

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

MEMORANDUM #219 (2005-2006)

May 8, 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 (SECOND 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 Second 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. (Superintendent's Scenario – 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 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.

WILLIAM 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.

WILLIWAU

North

4th Avenue, from Bragaw Street to Pine Street (includes all residences with addresses on 4th Avenue).

East

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

South

DeBarr Road, from Bragaw Street to Pine Street.

West

Bragaw Street, from E. 4th 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. 4th Avenue; E. 4th Avenue, from Bragaw Street to Pine Street (excludes all residences with addresses on 4th Avenue); Pine Street, from 4th Avenue to DeBarr Road.

PERTINENT FACTS:

In January 2006, the Elementary Boundaries Task Force made up of principals and parents from Airport Heights, Mountain View, Ptarmigan, Russian Jack, William 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.

The task force met on January 26, February 2, February 9 and April 19. 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.

On February 10, 2006, the task force developed three scenarios to present at the public hearings. 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.

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 of sixth graders.

School Board Policy 444.25 Boundary Changes:

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

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 school.

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.

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 Williaw
- 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

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS:

On April 10, 2006, the boundary recommendation for Airport Heights, Mountain View, Ptarmigan, Russian Jack, William Tyson, Williaw and Wonder Park was presented to the School Board for First Reading. During testimony, some parents of children in the intensive needs and autism classes at Airport Heights Elementary School expressed their concerns regarding the proposed changes and how the recommendation is a huge impact on their children. During discussion, some Board members said that it was important that the special education classes stay in one location, if at all possible. They also had questions about program capacity and how it is determined. First Reading was postponed until May 1, 2006.

The task force reconvened on April 19 to review space concerns, capacity questions and location of special education classes. On April 24, a letter was received from the Russian Jack Community Council asking that the School District research where to place the special needs students that will be displaced from Airport Heights Elementary School.

Autism Update:

The two intensive needs classes will remain at Airport Heights Elementary School. The autism class will be located at Ptarmigan where three classrooms have been designated for the autism program: pre-k/k, primary, and an intermediate classroom. On April 26, parents met with the Ptarmigan principal, two autism teachers and District personnel to discuss the transition plan for the move to Ptarmigan. The parents were supportive of the planned relocation to Ptarmigan. One concern remaining is after-school childcare. Further information will be provided to families by the end of this school year. A variety of activities were discussed to support the transition to Ptarmigan.

The School Board voted to postpone the First Reading until May 1, 2006, so that the numbers could be evaluated. After more investigation and discussion, I am recommending Revised Scenario 3 (Attachments A and B).

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%
WilliamTyson	378	74%
Williwaw	595	129%
Wonder Park	338	85%

With Revised Scenario 3, the projected membership for the 2006-07 school year is as follows: (Attachment C)

<u>School</u>	<u>Projected Enrollment (2006-2007)</u>	<u>Capacity</u>
Airport Heights	310	92%
Ptarmigan	409	89%
Russian Jack	394	84%
William Tyson	422	86%
Williwaw	395	85%
Wonder Park	355	94%

At First Reading on May 1, 2006, the Board unanimously approved the Superintendent's Scenario.

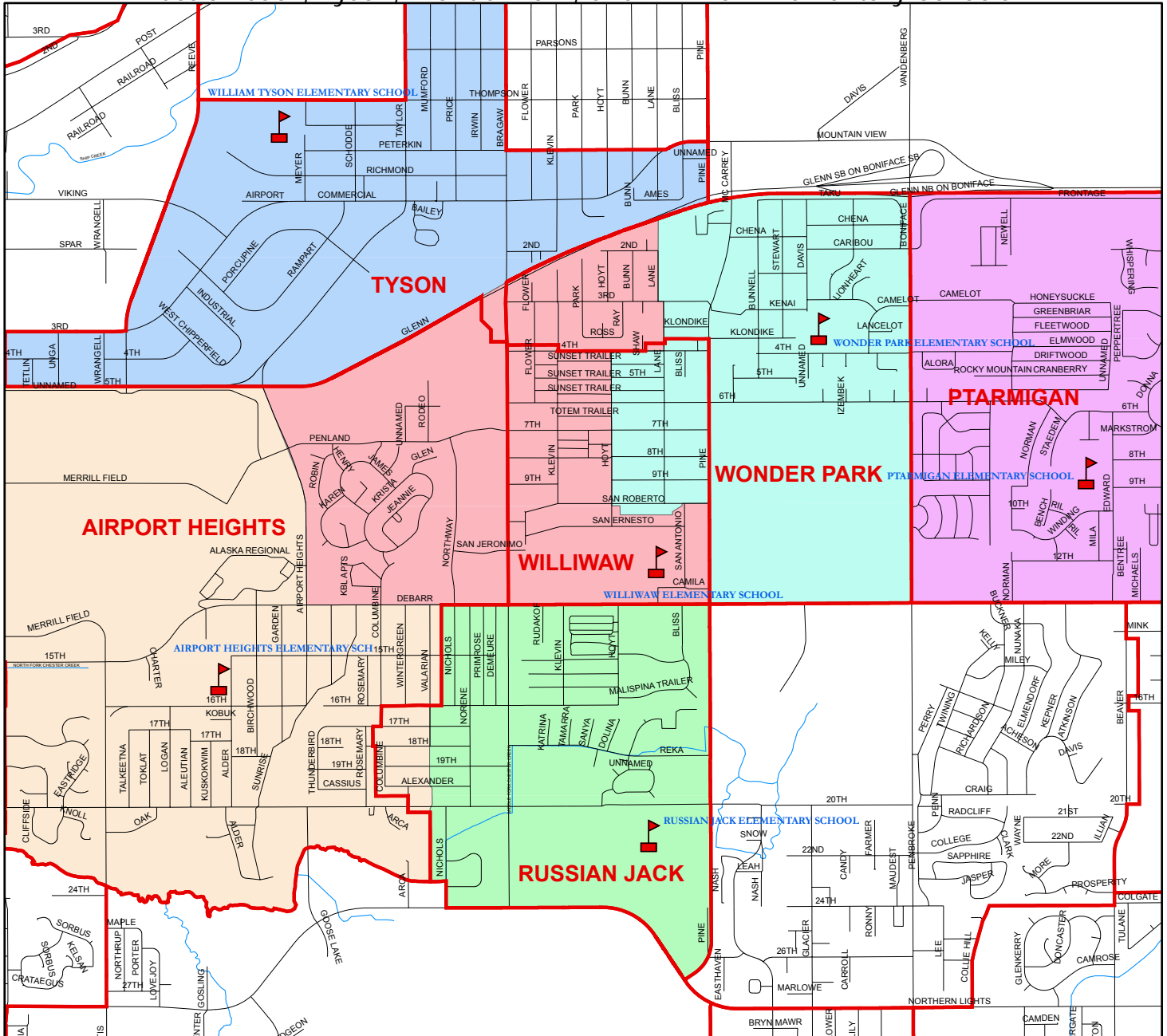
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Attachment

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Approved by: Carol Comeau, Superintendent

Scenario 3: Proposed 2006-07 Boundary Change for Airport Heights, Ptarmigan, Russian Jack, Tyson, Wonder Park, and Williwaw Elementary Schools



Legend

S3: Proposed Change



2006-07 Enrollment/Capacity
Before Change After Change

AIRPORT HEIGHTS	235 - 70%	310 - 92%
PTARMIGAN	395 - 86%	409 - 89%
RUSSIAN JACK	336 - 72%	394 - 84%
TYSON	378 - 77%	422 - 86%
WILLIWAW	595 - 129%	395 - 85%
WONDER PARK	338 - 90%	355 - 94%

**2006-2007 Proposed Boundary Changes for Airport Heights, Ptarmigan, Russian Jack,
Tyson, Williwaw, and Wonder Park Elementary Schools**

Scenario	School	Projected 2006-07 Capacity	Projected 9/30/2006 Membership	Percent of Capacity	Subtract	Add	New Total	New Percent of Capacity
Scenario 1								
	Airport Heights	338	235	70%	84	139	290	86%
	Ptarmigan	461	395	86%		14	409	89%
	Russian Jack	469	336	72%		78	414	88%
	Tyson	491	378	77%		44	422	86%
	Williwaw	462	595	129%	205	29	419	91%
	Wonder Park	377	338	90%	29	22	331	88%
Scenario 2								
	Airport Heights	338	235	70%	64	139	310	92%
	Ptarmigan	461	395	86%		14	409	89%
	Russian Jack	469	336	72%		58	394	84%
	Tyson	491	378	77%		44	422	86%
	Williwaw	462	595	129%	183		412	89%
	Wonder Park	377	338	90%			338	90%
Scenario 3								
	Airport Heights	338	235	70%	64	139	310	92%
	Ptarmigan	461	395	86%		14	409	89%
	Russian Jack	469	336	72%		58	394	84%
	Tyson	491	378	77%		44	422	86%
	Williwaw	462	595	129%	250	50	395	85%
	Wonder Park	377	338	90%	50	67	355	94%

Note: Students moving to Ptarmigan are from Airport Heights and other Elementary School Autism programs.

Williwaw REVISED Scenario 3 Using Projected 2006-07 Membership

Middle School	From/To	Capacity	Projected 9/30/2006 Membership	Percent of Capacity	Subtract	Add	New Total	New Percent of Capacity
Williwaw								
Brighton	to Tyson				44			
Penland Park	to Airport Heights				122			
KBL	to Airport Heights				17			
2nd to 3rd	to Wonder Park				22			
Between 3rd and 4th	to Wonder Park				45			
4th to 6th (Hoyt-Pine)	from Wonder Park					21		
6th to San Roberto	from Wonder Park					29		
Total		462	595	129%	250	50	395	85%
Airport Heights								
Penland Park	from Williwaw					122		
KBL	from Williwaw					17		
Move Autism Program	to Ptarmigan				6			
East Thunderbird Terrace	to Russian Jack				58			
Total		338	235	70%	64	139	310	92%
Wonder Park								
2nd to 3rd	from Williwaw					22		
Between 3rd and 4th	from Williwaw					45		
4th to 6th (Hoyt-Pine)	to Williwaw				21			
6th to San Roberto	to Williwaw				29			
Total		377	338	90%	50	67	355	94%
Tyson								
Brighton	from Williwaw					44		
Total		491	378	77%	0	44	422	86%
Ptarmigan								
Move Autism Program	from Airport Heights					14		
Total		461	395	86%	0	14	409	89%
Russian Jack								
East Thunderbird Terrace	to Russian Jack					58		
Total		469	336	72%	0	58	394	84%
Total All Schools		2,598	2,277	88%	364	372	2,285	88%

Note: **Projected year 2006-07** student enrollment is used to calculate new school totals based on boundary changes.