**

We will also have all of the background information and demographic projections shared at the previous open houses so that everyone understands the process, the data, and criteria that get us to the point of presenting options. All data, maps,

summaries of comments, and information on the boundary study can be found at www.mcpsmt.org/elementaryschoolboundarystudy.

Your feedback is important, please help us shape the recommendation presented to trustees in May.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me directly.

Thank you,

Hatton Littman

Communications Director

Missoula County Public Schools

Hatton Littman
Communications Director
Missoula County Public Schools
hlittman@mcps.k12.mt.us
406-728-2400 ext. 1024
www.mcpsmt.org

Missoula Public Schools are proud to lead the state with engaging academics and connected teaching. We believe in Achievement for All.

From: East Missoula Community Council <emissoulacc@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2019 2:15 PM

To: Hatton Littman <hlittman@mcps.k12.mt.us>; Dick Ainsworth <gnomehome@bresnan.net>; Mark Thane <mthane@mcps.k12.mt.us>

Subject: Elementary School Boundary Study

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Greetings, Hatton and Mark,

I'm Lee Bridges, Chair of the East Missoula Community Council. I'd like to have us on your emailing list in regards to the Elementary School Boundary Study.

One of our EMCC goals is to get Mt Jumbo School back into use for what it's purposed for; an elementary school. We'd like to be involved in whatever it takes to facilitate this endeavor. I see we've missed some important dates for public comment; can you link me to where we can submit comments by the Feb 15th deadline on "Open My Social Pinpoint Map"?

We'll be having our EMCC meeting on Tuesday, Feb 12th, and can draft a letter from our Community Council in support of opening up Mt Jumbo School in the near future, if that would be appropriate.

Please advise what we can do to assist going forward; we are eager to participate!

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter,

Lee Bridges

Chair of East Missoula Community Council (EMCC)

emissoulacc@gmail.com

cc: Dick Ainsworth, Vice Chair of EMCC

March 18, 2019

Dear Hatton Littman, Mark Thane, the MCPS School Board, and the MCPS community,

The East Missoula Community Council would like to offer its support to the re-opening of Mount Jumbo school as elementary school boundaries are being discussed. Mount Jumbo is a wonderful building. It was recently updated for the Lowell school building project. Although more updating is needed for more permanent operation, the members of the community council are in full support of having a school back in East Missoula.

Mount Jumbo served East Missoula for decades and served from 232 to approximately 370 students. Its current capacity is listed as 332 students. MCPS had Mount Jumbo assessed by MGM group in 2017 and 5 options are available for student use in various arrangements. As East Missoula grows Mount Jumbo sits ready to serve the Missoula community.

As we consider the overcrowding and growth in Missoula, we must realize that East Missoula is growing and prospering as well. The annexation of East Missoula into the city is in the near future. East Missoula has apartments, condominiums, tiny home, and Habitat for Humanity projects underway or completed. Private lots have been developed with single family homes. Missoula home prices just experienced the largest annual increase, of 8.1%, since the closing of Mt. Jumbo in 2004. The county has seen an equal increase. Families are looking to East Missoula for affordable housing and there are homes available, under construction, or in development. With upcoming highway 200 improvements East Missoula will have a village center. We have 2 coffee businesses, a vibrant church, and upcoming restaurant/taproom possibility. The East Missoula Community Council is very busy with the county land use map. We are looking at residential and work neighborhoods, parking, road and bike lane improvements. All this will lead to the need for a school. Mt. Jumbo sits at the heart of all this.

There are currently 157 students within what could be the Mt. Jumbo school boundary. This would be East Missoula through Easy street and Broadway. It makes sense to be in front of the need for an open and vibrant school. It follows the saying "If you build it they will come." Many are concerned of change and what a new school will bring for the children. The council remembers the quality staff and education that Mt. Jumbo provided the children of East Missoula, and the Rattlesnake. The East Missoula Community council encourages the MCPS community to make Mt. Jumbo a vibrant community center, as it was for decades.

Thank you for you time and consideration,

Sincerely,

The East Missoula Community Council

Lee Bridges: Chair

Dick Ainsworth: Vice Chair

Ryan Alter: Treasurer

Lisa Thomas: Secretary

Doug Combs: council member