

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

MEMORANDUM #219 (2005-2006)

April 10, 2006

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: BOUNDARY CHANGES FOR AIRPORT HEIGHTS, MOUNTAIN VIEW, PTARMIGAN, RUSSIAN JACK, WILLIAM TYSON, WILLIWAW, AND WONDER PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (FIRST READING)

ASD Goal: *Ensure public accountability through effective communication with students, staff, parents, community and government at all levels.*

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on First Reading the following attendance boundaries for the 2006-2007 school year for Airport Heights, Mountain View, Ptarmigan, Russian Jack, William Tyson, Williwaw, and Wonder Park Elementary Schools as shown on Attachment A.

AIRPORT HEIGHTS

North 5th Avenue/Glenn Highway, from Orca Street to Bragaw Street (excluding Brighton Park Apartments).

East Bragaw Street, from Glenn Highway to DeBarr Road; DeBarr Road, from Bragaw Street to Valarian Street (includes all residents addressing on Valarian Street); Valarian Street, from DeBarr Road to E. 16th Avenue; E. 16th Avenue, from Valarian Street to Columbine Street; Columbine Street, from E. 16th Avenue to Alexander Street, Alexander Street, from Columbine Street to Wintergreen Street; Wintergreen Street, from Alexander to E. 20th Avenue; E. 20th Avenue, from Wintergreen Street to the southward extension of Valarian Street to Chester Creek.

South Chester Creek from Sitka Street to Nichols Street

West Medfra Street between E. 5th Avenue and E. 7th Avenue; E. 7th Avenue between Medfra Street and Orca Street; Orca Street (excluding residents addressing on Orca) between E. 7th Avenue and E. 15th Avenue; Sitka Street and its logical southward extension between E. 15th Avenue and Chester Creek

**MOUNTAIN VIEW**

No change to the boundary attendance area.

**PTARMIGAN**

No change to the boundary attendance area.

**RUSSIAN JACK**

- North DeBarr Road from Nichols Street to Pine Street
- East Pine Street, excluding all residents addressing on the designated street, from DeBarr Road to Northern Lights Boulevard
- South East Northern Lights Boulevard, from Nichols Street to Pine Street
- West Nichols Street, from DeBarr Road to E. 16th Avenue; E. 16th Avenue, from Nichols Street to Columbine Street; Columbine Street, from E. 16th Avenue to Alexander Street, Alexander Street, from Columbine Street to Wintergreen Street; Wintergreen Street, from Alexander to E. 20th Avenue; E. 20th Avenue, from Wintergreen Street to Nichols Street; Nichols Street, from E. 20th Avenue to Northern Lights Boulevard.

**TYSON**

- North Elmendorf Air Force Base; Thompson Avenue between Meyer Street and Taylor Street; Taylor Street between Thompson Street and McPhee Street; McPhee Street from Taylor Street to Bragaw Street.
- East Bragaw Street from McPhee Street to Peterkin Avenue; Peterkin Avenue and its eastward extension between Bragaw Street and Mountain View Drive; Mountain View Drive between the extension of Peterkin Avenue and Pine Street; Pine Street between Mountain View Drive and Glenn Highway
- South Glenn Highway/5th Avenue, from Sitka Street to Pine Street/McCarrey Street (includes Brighton Park Apartments).
- West Sitka Street from E. 5th Avenue to E. 3rd Avenue, E. 3rd Avenue between Sitka Street and Reeve Boulevard, Reeve Boulevard between E. 3rd Avenue and the extension of Thompson Avenue

## WILLIWAW

North 6th Avenue, from Bragaw Street to Pine Street (includes 6th Avenue addresses ranging from 4313 to 4541).

East Pine Street, from E. 6th Avenue to DeBarr Road.

South DeBarr Road, from Bragaw Street to Pine Street.

West Bragaw Street, from E. 6th Avenue to DeBarr Road

## WONDER PARK

North Glenn Highway, from Bragaw Street to Boniface Parkway

East Boniface Parkway, from Glenn Highway to DeBarr Road

South DeBarr Road from Pine Street to Boniface Parkway.

West Bragaw Street, from Glenn Highway to E. 6th Avenue; E. 6th Avenue, from Bragaw Street to Pine Street (excludes 6th Avenue addresses ranging from 4313 to 4541); Pine Street from E. 6th Avenue to DeBarr Road

## PERTINENT FACTS:

In January, 2006 the Elementary Schools Boundary Task Force made up of principals and parents from Airport Heights, Mountain View, Ptarmigan, Russian Jack, Tyson, Williwaw and Wonder Park Elementary schools met with representatives from the transportation, demographics, special education and elementary education departments. Also serving on the task force were two Community Council representatives. (Attachment B)

The task force met on January 26, February 2 and February 9. During the meetings, task force members reviewed current enrollment, capacity, transportation recommendations, demographic information, and projected enrollment. The group also considered neighborhoods, and distance to schools. The summaries of the meetings are found in Attachment C.

On February 10, 2006, the task force developed three scenarios (1, 2, 3) to present at the public hearings. (Attachment D) Postcards, a phone message, newsletter articles and flyers were used to inform parents of the public hearings that were held on February 27 at Williwaw Elementary School and on March 1 at Russian Jack Elementary School. The meetings began with introduction of the task force members, an explanation of the boundary change process, and a description of each scenario.

All of the proposed scenarios reduce the enrollment at Williwaw Elementary School and allow for the anticipated growth in the area. Comments at the public hearings focused on questions regarding zone exemption procedures. (Attachment E)

During the public hearings, it was explained that students in the sixth grade would be allowed to return to the school on a zone exemption. Siblings would not be granted a zone exemption. Transportation would be the responsibility of the parents for sixth graders.

School Board Policy 444.24 states:

"When the School Board changes attendance boundaries, no zone exemptions for the affected schools will be allowed for one school year, with the following exemptions:

1. Students in the final grade of elementary, middle, and high school.
2. Students enrolled on a continuing basis in a specific educational program that is not offered at the new attendance area school.
3. For extreme hardship related to a student's educational program, medical condition, or the family's personal situation.
4. In order to utilize program space for an under-utilized or under-enrolled schools."

After the final public hearing, the task force met on March 2, 2006 to review the comments and suggestions and to develop a recommendation for Superintendent Carol Comeau. The committee followed the Superintendent's expectation of developing a plan that would reduce the overcrowding at Williwaw and equalize enrollment at the other schools. No changes are recommended for Mountain View Elementary School or Ptarmigan Elementary School. (Attachment E)

The principal at Airport Heights said she had received calls from a few concerned parents regarding special programs held at the school. She reminded the task force that the boundary changes would significantly impact Airport Heights School. There are 20 classrooms, a multipurpose room, and one portable. After discussion, the task force agreed that the intensive needs and autism classrooms should be relocated.

The task force talked about the boundary change and how new students and families would be welcomed to their new schools. Many ideas, including field trips, open houses, and other ideas were discussed. The principals and parents were very positive and supportive about this boundary change—they want it to be of benefit to all. Special attention will be given to the transition out of Airport Heights for the intensive needs and autism students and their families.

The task force agreed unanimously that Scenario 3 was the best option to present to the Superintendent for the following reasons:

- Meets the goals of the task force

- Relieves overcrowding at Williwaw
- Moves KBL and Penland Park students to the school in their neighborhood
- Balances enrollment between schools
- Adds children to Airport Heights, Wonder Park, Russian Jack, and William Tyson

The current enrollment during the 2005-2006 school year is:

<u>School</u>	<u>Current Enrollment (2005-2006)</u>	<u>Capacity</u>
Airport Heights	235	68%
Ptarmigan	395	72%
Russian Jack	336	72%
William Tyson	378	74%
Williwaw	595	129%
Wonder Park	338	85%

With Scenario 3, the projected membership for the 2006-07 school year would be :

<u>School</u>	<u>Projected Enrollment (2006-2007)</u>	<u>Capacity</u>
Airport Heights	316	91%
Ptarmigan	395	72%
Russian Jack	394	84%
William Tyson	422	82%
Williwaw	371	80%
Wonder Park	379	95%

SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS:

I have carefully reviewed all of the information provided by the Task Force including emails, maps, and other pertinent information. I am familiar with the geographic area of these schools and concur with the recommendation of the Task Force.

I sincerely thank all of the members of the Task Force: the principals, parents, and the administrative staff. These are difficult issues, but we must balance our enrollments and reduce the boundaries for Williwaw to ensure that there is room for growth in this smaller attendance area as new housing develops.

CC/JC/PM/JG/EL

Attachments

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Approved by: Carol Comeau, Superintendent