

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ALPENGLow/EAGLE RIVER/HOMESTEAD/RAVENWOOD
BOUNDARY TASK FORCE MEETING
MARCH 19, 2002

The Alpenglow Boundary Task Force met after the Public Hearing on March 19, 2002 to discuss the comments they had heard at the public hearing and to attempt to gain consensus of which scenario to recommend. It was asked if the Task Force could make a recommendation but suggest minor modifications such as, "we recommend scenario 2 but only if a bus could be provided." It was discussed that things like buses are not a decision of the Task Force but rather a state consideration. It was pointed out that the Hazardous Transportation committee has studied the Parkview Terrace area and has considered it a safe walking route.

The Task Force also considered the proposals Mr. Drake had presented. In this discussion, the group focused on the positive and negative aspects of these three proposals (Community Scenario #1, 2 and 3). In each of these scenarios, it was felt that impacting fewer children and not moving Hiland Road students was a positive effect. However, it was felt that in these three proposals there were negative aspects including not moving enough students and causing Alpenglow to remain too full; these do not address future growth issues in the area; Homestead and Eagle River remain under capacity; there is no access for the Eagle Crossing students to travel to Ravenwood unless they travel past Alpenglow which shifts students out of their neighborhoods while other neighborhoods are bused into Alpenglow; it is our understanding that the road for Eagle Crossing won't be built until 2007, and students have no walking path to Ravenwood, nor would a bus be provided to Ravenwood; there would be increased bus and car traffic on Driftwood Bay Drive which was a safety concern.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend Scenario 1 to the School Board. Discussion was that this Scenario addressed the safety issues heard from the parents in Parkview Terrace as it provides a bus for those students. Linda shared that the bus may have several pick up areas for the students in this area. Charie suggested that the negative part of this is that these children may not have the ability to walk to school in the future and that as a parent that is something that you look forward to your child being able to do. It was agreed though that the safety issues far outweigh that and that one bus coming to a school is by far better than 30-40 cars. The cost of a bus for Scenario 1 was

discussed as a negative as well but it was pointed out that there is a legitimate need for this bus and so the district would be reimbursed for these costs.

There was discussion about the testimony of the families in the Crestview Lane area. Some felt that perhaps the 8 students in that area should remain at Homestead and perhaps we should not make that a straight line. It was pointed out that 5 of the students that live in that area attend Ravenwood on zone exception currently. Mr. Scherer was concerned that there is always a possibility that zone exceptions could not be accepted due to class sizes. A task member suggested that the group was asked to form contiguous boundaries and we have done that and that we should proceed to straighten that line as we have discussed in past scenarios.

There was some discussion about leaving the Andreanof area students at Alpenglow as well and leaving Alpenglow and Ravenwood more balanced with each other. Ravenwood opposed that idea as then she would not receive anymore students and that their school would then remain underenrolled. It was discussed that the preschool program could move to another school in the future if that is necessary to offset growth in Alpenglow or Ravenwood. The Task Force did feel strongly about moving the Andreanof families to Ravenwood to offset the growth in Alpenglow.

A vote was suggested and attempted. The group did not come to consensus on the issue. It was determined that the Task Force would reconvene at Eagle River Elementary at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 2002 to finish their discussion and determine the recommendation.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary K. Nibbelink
Executive Secretary, Elementary Education

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The Alpenglow Boundary Task force met again at 9:30 a.m. at Eagle River Elementary. In attendance were Larry Huff, Ed Scherer, Ruth Michalscheck, Eunice Long, Ophelia Dargan-Steed, Charie McCurtain, Janine Schmidt, Stacey Wright, Crystal Kennedy, and Julie Ginder.

Julie opened the meeting and reminded the Task Force what the original goals were, namely, coming up with a plan to reduce the enrollment at Alpenglow, balance the enrollment at the other three schools, and accommodate for the continued growth in this Eagle River area. The group then reviewed what they had accomplished with the scenarios they proposed.

They concurred that they did balance the schools with room for growth at Alpenglow. It was understood that it may not look like a balance initially, but that with the projections over the next five years Alpenglow will be close to 100% capacity again. Within two years, Eagle Crossing population will already boost Alpenglow's population back up 20-40%.

Crystal talked about the safety issues at Parkview Terrace that most of these students are driven to school and they don't currently walk unless they are walking in groups or with mom and dad, she doesn't see anything different happening if they were zoned to Homestead. The Eaglewood subdivision could walk to Ravenwood as they were originally there before Alpenglow was built. Charie pointed out on a larger map the trails and the plowed, lit walkways that the Eaglewood students could use to traverse to Ravenwood.

It was suggested that the Board might think that cuts were too deep that perhaps we could replace the Eaglewood folks into Alpenglow as it is a small group of students and currently there are about five students lost from there each year. Discussion then stated that if 176 is too many students to move then perhaps we should shift Parkview Terrace back to save the cost of a new bus. It was pointed out that if Eagle Crossing will give us 5-25 students per year then 176 students is not too deep of a cut as Alpenglow will go close to 100% in five years.

It was discussed that the contractor might be happy for us to send the Eagle Crossing students to Ravenwood as it could help him get his road put in, however the Task Force felt strongly that they cannot endorse a scenario based

on a "possible" road being built. It was discussed that perhaps we need to let people know that we may have to revisit these scenarios again in five years or so when the road is built. It was discussed that we should draw the east end of the boundary 1.5 miles (walking distance) from Alpenglow, which would be to Greenhouse Road. It was unanimously agreed this was the way to draw that boundary line.

Ruth brought up a previous discussion about leaving Parkview Terrace at Alpenglow, she said that if we do that then Eagle River makes no gain of students. It was added that if the Crestview Lane and Andeanof students remained in Alpenglow then Ravenwood would not gain and so then we have lost the balance that the scenarios bring forth. The Task Force felt strongly that we need to make the changes as they are designed in Scenario 1 in order to balance the schools appropriately.

A review of areas followed, the boundaries in Scenario 1 leave coherent neighborhoods together and use natural boundaries to separate; 5 students in the Crestview area currently attend Ravenwood on zone exception, there is no reason to leave 8 students at Homestead. It was determined that Scenario 1 should be moved forward as the Task Force recommendation to the Alpenglow overcrowding.

The Task Force felt confident that Scenario 1 addresses the needs of all the areas concerned, that it reduces the enrollment at Alpenglow, balances the other schools, leaves room for growth in the area and regards the safety concerns of the families in the area as well. The group came to consensus on recommending Scenario 1 to the Superintendent.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary K. Nibbelink
Executive Secretary, Elementary Education