

Summary of Comment Received on Social Pinpoint

100 comments received
Between 1/28/2019 and 2/27/2019

By School:

- Chief Charlo – 1 comment
- Franklin – 1 comment
- Hawthorne – 2 comments
- Jeannette Rankin- 4 comments
- Lewis and Clark – 2 comments
- Lowell – 0 comments
- Paxson – 3 comments
- Rattlesnake – 85 comments
- Russell – 2 comments

By topic:

- Boundary Adjustment Concern – 85 comments
 - Hazard Concern – 15 comments
-
- 40 – Walk/Bike to School
 - 32 – Mount Jumbo
 - 9 – Bussing Students
 - 20 – East Missoula

All Comments:

I am a huge fan of neighborhood schools. The health of a neighborhood really depends on access to quality schooling close to home. I am a parent of four school aged children and am grateful for the quality education provided by MCPS. I think it would be excellent for East Missoula if Mount Jumbo School reopened. The potential growth in that part of town over the next decade will create a real need for a neighborhood school in East Missoula. Each neighborhood deserves its own school.

I do not support splitting Rattlesnake/Mt Jumbo school into k-2/3-5. Consistency during these years/proximity of school to home are important to me for our daily work/school commute, sense of community, and our ability to volunteer at the school. Do not make these school years harder for parents and kids. No BUSSING!

I have lived in Missoula since birth. My daughter is in her last year at Rattlesnake and my son is in 1st. It has always been very important to us that they can walk and bike to school. East Missoula is one of the fastest growing parts of town and there should be a focus on improving Mount Jumbo School so that Rattlesnake kids can walk to School and East Missoula Kids can walk to their own school as well. Forward thinking would benefit all this way. Enough with the long distance busing!

Thank you for the previous comments. I also live near 3rd, and would prefer that this area remains in the Paxson District. Even with the completion of the new bridge, the walk along Russel St. and over the bridge is not ideal for children, whereas there are ways to get over 5th and 6th safely.

Climate change and the need to reduce parent driving and school busing distances should be factored in as this plan will likely last for some time. Schools should be concentrated in areas which do not require as much driving/bussing for the greatest majority of the kids (and preferably allow for walking and biking for the greatest number). Thus neighborhood schools should be retained to the greatest extent possible, and moving large chunks of kids around via bus and car should be avoided.

Riverfront north of 3rd should be changed to Lowell. The forthcoming pedestrian bridge will make walking easy. Currently walking to Paxson requires crossing 5th and 6th which are notoriously dangerous for pedestrians as they are two lanes, one-way.

I strongly oppose splitting up the Lower and Upper Rattlesnake. Please do NOT draw the boundary lines through Lower Rattlesnake and send Lower Rattlesnake kids to another school. We bought our home in 2011 before our children were school aged. We intentionally researched the MCPS boundaries and the school's reputation before making our decision to buy. Our high property taxes reflect an investment in our neighborhood school. Do other Lower Rattlesnake parents feel similarly? Speak up!

I heard it was about 150 students...Isn't that the same amount of kids who live in EMO? Sounds like an easy solution to me. Keep the kids going to RE that are currently within the boundaries and stop porting kids in to RE that live outside of the RE boundaries.

Cars are speeding along upwards of 40-50 MPH at any given time with absolute disregard for the 25 MPH speed limit between Lolo Street and Mountain View, a well established bus and walk to school route. We have tried working with the city on this and they continue to ignore the issue. We are asking for either more patrolling in the area, speed bumps, speed humps, bulb-outs, flashing signs, whatever is available to slow traffic.

I agree! Even if the 25 MPH speed limit was actually followed by drivers on Duncan we'd be in better shape than we are now, where cars are speeding along upwards of 40-50 MPH at any given time. We have tried working with the city on this and they continue to ignore the issue.

We continued to live where we do with the soul purpose of our daughter having the ability to attend the elementary school she lives a block away from. Children need stability, and the idea of schlepping her off to East Missoula not only causes stress for us but also for her. I'm sure we are not alone. Children should be able to attend school in the neighborhoods in which they reside, and the city/school district should make accommodations to assure this continues to happen.

We live on the west side of Bancroft and are currently in the L&C district, we specifically purchased our home so our son could attend L&C. If you redistrict this address to Russell, there will be a loss in home value. Further, you will likely simply create a new polygon of increase value homes based on the boundary shift. If you seek an egalitarian solution, you must keep some parts west of Bancroft in L&C as home types (multi-family) are the only real way to ensure economic equality in L&C.

The possibility of Rattlesnake school as K-8 for all of the Rattlesnake, and Mount Jumbo reopening as K-8 for that growing area of town needs to be explored. How is it possible to complete this boundary study and get good, informative information, if the study does NOT include grades 6,7 and 8. The fact that middle-schoolers from Rattlesnake and East Missoula currently bus 25 minutes (one way) to get to Washington Middle school is just wrong.

To access chief charlo across the hill we have to use Gharett. I would never let my kid walk or bike to school on Gharett- windy road with no sidewalks. Would be safer route for them if we were in Jeanette Rankin district, as well as a safer/easier drive in a car

The name of this is a "boundary study." This implies research, not change. It seems to me that calling it what it is might be more effective for community understanding, ex: "boundary readjustment." I am concerned that parents do not understand that this "study" has a potential effect on where their children go to school. This may be one reason why there has not been a lot of parent involvement/comment in some areas. I would encourage you to clarify this now and in future boundary discussions.

With all of your outreach being internet based, what are your plans for reaching out to parents in the district who may not have frequent access to the web? Flyers, reader board, mail outs, etc...

With all the comments about wanting things to remain the same I need to ask how we fix the overcrowding with out something changing? I do not see any thoughts on solving a problem.

We have to bus daily for a location over a mile away. There is no option for walking or biking. There is a big problem with over crowding and a school that remains closed while taxes remained paid. Lowell school used this building for a whole year, when does it become good enough for its own community?

I was just wondering how many students that are currently enrolled at Rattlesnake live outside the boundary?

7 based on information from here:
<https://www.mcpsmt.org/cms/lib/MT01001940/Centricity/Domain/3808/Rattlesnake.pdf>

As of the meeting at Rattlesnake 2/20/19, the option of making Rattlesnake a K-3 is not actually on the table and is mostly a rumor. Reopening Mt. Jumbo would be a great option down the road provided it receives the same upgrades as our other schools have received recently. There are currently only about 150 grade school kids in East Missoula- not enough to fill the school.

This is a great comment! Totally agree.

We are E. Missoula residents that currently have a 3rd grader at Rattlesnake. We are going to work to ensure that she can finish her education there should the boundaries change. We can appreciate the comments from the folks in the Rattlesnake that mention purchasing a home with a school in mind. We also have a great school assigned to our area... Rattlesnake. In the event Mt. Jumbo plays a role, it would first need the improvements that we have voted for and help pay for at the other schools.

Yes, Lowell school just spent a whole year of operation using this building. I can not understand that tax dollars are spent on a building that works for a large school like Lowell but remains closed.

We live on the designated, "safe walk to school route" for RE and that was one of the deciding factors when we chose to purchase a home in this neighborhood, is that our children would be able to safely walk, bike, ski to school. Please keep RE as a K-5 school and allow children who live so closely to attend RE. It is also very important to us that siblings be able to attend the same school for as long as possible, meaning K-5.

We chose this neighborhood with the intention that our kids would be able to choose healthy ways to travel to school. With a highly energetic kid, the ability for him to bike to/from school is crucial. We want to teach healthy lifestyle choices, as well as independence, confidence, and real world navigation. This is a community surrounding Rattlesnake school and I hope we can all have our kids attend the same school. Please keep K-5 at the current Rattlesnake school. Thank you!

I moved to EMO because I wanted my kids to go to RE.

My kid gets on the bus at Mt. Jumbo to go to RE. An OPTION to go to a school in our area would be great. If Mt. Jumbo opens K-5 it needs to be updated. The school/grounds are tired. Opening Mt. Jumbo could be great for EMO, as long as it's not an afterthought. If done properly, with purpose, this could increase neighborhood value and create a greater sense of community. It is important to me that siblings can attend the same school.

The idea of a neighborhood school within walking distance is certainly appealing. That being said Rattlesnake elementary and many other schools in the district have received significant updates due to recent bonds to improve school quality. Mt. Jumbo has been vacant. The school will need updates, the children deserve the same quality that they are currently receiving. We cannot simply discard the children of E. Missoula in a less than adequate facility in the name of neighborhood schools.

there is a pedestrian bridge at the north end of Lincolnwood north of the pocket park that connects over the creek.

Although Rattlesnake Dr has great sidewalks on the west side of the street, there is a lot of traffic, and the street doesn't adequately support kids on bikes. If there was another bike/ ped bridge over Rattlesnake Creek in Lincolnwood, our kids could get to school entirely on quiet streets and trails. That would be an amazing way to create safer routes to school, connect us to the PEAS Farm, and improve recreational opportunities.

We highly value having a walk/ bike friendly, neighborhood school. It increases our kids' quality of life, creates community and is more environmentally sustainable. It is a great privilege to know many of our neighbors through our neighborhood school, and see our kids grow up together in and out of school. K-5 continuity gives our kids a chance to settle in a make Rattlesnake their home. Please do not bus the Rattlesnake kids out of the neighborhood; make all neighborhood schools excellent.

I don't think only having 1 parent as representation for this area is fair. Shouldn't it include a resident from East Missoula, Lower and Upper Rattlesnake? I think parents needs and expectations can vary significantly with each area. It only seems fair to cover each area fairly.

Rattlesnake elementary should serve as the neighborhood school for both lower and upper Rattlesnake as a k-5. Reopening Mount Jumbo as k-5 would provide a neighborhood school for East Missoula. Neighborhood schools are environmentally sustainable & cost effective regarding transportation, allow for academic mentoring between grades, foster sibling relationships, and act as a community anchor.

If there was a safe way to traverse this little bit of woods, all of the kids from E of Reserve could get to Hawthorne without every travelling on S 3rd St W. This 200 yards is the only 'off road' section that could be blocked by environmental hazards or shady characters. Being overgrown makes for too many potentially unsafe interactions.

We recently purchased a home in the rattlesnake, the proximity to RS a primary factor. It is illogical to be bussing kids all over the place - bad for the kids, community and environment. What is going on with Prescott School, can the county take that back as an option?

Bought our house because it is in the Janet Rankin boundary. Now if the lines are moved our kids will have to go to a different school unless we move.

I greatly oppose splitting up Rattlesnake School. We chose to purchase our home because of its proximity to the school and to be part of this community. Having to bus our children 30 minutes each way to East Missoula for their 5th grade year after being at Rattlesnake since kindergarten would be frustrating to say the least.

Please keep all students in East Missoula currently enrolled in Rattlesnake to remain at Rattlesnake, first choice if they prefer. My family prefers to remain at Rattlesnake for our last 4 years. It would be very disruptive and unsafe to move schools at this time for us.

My children have all gone to Rattlesnake. We would like the option to be grandmothers in to staying at Rattlesnake until my son (the remaining student) graduates elementary. East Missoulians should not be limited to Jumbo school. It is not a primary choice, and Rattlesnake is safe, and this would be a great disruption to our family. We have had 3 generations attend Rattlesnake school and would like to remain there for 4 more years.

My child enjoys Rattlesnake school and the area, although we live in East Missoula. He still has 4 years at Rattlesnake and many of our friends live in that area. Living in East Missoula, we prefer to go to Rattlesnake and remain there. It is updated, safe, and we have many friends there. The buses work perfectly, and my other 2 children went to Rattlesnake. I would like the choice to remain there, no Jumbo for us.

A very significant reason we live in the Rattlesnake is so that all of our kids K-5th grade can attend this elementary school that is walking and biking distance from our home. My wife grew up in the Swan Valley riding a bus 2 hours per day, we do not want that for our kids. The k-5 neighborhood feel is something we treasure, and having our kids together at one school even though spread out in age is wonderful. We hope it stays this way.

I value the opportunity for kids to walk to school but I feel strongly that providing students with a diverse school population trumps the inconvenience of a short bus ride. I want my children to learn alongside a diverse group of friends from all different backgrounds. It is alarming to hear many of my neighbors say that they purchased in the Rattlesnake for "a reason" when so many families simply do not have the means to buy in the Rattlesnake. Home value should not determine school boundaries

What about the students in East Missoula who are bussed all the way up the Rattlesnake? These families perhaps do not have the means to purchase a home in the Rattlesnake. Wouldn't all parents like easy access to their child's school? Opening Mount Jumbo for those students would be an option but we would lose the diversity that allows our children to forge friendships with children from all different backgrounds and gain a better idea of what our world really looks like.

Keeping Rattlesnake K-5 only makes sense for the following reasons:

- ability to walk/ride to school
- less busses needing resulting in lower costs and less time on busses for kids
- local neighborhood schools provide a sense of community with more involvement from
- arents who aren't stretched across multiple schools and siblings who can attend the same school
- provides environment for older kids to mentor younger ones
- Mt Jumbo should reopen for kids in E Msla as this also a growing area

As a parent of a 4th grader and soon to be a kindergarten, I greatly value the ability to walk my kids to school everyday. Being able to walk with other kids as well as there parents helps build a sense of community that would be destroyed if our family had to bus our kids to a elementary school 20 min away. Not only is more convenient to walk to school, it's also more environmentally friendly and eases traffic congestion in the neighborhood.As a community we should value walking and not driving I strongly oppose changing Rattlesnake to k-2.

Our children should be able to attend their neighborhood school through 5th grade. As well as having the chance to attend the same school with older siblings. But most importantly they should not have to be bussed out of our community.

Walking/biking to and from school is the best part of our day. We are able to interact with neighbors, peers, and community while enjoying the neighborhood that we specifically chose for these reasons.

The benefits for children to be able to attend their neighborhood school cannot be overstated: ease of transportation, reduced commute times, a sense of community, a sense of pride, more robust volunteer support for the school, the abilities for neighbors to help with pickup and after school care. All of these reasons contribute to why we chose to buy a house in the Rattlesnake neighborhood.

If Mt. Jumbo is to be reopened, has the District considered facility upgrades to meet modern standards for active shooter or other threats? Also, potential environmental health hazards should be studied if the facility hasn't had upgrades (safe drinking water, lead, asbestos, etc.)

East Missoula is identified by the City, County and Metropolitan Planning Organization as a neighborhood in high-deficit of safe biking and walking infrastructure. There is not currently planning or funding to correct this deficit. If Mt. Jumbo school is to be re-opened, the District needs to immediately address safe routes to school.

I'm fine with my kids going to Jumbo as long as they still go to school with the same group of kids they do now. I would be upset if the rattlesnake district is divided and some rattlesnake kids are sent to other schools.

I also oppose bussing kids all the way to Mt. Jumbo from the Rattlesnake. In the early 2000's I was a teacher at Mt Jumbo. The district closed Mt Jumbo because of a decrease in numbers. The district has since spent a ton of money and resources to turn Rattlesnake into an Elementary School. How could they not project the increase in population as re-models were happening? It is not a feasible option to put kids on a bus from Rattlesnake all the way to East Missoula or visa versa.

As a rattlesnake resident and teacher, I propose rattlesnake continue to be a K-5 elementary school. I propose attendance boundaries change if Mt Jumbo is going to be used again. With the growth occurring in East Missoula, I suggest two k-5 schools (rattlesnake and mt jumbo), as opposed to a lower elementary and an upper elementary. I feel it is best practice for teachers to have vertical collaboration k-5. Our kids are already bussed 30+ minutes to middle school, as well.

With the possibility of Jumbo opening, what would this do to the staffing and funding Rattlesnake currently has?

I am in favor of keeping RS a k-5 neighborhood school! It would be a tragedy to have families split between schools. I am also In favor of opening mount jumbo for the east missoula students (& the surrounding near area that is growing) and have seen the benefits of having a community school when Lowell was displaced in Mount jumbo. This is good for neighborhood communities/ moral and health of kiddos - less commute time, less pollution, less bussing money...

I do not want my kids to drive past Rattlesnake Elementary to go to a different elementary school. Also, please keep Rattlesnake K-5 as the different grades learn from one another. Younger children love to learn from older children and older children love being leaders to the younger. This social dynamic is necessary for middle school and beyond.

I strongly object to rattlesnake becoming a K-3 grade school only. opening a k-5 school in East Missoula sounds like a wonderful idea. The convince of having a neighborhood school for families, the ease of volunteering, meeting your kids classmates and their families, siblings being together it creates community. but adding more bus routes, that sounds expensive and a lot of bus time, and ask any kid, bus time stinks. keep kids in their neighborhood k-5

I appreciate the effort to reassess boundaries, classroom sizes are a strong factor in the quality of education.

I also strongly believe in the value of children attending neighborhood schools, where they can walk, bike, connect with their community, and engage in afterschool activities.

I am against bussing our kids to other neighborhoods.

Mount Jumbo school can be opened again to provide East Missoula with a community school, and decrease the overcrowding at Rattlesnake elementary.

Hello. We are on a walk to school route. It is heavily used by the children in the neighborhood to/from school. This, for the most part, is wonderful. However, it is a narrow street, without sidewalks. The speed limit is 25mph which seems unsafe given the pedestrian congestion and width of the road. We have expressed our concerns to the MPD. I am curious if the speed limit could be amended on a walk to school route during times of active transport. For example 8-8:30 and 3:30-4:00? Thank you

Our family is concerned about extended bus time. We moved to the Rattlesnake not only for the short bus ride but to be able to bike and walk for a healthy lifestyle. 45 min-1 hour bus times cut into academic and physical activities significantly. We would like to maintain our healthy lifestyle, limit time on the bus and keep Rattlesnake Elementary K-5 please.

No sidewalks or street lamps on Barbara Lane. Safety concerns if kids have to walk to school.

Mount Jumbo is most likely going to open. Will there be more money asked for through a new bond to get this school and potentially others reopen or will it come out of the bond that we are half way through? Taxes cannot keep going up and this issues not get fixed. I don't know how this last boundary study done got messed up so badly. How can we assure tax payers this isn't going to happen again. Schools are already under funded and need more staff and resources.

We are close to the boundary line for both Hawthorne and Paxson and certainly appreciate that our currently assigned school (Franklin) is walkable on relatively low-traffic roads. We appreciate that we're not asked to cross/travel higher traffic areas on Third, Russell or Reserve.

It is early in the process and recommendations have yet to be made for community feedback. My understanding is that the k-2/3-5 split is just one idea among many others and at this time is not an official recommendation.

I did not see my previous comment show up so I am leaving another. I oppose bussing kids out of the Rattlesnake. This is our neighborhood school and our kids love the proximity we live to the school and sense of community. In fact, I wish my kids could go through 8th at Rattlesnake. I oppose having Rattlesnake be for K-3 only- that would be inefficient, inconvenient, and a sad day for many families in this community.

I do NOT support splitting the schools. We moved to this neighborhood over 21 years ago and have moved to a our current house with the hopes of walking our two kids to school. I think the K-5 configuration is a great one for siblings. Missoula is so passionate about community, walk/biking, and more neighborhood unity. By the kids being able to walk to school for so many years it allows us to be more involved. It makes no sense to force these kids to ride buses for 30-45 mins.

Any notion of having kids who live in the Snake bused to E. Missoula (Mt. Jumbo) is woefully flawed. Neighborhood schools are as key to the heart of strong community as good neighbors, parks, and community events. E. Missoula is a growing community and deserves the same opportunity to have a proud, neighborhood school. We adamantly oppose any situation where K-5 kids who live within walking/biking distance of RE would have to be bused to other parts of town. Seems woefully inefficient.

Having sidewalks put in so kids can safely walk to and from school shouldn't be something we need to request, how can this be done for our children. The south end of the school has no sidewalks for children even within a block or two from the school. We don't even have a crossing guard to safely help our kids get across the street on that south end. In the winter, our children have to walk on plowed, uneven snow piles that are dangerous and far too close to the busy road.

A lot more traffic travels on Lower Miller Creek with the new Jeannette Rankin building. There are two 90 degree turns along this stretch of road right before the school that are narrow and have no place for pedestrians to walk or ride bikes without going into the road. I would like to see a path or sidewalk built along this stretch of road now that it is seeing much more traffic and students on their way to school.

As a parent who purchased a home in the Lewis & Clark boundary to have our children attend school with their friends and family, I am concerned about the possibility of being moved to Russell. Although close to both schools the walk/bike path to L&C is easy along residential streets with clear cross walks. Crossing Dixon/Stephens/McDonald is a concern (as someone else already noted).

This seems like a good idea. And open Mt Jumbo as a k-8 as well, possibly with minor boundary adjustments as needed.

I've been to a couple meetings, there was never a specific discussion for Rattlesnake Elementary. Have I missed the meeting where our school representative has asked what our students and parents needs and wants are? It would be a shame to have our representation for an entire school not have this discussion w/ a variety of parents from all areas within the school boundaries to best represent what we want. Would love to get that set up!

Do not bus my kids out of our own neighborhood to go to school. We live in the Rattlesnake for a reason, mainly the school and community. We live directly near the school and our kids should be attending their local neighborhood school. Kids who already busing in from other areas could potentially bus to Jumbo but to bus kids out of our community makes ZERO sense.

Our biggest concern is proximity to the school. My husband went to Mount Jumbo (K-2) followed by Prescott (2-5) and we both agree the benefits of our children being able to walk/bike to school (as well as the short commute time on the bus) in grade school are paramount. Additionally, we prefer the school remain K-5 to increase the years siblings attend school together, provide the opportunities for older children to be mentors, and to foster parental engagement and community for those 6 years.

We chose our neighborhood based on proximity to Rattlesnake Elementary. It is important to our family that our kids can bike or walk to school. We chose this neighborhood because we value our community and relationships with our neighbors. That is a HUGE reason, the MAIN reason we live here. Missoula has made great efforts through use of tax payer dollars to support bike lanes, trail maintenance & free bus service. Unnecessary busing of kids in and out of neighborhoods does not add up

Like others, we bought our home in the UR because we value the community, safety, and opportunity for children. The school is crowded now and change must happen. The answer is not busing kids out, it's keeping kids near their home base. Kids thrive on building confidence through being comfortable in their school, not changing schools every 3 years and more time on a bus. Neither Rattlesnake or E. Missoula kids should have to bus far when schools are available in their discreet communities.

Is there somewhere that lists the possible changes? I see that several folks mention a possible k-2/3-5 split. Where is this mentioned? Thanks!

Rattlesnake is at max capacity, they can't add more grades. It sounds like the goal is to keep schools at 500 students which Rattlesnake is sitting close to. They are busing students past the Rattlesnake Elementary because it's full.

How about making Rattlesnake Elementary a k-8 school for the Rattlesnake valley?

As a child, I lived up the Rattlesnake and was bussed to Mount Jumbo Elementary School. The bus ride was probably only about 30 minutes but it felt like an hour to me and I was carsick much of the time. Cutting down on bussing times is very important to me. Also, keeping kids in the same schools K-5 is very important. I have a child with anxiety and if this child had to move schools every 3 years it would be traumatic. Please keep the focus on kids walking and biking to school.

If Mount Jumbo school is opened as an MCPS school, it has to be able to accommodate modern teaching methods, and it must be safe for MCPS students and staff. This school can't be considered for an MCPS school unless there is money left to renovate it and restore it to the standard of Rattlesnake School.

Is the infrastructure at Mount Jumbo school suitable and safe for MCPS students and staff?

Studies show the benefits to walking/biking to school and (like many of our peers) my family intentionally chose to live in close enough proximity to RE to allow this. Please consider the importance of neighborhood schools over busing. I strongly OPPOSE making Rattlesnake Elementary k-3 only, as the evidence proves the health benefits of walking to their school for as many years possible vs being unnecessarily bused to another area of town.

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Yes!

I do not support a K-2/3-5 split of the school(s). I also do not support Rattlesnake kids being bused elsewhere - this wastes the time of children and parents. It is already maddening enough that kids get out at two different times of day and makes parents scramble to pick up or be home early for younger children when their older siblings could be with them.

Students in the Rattlesnake should stay at Rattlesnake elementary. There is no reason to bus kids out of this area when other children are being bused in. Many children walk and bike to school. With Missoula's strong emphasis on bike lanes it makes sense that our community should keep kids going to the school closest to them.

Thanks for your feedback and question. We have a few other schools that have students from a variety of neighborhoods that attend the school. We were intentional about choosing only one parent representative from each elementary school to sit on the advisory committee to achieve equity of representation. We do ask our advisory committee members to represent the needs of all students attending the school as well as all neighborhoods that send students to the school. Hatton Littman, MCPS

Please keep K-5 students living within walking/biking distance to Rattlesnake Elementary at that school. It is important for community to keep these children together and allows them to select other options (walking/biking) to get to school. It is also important for after school activities that parents have selected in the upper Rattlesnake. Thank you!

Keep Rattlesnake school as a K-5 school where neighborhood students can walk and bike. DO NOT make Rattlesnake neighborhood students ride the bus to Mount Jumbo.

Proximity to school should be a priority above other factors. Multiple studies highlight the benefits of active, outdoor time for kids. Kids are healthier and more able to concentrate with outdoor activity in their day. A school within 2 miles provides opportunities for kids to walk or bike to school. My kindergarten child rode her bike to school with me multiple times in the spring and fall. Kids from kindergarten to high school should have that wonderful opportunity to exercise en route.

Reduce commute times. In addition to health benefits of biking/walking, we should reduce commute times. If kids aren't able to walk or bike, their bus ride (commute time) to school should be minimized. Buses are great! Yet kids should not need to spend more than 15 minutes per bus ride (30 min per day; 2

½ hours per week) commuting, we're losing time. Consider opening Mt. Jumbo as an option for kids to have reduced commutes in East Missoula if they choose.

I attended Mt Jumbo (K-2) then Prescott (3-5) in the 80's. And I firmly believe the K-5th configuration is much better. It provides an opportunity for growth - older kids are designated "buddies" to younger kids fostering empathy and leadership; younger kids are inspired by older kids. Siblings have a better chance of being in the same school. Lastly, parents have more years and opportunities to engage with the school. Engaged parents provide skills, finances, and more!

As a parent who specifically chose to purchase a home within biking distance of my children's elementary school, I find it disheartening that there is potential for our kids to be bused past their current school all the way to East Missoula. As a parent, I want easy access for volunteering opportunities and school pick up. I also enjoy the community involvement & that undoubtedly would go away if our children are bused 5 miles away. We bought here because of neighborhood & community value.

Is any consideration being given to changing some neighborhood schools to K-8?

I think all students who attend Jeannette Rankin should attend Meadow Hill. Splitting up kids to two middle schools is not what's best for students.

This intersection is often iced over in the winter. I am always extra alert in this interchange, especially when walking. Vehicle traffic rolls through this stop sign a lot. School related traffic always seems hurried. Thank you for your comment. I live in the area you referenced. I'd prefer crossing 5th and 6th as opposed to crossing Broadway and later, Spruce St., to get to Lowell. I'd prefer the area to remain in the Paxson district.

River Road from Reserve to Russell should be left in Hawthorne School area. Hawthorne expertly allocates resources to provides an excellent, high quality education for students of all economic/social circumstances. The Milwaukee Trail provides safe alternatives for access to Hawthorne.

How many out of boundary students do schools allow because their parent works at the school? If students need to move to a new school because of over crowding, the first students to move to "home" schools should be students such as these whom are already out of the boundaries. Also, families already in a school should be allowed to stay.
thanks for your consideration.

39th Street is a very busy street, yet considered in the walking boundary of Russell Elementary. Bussing has been accommodated in the past only due to parent request. Can this walking boundary be reviewed-- or options to mitigate student safety.