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2. Demographic Information

1. If your student(s) attend an elementary school, please check all that apply for you and your family this school year. If you do not have a student attending an elementary school, skip to Question #2.

	Student(s) in grades K-3	Student(s) in grades 4-6	Respondent Total
Clive	80% (51)	55% (35)	64
Crestview	60% (58)	68% (65)	96
Crossroads Park	77% (133)	45% (77)	172
Fairmeadows	74% (28)	53% (20)	38
Hillside	65% (22)	53% (18)	34
Jordan Creek	79% (170)	54% (116)	216
Phenix	100% (9)	22% (2)	9
Western Hills	84% (49)	55% (32)	58
Westridge	75% (71)	55% (52)	95
		Total Respondents	757
		(skipped this question)	164

2. If your student(s) attend a junior high, please check all that apply for you and your family this school year. If you do not have student(s) attending a junior high, click on [Next](#) to continue.

	Student(s) in grade 7	Student(s) in grade 8	Respondent Total
Indian Hills	68% (82)	39% (47)	121
Stilwell	53% (52)	51% (50)	98
		Total Respondents	217
		(skipped this question)	704

3. Boundary Options

3. Three boundary options are still under deliberation. These options are designed to relieve enrollment overload in some schools and better utilize available space in others. You may view any of the boundary maps by clicking on their link.

In order to get back to the survey, be sure to click on the [Back](#) button of your web browser to continue the survey.

Option A2	Option A3	Option F2
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Please rate the following:

	strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	Response Average
Option A2	25% (166)	29% (192)	13% (88)	32% (210)	2.52
Option A3	14% (88)	25% (163)	14% (88)	47% (305)	2.95
Option F2	29% (185)	21% (137)	11% (70)	39% (255)	2.61
				Total Respondents	665
				(skipped this question)	256

4. The Boundary Study Committee would like your input on the following:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Response Average
Make no boundary changes.	41% (281)	18% (124)	24% (168)	17% (120)	2.18
				Total Respondents	693
				(skipped this question)	228

5. Other options/comments:

View Total Respondents	310
(skipped this question)	611

4. Grandfathering

6. The following two grandfathering options are currently favored by the School Boundary Study Committee. Please rate the following:

	strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	Response Average
Grandfather only students currently in grades 4 and 5; do not include younger siblings enrolled in school.	15% (91)	15% (94)	20% (123)	50% (307)	3.05
Grandfather students currently in grades 4 and 5 and include younger siblings enrolled in school.	41% (277)	21% (142)	16% (107)	21% (142)	2.17
				Total Respondents	686
				(skipped this question)	235

7. Other options for grandfathering or comments:

View Total Respondents	249
(skipped this question)	672

5. Voluntary Transfer

8. The following two voluntary transfer options are currently favored by the School Boundary Study

Committee. Please rate the following:

	strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	Response Average
Allow voluntary transfers on a case-by-case/special needs basis.	38% (259)	45% (306)	6% (43)	10% (67)	1.88
Return voluntary transfer students to their assigned neighborhood school, except those who have been in the building for three years or more.	23% (141)	28% (176)	29% (183)	20% (125)	2.47
				Total Respondents	689
				(skipped this question)	232

9. Other options or comments:

View Total Respondents	139
(skipped this question)	782

6. School Change?

10. Will your student potentially change schools under the boundary options presently being considered?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes 	60.2%	425
No 	27.2%	192
Does not apply 	12.6%	89
	Total Respondents	706
	(skipped this question)	215

7. Other Comments

11. Other comments:

View Total Respondents	221
(skipped this question)	700

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Boundary Survey – Revised

Boundary Options Comments

1. None of the three boundary options still under deliberation are feasible in their current forms.
2. It is way too early in the process to be making such significant changes in the boundaries. As an attendee at the first two public forums, not enough information has been made available. Specifically, the questions that has yet to be answered is this: What event/events caused the boundary issue to be examined in the first place? No one at either of the two forums directly addressed this issue. All that was said was that a committee was formed last fall. Again, why? Until that question can be answered, why address the issue. What's more implementing any of these plans without proper and thorough analysis is unfair to the students, future students and families who specifically moved into these areas to be close to their "home" school. This is a very short turnaround time to make adjustments in schedules, day care arrangements and work plans. What's going to happen is that you are going to end up with a significant number of latch-key kids that are being asked to grow up way too early in their lives. I know it has been said that kids are resilient. But why must we place even more burdens on these young people who already have more responsibility on their shoulders at this age than those people who are deciding their future had on them at the same time in their lives. In terms of grandfathering, if there are to be changes then at the very least any child with a sibling should not only have the opportunity to have the opportunity to attend their current school along with their little brother and/or sister. These are a few thoughts. Much like the thoughts that should be considered before making any type of decision. Sincerely, Todd Behrends 10819 Lincoln Avenue Clive, IA 50325 515-225-6092
3. I disagree with the changes presented. Neighborhoods are constantly changing. Our neighborhood is already changing over from an aging population to a younger population. The school slated in F3 as an option would then become overloaded with the turnaround in this neighborhood. I think this change is here to accommodate the Jordan Creek area and uproot the rest of the district to fit their needs. If the school population is overloaded at Jordan Creek then you make changes there to fit their needs and possibly add those students to Western Hills. You don't need to change the entire district for that. You can also add annexes at Jordan Creek to meet the needs they are experiencing. Several schools have done that in the Des Moines area over the many years and have done fine with that. You are asking to uproot children from their friends when they have spent 3 years in that particular school with. Some children, like mine, would not handle the change well at all. We chose to return to Clive due to the school, so we pulled our kids out of the Urbandale district (we open enrolled in) to return to our home school. Now you want to change that again. I also believe you are pushing this too fast so that no one has a chance to absorb this, much like the bussing situation, that was newly approved and changed the times of the school starts. You did not take into account what the parents wanted, you did what you wanted, in an effort to pay for the addition to Valley. I don't think the money being spent in this district is being done wisely. I'm surprised since I'm a graduate of Valley. I thought the West Des Moines district was more adept at financial and business planning. Apparently not. Had someone had the foresight as to what was going to happen with new construction vs. schools, we wouldn't be talking about this. I'm very disappointed in how this is being handled.
4. The answer is simple, purchase two mobile classrooms for use at Jordan Creek school, we had them when I was in the DSM school back in the 70's. If the mobile classrooms hold 20 to 25 students each, times the 5 periods per day, that would more than handle the 125 to 150 student overload at Jordan Creek. Where are the City Fathers who approved all of the development in the Jordan Creek District who did so apparently without regard to the increase in school age population. We also need to have information about the current and projected demographic developments in the Jordan Creek area. The F-2 option places an undue burden on the taxpayers in all of the other school boundaries and is not fair.
5. There has been a failure of the school board and committee members to notify parents of the desire to change school boundaries. By doing this you have caused an atmosphere of mistrust and rumors to form. I feel the committee formation is biased. I still don't understand what the rush is to change boundaries this coming school year. This has never been explained and I have attended open forum meetings. An independent consulting firm skilled in demographics and school boundary issues would be appropriate because the community sees mistrust, fear, and anger towards the current process. If an independent firm laid out the plan from the beginning, I probably would have been more responsive.
6. 1. If families live near a school they should go to that neighborhood school 2. Socioeconomic balancing and diversity balancing should be taken into consideration when the new boundaries are made. The data should be available on line to the public 3. Natural boundaries should be used 4. The 190 Students who open enroll into the District should not be allowed into schools with full classes. 5. The Moffitt area students who are bused could go to a school other than Jordan Creek. SLOW This Process Down and get it right!

7. I would like to see the school board members and committee members take more time to gather all of the necessary facts. I think the timeline is much too aggressive to make a smart decision one-way or the other. It seems very reactive versus proactive.
8. I would like the school district to check into other options like changing the boundaries for just those schools that are over crowded or if necessary building another school.
9. Not all schools are out of balance. For example, Clive school is low on students, how does it make sense to take away current students when the real issue is low enrollment? Shouldn't we try to impact the least number of students?
10. 5 of 8 schools are currently well balanced. Why adjust all boundaries to address a problem only with Jordan Creek and Western Hills. Simply fix those two boundaries and don't drag the whole district into it. Students can be bused to Western Hills just like students are bused to Crestview.
11. Boundary changes should be minimal. Also, more consideration needs to be made to proximity and access (via sidewalks and bike trails) to schools. We should make every effort to ensure a safe commute is possible for walkers and bike riders.
12. Do not move students to Western Hills until it is remodeled. That would make the 3rd grader in our family move schools 5 times in 5 years if option A3 is adopted. Consider grandfathering families into schools. Between my 6th and 3rd grader we have attended JC for 11 years. Take your time and don't rush this issue!
13. I understand the needs to balance out the numbers for each school. I think it needs to be done fairly to minimize changes. I feel strongly that grandfathering current students as well as taking into consideration how long someone has lived in an area should be taken into account.
14. You must consider the students as your primary focus, not the almighty dollar! At a minimum, grandfathering the current students with family members must be considered. It seems absurd that you are trying to add more students to Clive, but are sending a number of students to Crestview in the option f2.
15. Why wasn't this all changed last year when you changed the start times? If you transfer the kids to Western Hills where will they go when that school is closed for renovation?
16. I truly hope that no changes are necessary. I purchased our home in this area three years ago for one reason only and that was so our son could stay in JC school district. He is in 5th grade now, but it is a positive in resale to be in JC school district. I know a lot of families are very upset, and don't want to cause any hurt feelings, but I don't think it is right to have children who can physically see the school and parents that can watch their children walk to and from school go to a different school! We live 3 blocks away! It's crazy to think we wouldn't go to this school, yet people who live in Moffitt lake area will. Good Luck Kristy Lappe
17. While there is an obvious problem with over-crowding at some schools and lower enrollment numbers at other schools, to make a decision at this point that would go into effect as early as Fall of 2007 is premature. To make a good decision, it seems important to take additional time and consider more data, involve more people, and utilize grandfathering to ease any necessary transitions. As parents and students have pride and comfort in their current schools, making changes as early as next year will cause unnecessary stress for students, parents, and staff as friendships, Parent Teacher groups and other organized groups such as Girl Scouts or Kids West are forced to change. Many of the various parents who I have spoken to within the district are upset and want things to stay the same. Please note that my address will not be affected by any of the proposed changes.
18. I have to disagree with any plan which does not put children living west of 50th, east of the interstate and north of Wistful Vista in the Westridge boundary. It makes sense on several points you are attempting to achieve: proximity and safety chief among them, but also capacity and neighborhood. The condos and apartments just south of EP True have always been and continue to be home to single professionals with no children. Therefore, there is no increase in capacity issue there. But kids living in homes on S. 52nd Street, Westwood, etc, should have the right to attend a school which is less than a 5-10 minute walk for most. It is also the safest - no street to cross until they are almost to Westridge. At last count, only 5-6 kids live along S. 52nd to Westwood - no capacity issue there either. Additionally, we all walk to the school to play and consider it much, MUCH more a part of our neighborhood than Jordan Creek. And we are WAY too far from Western Hills. All three current options have us in the Western Hills boundary and that is totally unacceptable. The bottom line is that my daughter can walk out our door onto the sidewalk and that same sidewalk takes her right to Westridge without having to cross any busy streets. It is the reason we purchased this house 4 years ago and there are too many reasons why we should be in the Westridge boundary not to put us there. How do we explain to her and to others that we are a five minute walk from Westridge but our kids have to go blocks and blocks and blocks away from our home to Western Hills? It's ludicrous. The rest of the boundary changes are understandable. This aspect is not. Until we are moved into Westridge we cannot support an existing option.

19. All three options put us at another elementary school. We were okay with the change until we were alerted to the fact that Western Hills is up for remodel in 08-09. That put our child in 4 schools in her 1st four years of school. This is a concern for us. We are aware that child adapt easily to new situations but 4 changes is a lot to ask of someone so young.
20. Grandfathering should not only mean existing students, but also future students whose families have lived in a particular school boundary for a particular length of time. Our family made a conscious decision to live where we do based on school boundaries. It would be unfair to not consider our situation.
21. While option F2 will cause the most changes for everyone, I think it is the best long term option to get things straightened out so kids aren't being bused so far when there are schools closer. I understand the consequences of this may be drastic for the first few years. Options A2 and A3 would solve short-term overcrowding but still don't make as much overall sense as the redrawing of the boundaries based on natural boundary lines .
22. We currently live in the Western Hills attendance area. Our two girls are ages 4 and 2. Our 4-year old will start school in 2008. I am very disappointed to learn that two of the above proposals would actually create overcrowding at Western Hills. I can only assume that those options would effectively kill any hope of all day Kindergarten at Western Hills. I agree that Jordan Creek needs relief, but not if it means overcrowding at other schools. If there is an option that keeps Western Hills at or below 100% capacity, that would be acceptable. With stagnant/declining enrollment, the district needs to focus on the needs of future students currently living in the district. Otherwise, we are forced to look at other options.
23. While we agree that school enrollments need to be balanced, we feel VERY STRONGLY that existing students entering 5th/6th grades SHOULD BE GRANDFATHERED, along with their younger siblings. Families SHOULD NOT be split apart! And, best case scenario would be to allow all existing students to grandfather if they choose to, and to have a gradual shift in populations.
24. valley rulz.
25. I believe that if boudaries are changed, then it should effect all NEW enrolled students and leave the students already in a certain school where they currently are. Volunteer transfers going forward may not be accepted but ones already in place should be honored. The Grandfather clause should also be honored. In the Fairmeadows district, there are quite a few older people and soon those houses may be occupied by younger families. Bonds have been made and that is what keeps a positive environment going.
26. It makes sense that you are finally switching the Country Club area to Crossroads instead of shipping them to Crestview.
27. Move Special Ed. students to Western Hills.
28. Obviously I agree with no boundary changes as it will affect where my children go to school.
29. Changes are needed as Jordan Creek is above capacity.
30. After listening to the discussion at the forum last week, I am completely convinced that, while it may be that some boundary changes should ultimately be made, this process should slow down, collect more solid data, have a great deal more iterative input sessions as it moves along, and not try to make any decisions until later in the year, implementing them in either 08-09 or 09-10. If it moves ahead now, with fall 07 implementation, it will be rushed, lack complete data, and create even more anger and upset among those who feel they were not given adequate notice of possible imminent changes. Let's not tear the community apart over this by rushing it.
31. I live west of 128th Street in Clive. My child currently attends Crestview Elementary and it is a great school, but I would much rather he attend a school closer to our home. I think map F2 makes the most sense for my neighborhood. I would be happier attending either Crossroads Park or Westridge.
32. GRANDFATHER! Where is the fire? We can acheive the same result by grandfathering all students and their younger siblings. If you change the borders without grandfathering, I guarantee that the district will lose many students (and dollars) to Waukee and private schools. Thus, if the district is trying to KEEP students, then these boundary changes are counterproductive.
33. I don't think that we sould be changing the school boundaries. Think about all the kids and them having to move schools to fit the new boundaries. Just think about it!

34. I do agree that boundary changes will need to be made, it is probably long overdue. To wait until every building is remodeled is not realistic. We all hate to be inconvenienced during remodels of the schools that is something that we have to deal with. A school cannot be remodeled during the summer months.
35. I believe there is a need for boundary changes, but let us try to make it as painless as possible for the children by allowing grandfathering to interested families.
36. The Committee's recommendation to make voluntary transfers the exception rather than the rule is my biggest concern with any proposal. Voluntary transfers allow parents the flexibility to determine where they want their children to attend school. If there is an opening at the school than the children should have the right to attend any school in the district with no transportation being provided. Of the 11 elementary students that live in my immediate neighborhood. Only two attend their home school. These two children tried to transfer to another school closer to their home, but this school was full. If voluntary transfers are no longer allowed, we will strongly consider moving our four children to a private school. The 45 minute bus ride for option A2 and A3 is not acceptable. I would encourage this Committee to take its time before making a decision that should be effective for the next 20 years.
37. Please don't change any boundry, since you are not addressing the issues at hand.
38. It's obvious boundary changes are needed to alleviate enrollment issues; however, not all schools have issues. It's too bad the focus could not have been just on those that need it (and as luck would have it, they are close together). And the schools with no real issues could have been left alone without disruption -- remembering a school district without people isn't a school district, much like a business without patrons.
39. I think all efforts should be made to let students who are within walking distance of a school stay at that school.
40. My wife teaches in the WDM district and we live in the district. Our daughter will be in Kindergarten this year. I would assume teachers that live in the district would still be allowed a voluntary transfer for their child to attend their school. On the boundary changes I completely agree they are necessary despite the unfortunate effect it will have on some families.
41. I don't think that they should change the boundaries.
42. leave things the way that they are!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
43. CHANGE ONLY WHERE THERE NEEDS TO BE CHANGE LEAVE ALL OTHERS ALONE
44. One factor not specifically addressed on the fact sheet relates to proximity. Although Proximity is one of the factors, the description of Proximity aludes that it may be mitigated by major streets. This is illustrated in Option F2. Although my house is one block away from Crossroads, it across Ashworth Road, which I assume is considered to be a major street. There should be a minimum distance established for each school so that regardless of any other barriers, if I'm within that distance, I go to that school. It seems incongruous that if I can throw a rock from my house to the school, I should have to go to a different school. I also find it queer that although the principal of Crossroads Park, Mr Cameron, advertised the tunnel put underneath Ashworth as a way of connecting that school and the neighborhood south of Ashworth, that that neighborhood is being considered for separation from that school by Option F2. Let's be smart about how our tax dollars are spent and use the infrastructures we have in place for their intended uses. The tunnel and school were located where they are to serve children in this neighborhood, not the folks north of University Avenue in Clive.
45. It would be nice to have all students grandfathered in so that it would be less traumatic on families. I believe k-6 with siblings would be the best option and would cause the least disturbance in the educational and emotional changes of these students.
46. Office Park Road should be included within the Hillside Boundaries because it lies so closely with 8th street. It does not make sense to make Office Park Road part of Clive elementary as it is the southern part of 73rd Street.
47. I live in Country Club and to have my children attend a school that makes them be on the bus for 30-40 minutes each way does not make sense when there are other schools that are closer to my home. The public needs to accept the fact that neighborhood populations fluctuate and when there are large discrepancies from when the boundaries were done in the 90's adjustments need to be made. I realize it will be difficult for some students but the district should make the correct changes now and get it over with. The students and parents will adjust to the changes and in the long run these changes are what are best for the district. Look at the Waukee district that has already had several boundary changes in the past few years. I hear people saying that their neighborhood has gone to a specific school since their neighborhood was developed but there have been developments going up in the western part of the district which means that in order to get children to the closest school adjustments to the east are going to need to be made.

48. Ashworth road should be considered a "natural" boundary between Westridge and Crossroads. Why would children who live north of Ashworth attend Westridge when Crossroads is closer and safer to get to? Option A3 has Woodland Ave as a boundary. Doesn't it make more sense to have the busy road (Ashworth) be the boundary? Please consider this.
49. I feel that if you allow the grandfathering clause your intent for redistricting is null and void. No parent will voluntarily give up the school their children are going to, thus you will have gone through the redistricting process and the schools at capacity now will remain at capacity. Redistricting w/o grandfathering is the only fair way to get kids into their neighborhood schools.
50. I feel that the children that are in walking distance to their present school should be able to stay there. It doesn't make sense to bus them elsewhere. I understand that change is needed.
51. Given that boundaries need revised, option F2 makes the most sense evening up the schools. It appears that A2/A3 options seem to favor some schools at the expense of others.
52. I'd like to see Crossroads School start earlier.
53. We moved here 4 years ago and were capped out of our school. After 2 years we were told there was room for our kids to move back. Our kids did not want to change schools. I think that the open enrollment has caused this problem. Great idea to update the boundaries based on population and geography, but lets not get into the same mess of capping out problems if we go ahead with this plan
54. I have heard rumors that current 4th and 5th graders and siblings will be grandfathered into their current schools. If this is the case my Daughter will be the only 1st grade girl moved to Fairmeadows. Grandfathering seems like it makes sense for all current students. I know the busses will go to the new school, but families will at least have some choice. This would move many families immediatly and transition the rest over 6 year rather than 3. It also seems insane to me that you are considering forcing residents of the district to move to different schools and allowing those who already open enroll to another school or from other districts to remain in the crowded schools.
55. grandfather all current students
56. If any changes are made, there should be full grandfathering for all students. After attending a forum, I am dismayed at the lack of time, thought, and planning that has gone into this--no demographic studies, no consultation with community leaders, and a stealth-like process with little representation from impacted parents.
57. Our kids went through Westridge, and are now at Southwoods and at Valley. When we moved here, we signed them up for school at the start of May, and yet our son was capped out of first grade at Westridge, the school that is only 3-4 blocks from our house. Our daughter barely made it into her class. It was hard enough to move here and for them to change schools, but having to change schools twice in one school year was incredibly tough on our son. I believe that was a large part of the problems he had adjusting to our move (it took him years to adjust). When people move into a neighborhood, it only makes sense that they should expect to have their children attend the schools closest to their house. I believe option F2 is the more obvious choice, given that the Westridge school always seems to be capped out in at least one grade. They're still building new houses/townhouses in our neighborhood where they wiped out that golf course. I don't believe it makes sense to expand the boundaries any further than they are currently set. I like the fact that this option cuts out the area north of Ashworth from the Westridge boundary -- they're within walking distance of Crossroads Park -- they should be allowed to go there. I'm thinking that there might even be a need for another grade school south of Glen Oaks, if expansion continues in that area. At some point, I believe WDM needs to do the obvious and build a second high school, as well. Valley is just too big. But that is another topic entirely... :-)
58. We have not been provided adequate information to make an appropriate decision. Some of the information provided at the recent forums was helpful, but still not adequate.
59. The boundary changes are long overdue.
60. Do not approve voluntary transfers. If the school is overcapacity, those you have open enrolled should be given least consideration for enrollment.
61. My child attends Fairmeadows, although he lives in the Jordan Creek school zone. Redistricting needs to happen!
62. I am still unclear as to why the changes need to be made. I feel that when people move in to a neighborhood, they are aware of the school that their child would be attending. In one of the proposals you are switching schools in two neighborhoods. That does not make sense why you wouldn't leave them where they are. When the country club area moved in to their homes they were aware of going to Crestview. From my understanding they do not want to move.

The same is for the area N. of University. I have one child who is extremely shy and having him change schools and teachers would break my heart. My older one is on many teams with several neighborhoods. Again, he would have to start all over. Finally, my last child would be starting Kindergarten in a year. He has been dropping off his brothers and is accustomed to Crossroads. Leaving him at Crossroads would make his transition into Kindergarten a lot easier.

63. While it's necessary to make the boundary changes, I feel very strongly the existing 4th & 5th graders need to be grandfathered into the schools they've been attending.
64. I have selected Option A3 for personal reasons, this would prevent my particular neighborhood from being split between two elementary schools. I applaud the efforts to redistribute student volumes to continue using available resources rather than continuing to expand.
65. While I support making boundary changes to accommodate population shifts, rushing through these decisions is not the approach. There is absolutely NO reason the boundary shifts have to be made for the 2007-08 school year. You are not giving parents enough time to move through the intense change this may cause. It is NOT positive for every family. The maps that are posted are useless. The informational meetings were nothing but the WDSM officials spouting administrative bureaucracy. Very little useful information was provided.
66. Why isn't there discussion about a new school in the SW corner of the district? The current boundary options do not follow logistics - in many cases people within sight of a school must now go somewhere else.
67. Grandfather in students who are currently enrolled at Crossroads.
68. Jordan Creek definitely needs boundary changes because of overcrowding in kindergarten. We live on Meadow Valley Dr. and moved to this area solely so our children could walk/ride along the bike trail and attend Jordan Creek Elementary. This school is practically in our backyard and we will be greatly disappointed if Western Hills becomes our "neighborhood school" as it is not anywhere in sight of us.
69. Make no boundary changes!! Problems are out west so another school needs to be added there. Don't change inner West Des Moines!! It is only a temporary fix at best!!!
70. I feel if you have one elementary school, Western Hills, not at capacity then yes you could move students into that school to utilize it.
71. Assuming boundary changes are needed, F2 seems to make most sense in evening out the schools' capacity--82-91% becomes the range. F2 also makes geographic sense as Crestview (NW) and Clive (SE) boundaries become reasonable and understandable (opposed to current & A2/A3). F2 also likely fosters more bus revenue since students thus appear closer to their schools. Finally, commute from Maffit Lake to Indian Hills JH seems extreme under the A options--only F2 makes sense.
72. No boundary changes until the remodeling for Western Hills is complete. Why is the board in such a hurry to do this? The general public has only been made aware of this recently. This sounds rather sneaky on the part of the board. More information is needed and more of the public needs to be involved in the process.
73. Committee, whatever decision is made, make sure it is best for the children of WDM school district. Please don't make decisions based on the convenience for the parents or other any materialistic needs or perceived image of any particular school. The WDM school district has diverse demographics; please don't make any decision based on those issues. This is about getting the best education for the children of this community...nothing else.
74. I recognize that boundary changes need to be made. But the boundary changes should be made for future students not for those currently enrolled. When boundary changes are made, current students should be "grandfathered" in. If all students are not grandfathered in, no students should be grandfathered in.
75. EP True is the logical boundary for Jordan Creek. Everything south should be Jordan Creek. The boundary change is about the almighty dollar, not what is best for the children of the district. Don't forget - parents pay the tax dollars and should have a say in where their children go to school. Boundary changes affect the entire family, daycare, boy scouts, etc. I could have bought my home anywhere in WDM, but chose Westwood Drive so my sons could attend Jordan Creek, their neighborhood school. Explain to a child why they can't attend the school they can see from their house. Wasn't last year's school time change supposed to save money? I understand now that we'll have to buy back the same busses we sold off to accommodate the boundary changes - I HATE this game you're playing with us.
76. Don't make the parents and children suffer because the school board and district administration did not foresee the demographic changes that are supposedly behind these changes.

77. I surely hope that public input is genuinely used in the final decision to be made. The "Bell Times" study created a public outcry when the committee continued to push for options the public clearly did not support. I am thankful that the outcome did, in fact, consider the multitude of voices and came up with a solution that was truly a compromise. Please listen to the participants in the public forums before publicizing the suggested option to the school board.
78. I did not see much difference in the three options.
79. Please take into account the students who have been there for 3 years (including Kindergarten) who have voluntarily transferred within the West Des Moines district due to special circumstances.
80. Full due diligence on this issue has not been completed. There has not been any evidence presented showing the completion of studies around the lifecycle of the city and the neighborhoods. Western Hills and Fair Meadows have mature neighborhoods that are about to recycle which will introduce more children than currently exist. Jordan Creek, while currently strapped has several neighborhoods and families that are reaching the mature stage where the vast majority of elementary students have already gone through or are already in the system. Impacting these neighborhoods will not solve the issue. The current proposals do not solve the issue over the long run, they only offer a temporary fix that will impact the children psychologically and result in significant financial impact to housing values in several neighborhoods. As the families with students at Jordan Creek do not have issue with the overcrowding issue and the proposals do not offer a long-term solution, it would be prudent of the school board to take their time to fully study the situation, have the ability to offer viable alternatives and be able to be viewed as the standard that all other school governing bodies across the country use when performing attendance boundary modifications. We hope the school board recognizes all issues and impacts, not just those that appear on paper today when considering whether or not any change at this time is prudent. Thank you
81. Include Jordan Grove/Countryside area in the Jordan Creek School Area. Fairmeadows is further away and there are safety concerns if my child were to walk to school.
82. Leave Jordan Grove/Countryside area in the Jordan Creek School Zone.
83. I chose F2 because I think it makes the most sense for an equitable distribution of student but I realize how disruptive it will be, especially to families at Crossroads, Clive and Crestview. I think any redistricting MUST be handled with grandfathering to make the changes less painful.
84. The process is moving to fast. Need to slow down to ensure fairness and also to look towards the future w/ demographic studies.
85. there has to be changes in order to provide adequate growth in the schools. No one likes change, but it will all work out.
86. 1. This process is moving way too fast. 2. Take more time to research. 3. Do not implement in Fall 2007. 4. The committee did not have enough parent involvement. 5. The committee should have included the principals from each and every elementary school. 6. The communication at some elementary schools regarding this has been very minimal.
87. I think boundary changes MAY need to be made. But given the options being proposed and the wording of this survey, I have no choice but to strongly disagree with change. Two of the options proposed immediately put Western Hills over 100% capacity--that is NOT a viable choice. That only leaves one choice. One choice is NOT choice. All three of the plans also significantly disrupt walking neighborhoods were the school can literally be seen from a child's house in favor of busing kids to the same school. That simply is NOT logical.
88. These plans are ridiculous. None follow the parameters that we have seen. The people on the committee obviously have not seen in real life the boundaries that they have drawn and voted on.
89. My child will not be affected by any of these scenarios but I strongly agree that you have to do something to try to balance the schools.
90. We live south of Ashworth and bought our house so our children could walk to school. The neighborhood children all walk together. Why would you make us change to a school where we would no longer be able to walk that is over a mile away?????????????
91. My family lives in an area that would have my 3rd grader moving to Western Hills regardless of which option is chosen. We initially tried to get him into Western Hills through voluntary transfer but there was not enough room. We would like him to go to Western Hills, but are concerned because he has already changed schools once. He attended St. Frances for K-2. He now is now at Crossroads, and according to the information I received if the boundaries are

changed for the 2007/2008 school year, he will go to Western Hills for one year, then to Clegg for one year while remodeling is completed, and then back to Western Hills. I fear this will have a detrimental effect on his education. It also means that our now 3 year old will start school at Clegg for 1 year and then switch to Western Hills. Although we would prefer that our children go to Western Hills all the movement and also the projection that A3 and F2 will put Western Hills capacity over 100% are very concerning to our family.

92. The capping at Jordan Creek didn't happen overnight. The school district knew they were going to have problems there 10 years ago. So why expect the problem to go away in just one school year? I agree the boundaries need to be changed, but for heaven's sake, please grandfather the older students AND their siblings so these children aren't disrupted and lose friendships. It would be too much of a hardship on parents if children within families were split up. Make the boundary changes but do it smartly and gradually with the use of grandfathering.
93. I like to see the schools boundaries as close to each school as possible. As a parent of Crestview kids and living in the Country Club area it has been a lot commuting to get them to their activities over the years. For the areas to the south where there is still development going on the district should consider building an elementary school in the neighborhood thus cutting down on busing costs. Stop putting money into schools which are old and close to other schools and start putting them in the new neighborhoods close to where the kids live.
94. we live within walking distance from crossroads but the plans have us going to a school that is over a mile away. How does that meet the criteria that is listed on the sheet we received?
95. It makes no sense at all to claim that there is over crowding, such that major boundary changes are needed, and then allow Western Hills to "repurpose" and REMOVE A FOURTH OF ITS CLASSROOM SPACE in favor of new boilers and air conditioning units. This is completely irresponsible! Who is making these decisions????
96. Please add additional students to Western Hills after the renovations. This dramatic change will disrupt the climate/culture of the school. Please do this while considering how this will affect your test scores, staff morale, student and family acceptance.
97. Proximity to a school should be given top priority.
98. Boundary change should happen - but NOT next year. Give the community, the staff, the administration and other organizations affiliated with each school ONE YEAR to prepare for the change. Host SEVERAL 'get to know you' open house sessions at each school to ease the fears of transferring parents/students. Begin pen-pals and other activities between blending schools next year so students will have relationships BEFORE they get to their new school. etc....
99. Understand the need for longer term boundary changes to balance student load. However, shouldn't impact currently enrolled students. Make the boundary changes effective for incoming students. If necessary, feel it's ok to alter transportation to new boundaries and make parents responsible for transportation in old boundaries. Conduct demographic study of population, private -vs- public students in an area, and also demographics of neighborhood (i.e. kids below school age) to make future projections.
100. F2 seems like it would too strongly impact too many families. Everyone seems to be happy where they are now: with that said and the over crowding at some schools, the least impact in the number of families would be most beneficial for everyone involved.
101. it would be great to see phenix spread to more of valley junction and allow more children in that area to gain the excellent education that phenix has to offer and then move on to hillside instead of allowing open lottery to all the district for the use of this school.
102. I currently have a kindergarten student at Jordan Creek. One of the options would send my child to Western Hills. Western Hills has plans to remodel during the 2008-2009 school and will potentially move existing students off campus during that time and back for the 2009-2010 school. That means that my 5-year-old would have to endure 4 school moves in 4 years. This is unacceptable. Especially given the fact that we can see the school from our home and can walk. Grandfathering has to be an option to all students. Also, no one has brought up that all three remaining plans raise the capacity of Hillside Elementary (90%+ currently) to anywhere from 95%-102% capacity. Is the problem currently at Jordan Creek (high capacity) only getting moved to somewhere else in the district? I also question the outcome of the Board Study Committee when 86% of its members are not affected by the changes they are proposing. (Des Moines Register)
103. While I recognize that school capacity needs to be addressed, it has been an issue for as long as I have had children in WDM schools (11 years). Why the sudden urgency to this issue? It is a problem that has a unlimited number of ramifications, both immediate and long term. I don't feel that any of the plans have been completely thought out & the numbers presented appear inadequate. If F2 & A3 put Western Hills over 100%, does that really just leave one plan?

What does it look like 5, 10 years from now? If the goal is to bring JC capacity down, why take a plan that leave them at 96%? Is the attempt to solve the issue at JC creating problems everywhere else?

104. In looking at the maps, it is clear that some adjustment is necessary. That said, I don't think this approach is the right way to go. I've tried to get as much information as I could on this topic. I focused closely on enrollment numbers. I'm concerned that not enough information is available to even the committee members to make a meaningful, long lasting decision. Since we're in a pretty much developed area, it seems to me that, with the right data, lines could be drawn that would last for decades. I don't think the current process will have near that lifespan because decisions are being made without all the facts. Now, the personal: There is only one house that is closer to Crossroads than mine. We're across the street! I have two kids attending currently and two that have yet to start. They will always be able to walk to school when weather permits. If moved to Western Hills, they will NEVER be able to walk, or even ride bikes.
105. We moved to the area over a year ago and have two young children. Crestview is our current school district. While the school is great, it's so far away from our home. We've been hoping for a review of the boundaries, but are disappointed that the area west of 128th is only represented in one of the plans. This area could probably stand to have its own school district, but in the least, should absolutely be a part of Crossroads.
106. Q4 - While I would like to say make no change I understand that there are space and budget issues that go into that decision. From a location perspective, I could never understand why the far west edge of the district was being bussed all the way to the east edge to Crestview.
107. I understand over crowding is a problem I think there should be some transportation consideration for those families who will now have major streets to cross to get to their new schools. Those south of 50th and EP True going to Western Hills have no safe walking route to reach their new school. There are no sidewalks along 39th street, nor is 50th a safe street to cross, or walk along. Free transportation should be offered until there is a safe alternative for students to use. My kids currently walk the bike path behind our house to get to school at Jordan Creek, and cross Mills using the tunnel underneath so as not to have to cross with so much traffic.
108. Changes will be hard for some residents, but in the end the greatest good for the greatest numbers will be served by making these changes.
109. I believe that the families who have been participating and supporting their home schools for years should be allowed to continue. I also don't believe there have been enough studies done to know the emotional, developmental or financial impacts that this change could have on our families. Another consideration that I believe has been overlooked is the fact that our neighborhood (Jordan Creek/Countryside) is, for the most part, a neighborhood with very little turnover; therefore as our kids move thru Jordan Creek and Stilwell there will be fewer and fewer kids attending our home schools from this neighborhood.
110. The currently proposed maps have some students within walking distance of Crossroads School attending other schools. I believe it is important that students within walking distance attend their local school. My children are not affected by this as we are not within walking distance; it's the right thing to do. My children are within 2 miles of Crossroads and do not have free busing. Under the F2 scenario they would attend Crestview and be eligible for free busing due to distances involved. I believe that were possible the district should not create an increase in busing obligations.
111. Don't change any thing PEOPLE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
112. My concern is with my Kindergarten daughter. She is at Jordan Creek this year, and would be at Western Hills for 1st Grade. That is fine and I would have no problem with that - it is an excellent school in a good location. My problem is that we would change to Western Hills for 1st Grade, knowing that she will have to be somewhere else for 2nd Grade while Western Hills is being remodeled, then back to Western Hills for 3rd Grade. That will be 4 different locations in 4 school years, which is unacceptable at best, and destructive to students' perception of school at worst.
113. please consider giving the students a stable environment by atleast grandfathering all grades. That way the changes can occur gradually and no student will have to be uprooted from their school or separated from the friends they already have there.
114. I think that the school district has failed the community. When the school board decides to close two schools rather than remodel on the east side of town I feel they should have taken in consideration where the growth in our city is at. Perhaps a school should have been built on the west side of the city to help with the over crowding at Jordan Creek. I also feel that if we are have issues with schools and overcrowding perhaps we should have grandfathered students from other districts into our schools. I know several students that live in Des Moines that have spaces that should go to West Des Moines schools. Furthermore I feel that the way the school board has handled this has been very sneaky and underhanded. When we decided last year on time changes this should have been considered at that time.

115. Regarding the Jordan Creek school -- It makes sense to shift the River Oaks group to Westridge since the commute is about the same to Westridge as it is to Jordan Creek school. I'd also like to see the neighborhood between 35th and 50th remain at Jordan Creek school. This is basically the only neighborhood where kids can safely walk/bike to school from since there is a crossing underneath 35th. Walking/biking and crossing at the intersection of 35th and Fuller is dangerous. Let's give those kids from that neighborhood the opportunity to get exercise to and from school this option.
116. this appears to be pointed directly at eliminating Sun Prairie Apartments on purpose. Sun Prairie kids are just as good and capable as other kids and should not be excluded solely for that reason. I think it's prejudiced.
117. 1, Nice that you put up a new A2 map. 2, You data on the excel file handed out on Tuesday is filled with errors 3, You need to set up a tiger team of volunteers to re audit the existing data 4, 6 meeting at 2 hours each for the committee is 12 hours. Hardly enough time spent on such a big project. 5, West Des Moines is going to fight this tooth and nail - We have the time and money. 6, Be careful you all don't make a career limiting or ending decision without buyin from the parents. We voted you in, we'll vote you right out. 7, Your running the risk of a mass exodus to private schooling 8, Tell Kurt that a stop sign means stop. he's been ticked twice in the past 2 years for blowing through a stop sign. Not to mention the speeding tickets for speeding in a school zone. 9, Tell Kurt we are NOT ames iowa. He had to resign from that position, Then the State had to come in and re audit his work. Ain't gonna happen in West Des Moines. 10, How come you all ignored the Ponderosa community. That's 500 units. Are you all in cahoots with Ladco and Ball construction 11, Interesting, Most of the divisions for Jordan creek are apartments. Care to explain 12, We want answers to our questions. Where will the ansers to our questions be posted? 13, Your paid to provide answers
118. What is the rush? If you are going to remodel Western Hills and make some of our families go there, why not wait until after the remodel so you are the least disruptive to the children and their learning. This major change really needs to be studied more carefully to make sure this is not something we have to do in 2-5 years again. I believe these maps may cause more disruption to the students learning in the long run. How many years ahead have you projected out the number of children in each area? I don't see those numbers anywhere.
119. By taking the kids from Crestview and putting them at Cross Roads not only changes schools, but the start times. Many parents count on the early start time of Crestview.
120. I that schools such as Clive and Fairmeadows should be filled closer to capacity since they have been renovated and have state of the art technology.
121. I do think new areas that are yet to be developed school boundaries should be reviewed to see it they could be fit into schools that are close and have enrollment availability.
122. Something needs to be done about current class sizes and it may as well be done now. Regardless of when the change is made, children will have to change schools and there is no time like the present.
123. Please, please, please think about the families that have special needs children and their siblings already in the schools. You cannot move these children. It takes so long for sp. needs kids to get comfortable and to feel safe in their school, their second home. It would be detrimental to them and would cause serious regression. It is also important to not separate these children from their siblings. Not only is it impossible to be at two schools at the same time for drop off and pick up, but sp. needs kids really NEED to see their siblings just for a pick me up when they're having difficulties during the day. It's good for them to see a familiar face that they love. Speaking personally with an Autistic son at Jordan Creek, you cannot move him or his siblings. We would have to sell our home and move to keep our family in the Jordan Creek school. Our son has an older brother at JC now and his younger sister will start preschool in 2008. We plan to have her as a peer in the Jordan Creek ECSE preschool. Please put the special needs families first for once. We encounter so many difficulties every single day that are very different than typical child difficulties. It would be so nice to have one less stress to worry about. Our kids need to have their voices heard too!
124. I hope my input is important too, as there was not an option for parents with children entering school this fall.
125. We were surprised when we moved to the area that Crestview was our school district given our proximity to Crossroads Park. We've been hopeful for a review of the school districts in order to attend Crossroads. We even registered to open enroll our kindergartner at Crossroads for the 06-07 school year, but when we were fortunate enough to qualify for the full-day program at Crestview, that made our decision. Thank you for considering this restructuring.
126. Make the changes as swiftly, completely, and definitively as necessary for the good of the entire school district.
127. If the boundaries need to change, the boundaries need to change- I have no opinion on that. But you really need to let students and siblings grandfather in to their current school. Your numbers are going to change every year anyway- you can't predict who will move into and out of the district. These students and their families needs must be taken into

consideration and I can't imagine that allowing them to grandfather in is going to cause that much hardship for the district. Thank you.

128. Clearly something has to be done because of the over crowding at Jordan Creek. I understand that the district needs change, I just am not entirely convinced that the sweeping changes of option F2 are warranted.
129. If there is a change in boundaries, we do not want our children shifting schools
130. I understand that boundary changes are necessary, but I would like to see changes made that have the least impact on the most students like options A2 and A3 so that the least amount of students have to change to a new school.
131. My school is not a part of a radical boundary change so I am fine with any of the options.
132. Grandfather in siblings as well.
133. I think it is crazy to force kids within walking distance of their current school to move to another school and then bus kids in from 25 minutes away (like in the Country Club area).
134. Why not just bring new people that move into the area or start school in the area into the new boundaries? This is very emotionally disruptive to these children.
135. I feel to accommodate everyone (West Des Moines School District and the families currently in the district) there should be a grandfather clause to let all (if willing) families finish out their tenor at the schools they are currently attending. Any new students should start at the new boundaries set.
136. If a family lives so close to one school they can see it from their home please don't make a change that will force them to travel to extensive distances to another building. Thanks to all for your efforts and hard work on this,
137. Our son is a 4th grader at Crestview and we will hopefully have a daughter starting kindergarten there for the fall of 2007. We are very comfortable with the teachers and like the school. If this is a problem of overcrowding at Jordan Creek and Western Hills half empty, why can't the problem be solved by moving some of the kids to Western Hills from Jordan Creek? Why do all of the schools have to be involved in these changes when there are no other problems elsewhere, We do not want our children at Crossroads. We like Crestview!
138. Looking through the directory, there seems to be several families that are outside the current boundaries, or open enrolled. Why does Jordan Creek have so many families in the boundaries turned away, but other families are allowed to come into the school?
139. The Huntington Ridge development area of Clive logically should attend either Westridge or Crossroads from both a geographic and economical standpoint. It does not make any sense to waste additional financial resources to bus the students from this area of Clive anywhere else.
140. I hope the committee and the Board look at what truly works best for the district and the children. Parents are going to be unhappy whatever you do. Stick to your guns and do what is best overall longterm.
141. Currently we are zoned for Jordan Creek, all three options place us in the Western Hills zone. We feel that a more natural boundary for our area would be the Mills Civic boundary outlined in option A3 as opposed to dividing a neighborhood at the Westwood Dr. boundary proposed in option A2 and F2. We feel strongly that all re-zoning options will have a positive effect on our children's education and more effectively utilize classroom space throughout the district. Thank you for your planning. Parents of a 2007-2008 Kindergartener
142. Because of the area we live in, Greenbrier Estates, our children would know hardly any children in their new schools. Everyone they know is in the Stillwell Boundaries/Jordan Creek Boundaries. The bus ride to Indian Hills would be longer and is unnecessary when we are so much closer to Stillwell.
143. My girls have already changed schools 4 times in west Des Moines. For them it would be best for my sixth grader to go to stillwell and my fourth grader to remain at JC. If adjustments are necessary I favor a grandfathering of at least 2 years. Thanks for listening.
144. Based on the capacity of Jordan Creek and Western Hills, it seems these two schools have the extremes and they are in close proximity. The boundaries should be adjusted to impact these schools. Jordan Creek could have some of their students sent to Western Hills evening out the population at both of these schools?

145. I believe that if there needs to be some tweeking of boundaries that is one thing, but to upset the hole apple cart is not necessary! I went to the forum and will be at the next and everyone is in agreement that there is not enough information to decide what is the best move. And this is being really pushed for this year. When it really does not have to be.
146. I want my special needs child, currently dual enrolled in grade 5, to be at Cross Roads Park Elementary. He attended CRP until this year and we desire as little change as possible for him. Also, my younger kids would have less streets to cross when walking to CRP compared to Western Hills.
147. I am very concerned with the imbalance of class size between the various elementary schools. My children are currently attending JC Elem, which seems to be terribly over crowded to the point that it negatively impacts the teachers ability to adequately instruct their students. I have actually considered requesting a transfer to a smaller school, so they can have the advantages that a higher teacher to student ratio provides. I would prefer that the boundaries be corrected to handle this problem, but I will do what is best for my children's education.
148. Why would you bus kids that live in the SW corner of the district to a school that is 12-14 miles away when Jordan Creek is 1/2 that distance??
149. I believe boundaries need to change to even out enrollment.
150. I am absolutely disgusted that the administration, school board and community alike would withhold this information for so long. It seems funny to me that this comes out after school board elections? Now, I find out that you are going to rip my kids out of Crossroads and send them to Western Hills, then RIP them out of there to renovate? I will fight this with everything I have. I have done my research on children and switching schools at elementary levels several times and I will present this information at one of the meetings. I hurt for our children if you do this to us. I am sad that such shallow, ego-centric people are in charge of our childrens future.
151. The busing for the Maffitt Lake Kids will be way too long going to Indian Hills Jr. High. It makes no sense. Jordan Creek is the closest Elementary building for the Maffitt Lake group. They are already being bussed for a 30-40 minute bus ride.
152. I don't want my kids moved. They are doing well where they are (Westridge) and changing them would be detrimental. Thanks, Woodrow R. Cox father of Hannah Karen Cox and Elizabeth Ashley Cox
153. People who currently can walk to school should not be moved to a school where this is not possible.
154. It makes no sense for us who moved here so we could be 1 1/2 blocks away from a grade school to stay here in West Des Moines at all. We would move if we had to go to any school other than Crossroads Park. My children would have to cross 50th street to go to Western Hills....vs walking down 50th to Crossroads.
155. Respectfully request consideration for grandfathering current students. Although our youngest son is in 3rd grade, his brother went all the way through Jordan Creek so although there's not a current sibling at Jordan Creek he'd be impacted in much the same way as a student who has a current sibling at the school.
156. Would school times be changed? How would bus transportation be affected? I live 6 miles from Crestview and if/when my child goes to Crossroads, I will be within two miles from school...I will then pay for bus transportation?!? It makes sense to me to attend the school closest to your home.
157. As the new kindergarten came in why don't you start with them and have a slow transition?
158. why make changes these kids need to stay where they at
159. We live half a mile from our current school, Crossroad Park. How are we considering proximity when we would have to change schools?
160. If boundary changes are made, it is very important to provide some type of grandfathering. At the very least, 2007-08 5th and 6th graders, AND their siblings should be grandfathered in. It would be very tramatic for these students to switch schools. It is extremely important to keep families together and not split up siblings. This would be devastating to families. I couldn't imagine having my children at two different elementary schools. There would also be a lot of conflicts with having elementary students at two different schools with the same starting and ending times. I also think the boundary lines really need to be looked at. People who live so close to a school that they can see it out there front door, should obviously attend that particular school.

161. While I understand the need to adjust boundaries to balance enrollment, I feel minimizing the number of people affected by the change is essential to maintaining a sense of community and promoting retention within the district.
162. Just don't allow new families in - rezone them to a different school
163. Many of the children that will truly be affected will be the 4th through 5th of this year. Many of them have been going to that school for all of their young childhood & that's all they know. They only have 1 or 2 yrs left of elementary before they go to junior high. Have you considered allowing the 4 & 5 grade students to finish out elementary at Jordan Creek & then as they move on then bring in the new boundary residents into the school. Other kids from the other districts may want to stay at their schools as well.
164. It is very important to include the option to grandfather 5th and 6th grade students to remain at current schools. These students have attended their elementary schools for several years. They will soon move to Junior High, which is often a big enough transition.
165. After attending last nights forum.. I did not like the idea that if someone voluntarily put there kid in my school rather than there own boundary school that they would be able to stay and those that go by the boundaries would have to move. My kids have been in the school 5 years. Those voluntarily putting there kids in another WDM school should have last priority when it comes to new boundaries. First, reward those going along with the change. Then allow grandfathering in of kids that attended the school by the pastboundaries. last, then and only then, if there is room to allow those that want to choose what school there kids attends they can only if there is room.
166. Leave the Kids alone. Find something else to do with your time.
167. I strongly do not agree to change the boundaries for the elementary schools.
168. When the decision is made, I hope that future housing developments are considered as well as the likely future site of another elementary school. Changing boundaries again 5 years from now because of lack of foresight would be crazy.
169. Students forced to change schools may have a significant disruption to the learning process. I feel students should be allowed to continue their learning journey at the school they currently attend. Older students have the capability to understand the reasoning for changes better than younger students would. I am wondering the wisdom of allowing grandfathering of fifth and sixth grade students only. Perhaps students new to the school district and those desiring a change could "gently usher in" new attendance boundaries.
170. At this time, I don't have enough information on how serious the space problems are (over and under utilized). However, as a Crestview parent, I would hate to see the kids in the far west part of the current school boundary be cut from Crestview's attendance. These kids make up a huge portion of my son's classes and friends.
171. please grandfather siblings
172. When my husband and I moved back to the Des Moines area, we specifically moved into the house we live in because it would mean our kids would be going to Crossroads. We have mentioned to our son about the boundary changes and he is already stressed about it. I guess we feel that if Crossroads doesn't have a problem with numbers and that the schools that do should work it out and leave our school out of it and disrupt and few families that way. Thank you
173. I believe all kids from the same neighborhood should go to the same school. If you are going to move a neighborhood, move all kids. I don't want all the older kids to go to one school and when my kids go to school, they won't have any of the older kids from the neighborhood in their school or on their bus. Put everyone together. If you are going to split up kids in the neighborhood, just leave the boundaries the way they are. Also, looking at the maps, their has to be a better way to shift boundaries. There is a whole chunk that is being left at Jordan Creek that should obviously go to Westridge and then you take little neighborhoods and move them around to different schools to compensate. It makes more sense to move a big chunk of real estate than to pluck little bits and pieces here and there.
174. I am having a hard time understanding the boundaries. We are currently in Urbandale and open-enrolled in West Des Moines. We don't want to change location of their school so I want the boundaries to stay the same.
175. I feel any changes should not affect Crossroads students. Parents have worked hard at fundraising, PTA and community building at Crossroads. To be split up to serve new neighborhoods that have not gone through the same efforts is wrong. If change is necessary, a 100% grandfathering system should be put in place.
176. Options A1 and A2 are almost identical, and both keep the illogical status of drawing from two disparate and widely separated neighborhoods to Crestview Elementary--a condition that makes to sense to me. Option F2 is the only

alternative which corrects this problem, avoids unnecessary busing of "far west" Crestview area to the East side Crestview section, and it has the added benefit of sending current Crestview "far west" students to a closer (Crossroads Park) school. Many of the students in the current Crossroads Park boundary already live directly adjacent to far west Crestview students.

177. Jordan Creek should move a larger percentage of their students to Western Hills.
178. I think the distance from schools should be strongly considered. The transportation department needs to find out the cost of these 3 plans before the district goes forward.
179. There is insufficient information to express an informed opinion. Given the information provided, I would be surprised if anyone whose boundaries would change would agree. Which schools are overloaded? Would the distance to school for the average student be effected? Is there savings for the district?
180. Currently one of my children does not go to any of the elementary schools because their is no all day kindergarden. Can this be an option for implementing in the schools. My two other children will be eligible for school but there is no option for all day kindergarden. Please consider this.
181. none of the options will affect our family since we live on 34th street and currently go to Western Hills.
182. Don't make any boundry changes to the current students. Instead apply them for the new students starting from 2007-08 school year
183. We bought our house knowing what school we would go to and now it is being changed. Our children are commfortable, familiar and happy at our current school which is Crossroads.
184. We just moved here before last year started. We have moved every year my daughter has been alive (she turns 8 this month) and we are finally looking to grow some roots. It took her 6 months to finally talk to anyone last year, and she would be devastated if she had to leave this school!
185. We are in the Jordan Grove area and there is only one other first grade girl at Jordan Creek in this neighborhood. It sounds likely that they would probably at least grandfather in 5th & 6th graders & siblings which would mean that my daughter would be going to Fairmeadows alone. We don't know anyone in the Fairmeadows school district which is going to make this extremely difficult for our 1st grader. We love Jordan Creek and have made such great friends that we can't imagine leaving.
186. Draw the "ideal" boundaries for each elementary school based upon proximity, capacity, and current student body. Do not make changes now that are going to have to change in the future (like changing a new boundary to less than 1 block from Crossroads school).
187. Your committment was to not split neighboods, that you would uphold the integrity of the area. You said you would use major streets & natural barriers to make decisions but in the case of Option A3 this is not what is happening. You are using Woodland Ave as the cut off, which is right in the middle of our neighborhood and this eliminates current car pooling.
188. Build a new school in the NW region, or where needed most, or change the school district boundaries.
189. If we don't change the boundaries, the schools that are overflowing will continue to over flow and we will continue to have the same problems as we do now! Something needs to change and people need to deal with the fact that we are a growing community and change is inevidable!
190. We specifically purchased our home in the Jordan Creek school district and have an incoming K this fall. If necessary, we will relocate to a different home that is within the JC district. I feel that it is very unfair for families who have purchased a home and lived there based specifically on a certain school district. We have put research into the school, taken tours, meet faculty and specifically selected this school for our children.
191. I suggest that you make the changes that are necessary for the long term. Please do not make a short term decision that will move the same children several times.
192. A2 is obviously the best choice as it equalizes the population numbers among the schools. The families across the street from Crossroads Park are very upset about the restructuring of the zones. You could be better serving them if you included that area for Crossroads, and added the Jordan Grove area (south of E.P.True) to the Western Hills zone. If Fairmeadows needs to pick up numbers, they could be taken from Hillside or Clive.

193. I think if you are within blocks of one school you should not be forced to go to a school that is a mile away, You need to look at keeping the surrounding neighborhoods going to the school closest to them
194. My opinion is that you deal with the two schools most in need of revision - Western Hills and Jordan Creek - make changes to those boundaries and leave the others alone
195. Under the current boundaries, my son will go to Crestview. This school is much further away than the F2 proposed Crossroads Park. Just by looking at the current boundaries, you can tell the map doesn't make a lot of sense for my area. Why have a pocket of Crestview way over on the west side of Clive? I think it makes the most sense to move to an F2 type of boundary map where no one group is segregated out and made to go to a school 4 miles from their house.
196. Moving the Maffit Lake area students to Indian Hills does not seem to make much sense. The bus to Stilwell already arrives around 6:25 and it does not have to contend with interstate or freeway traffic. Moreover, under options A2 and A3, the Stilwell bus would still pick up students along Maffit Lake Road but would turn around at interstate 35. A second bus for Indian Hills would then retrace that route and travel the additional 2.5 miles to pick up the Maffit Lake area students. Not only would this be an inefficient use of busing resources, it would require our children to catch a bus by 6:00--6:15. This seems unreasonably early. I would strongly urge you to keep the relatively few Maffit Lake area students at Jordan Creek and Stilwell. Moving them would have virtually no effect on the district's attendance demographics but would have dramatically adverse effects on the few students involved. Alternatively, I would implore you to allow "grandfathering" for all current students, so that the families affected can make the most appropriate decisions for their children. Thank you for time and consideration.
197. I think that if there are schools that aren't to capacity like Western Hills but others are over like Jordan Creek, then the board has no other options than to change the boundaries. I know people are going to complain, but the schools are a business and they are in the business of teaching the kids, period. The kids will be fine and so will the parents. I am sure that the teachers at each location are highly qualified and just as nice as the ones at a different school.
198. We moved into the Jordan Creek Elementary School boundary area 9 years ago. Our children are 8, 7 and 4. We moved within our same neighborhood last fall in order to keep our children at Jordan Creek Elementary School. I can't tell you how devastated I am to hear about the plans to change the boundaries. My son is autistic and is in 1st grade as a level 2 special ed. student at Jordan Creek. His older sister is in 3rd grade at Jordan Creek and his little sister will be entering Jordan Creek as a kindergardener in the fall of 2008. Our children must remain in school together. Our family is under constant stress due to my son's disability. My daughters have endured more than their fair share of hardships and sacrifices due to their brother's disability. To make them move schools and separate my family would be absolutely devastating. We are residing in West Des Moines for stability, good educations and security. Forcing my children to move school districts is absolutely cruel. My children face enough challenges each and every day. They deserve the opportunity to stay where they are at Jordan Creek and continue to thrive in the onlly school they've ever known.
199. Students that are currently at a school should be grandfathered in!!! (transportation does not have to be part of the deal if that is what the district has issues with -) ... I do not believe we should split up families &/or have families move if their children have been at a school for 3 plus years!
200. I think grandfathering should include all families currently enrolled in a school. Parents would then have the knowledge of either starting their younger children with their older ones at their current school or starting them at their new school. Rezoning should be phased in.
201. While change is a difficult thing for most people, I hope the board does not allow people who fear change to prevent VERY NEEDED boundary changes from being made.
202. We hand picked the school district and the neighborhood school. We moved her 2 years ago forma district where they were changing boundries a lot. We wanted our three girls to go to a school they could walk to and that was not too big with many sections. So far we have been happy with the class size and school size. Please do no change the boudries. If you do please grandfather the children that are already at the school in to remain there and give the neighbors to that school top priority. Just have the Jordan Creek area students bused. We chose to move to an established area not a brand new house out west so we would not have to go through this. The people that chose to move to these newer houses need to be aware of this. Perhaps they would not buy new and buy in an established area like we did.
203. I am very upset that my children may have to start over at a new school next year. Although I realize that Western Hills is an excellent elementary school, we did not choose this and have not moved. As a matter of fact, we would have happily gone to Western Hills when my second grader started school, but we were told that we should be at Crossroads. Now, we have two kids, one very shy, that will be affected. We hope that you decide to make no boundary changes. We live at 4708 Western Hills Drive and are very happy at Crossroads. Bill House

204. Obviously, I would prefer if the boundaries were not changed in my neighborhood. I do, however, realize that this issue should be addressed and probably should have been several years ago. If in fact, it had been addressed, say five years ago, I would have had no problem with sending my daughter who is now in third grade to one of the other elementary schools. I do, however, have a problem with her being taken away from her home school now after she has been there for the last four years and has developed several strong friendships with classmates, teachers, and staff at Jordan Creek Elementary. Our entire family has developed relationships with people at this school and to basically be "kicked out", I feel is very wrong. I would totally be in favor of changing some boundaries, however, I feel that children in K-6 should all be able to be grandfathered in for their last years at their current elementary schools. I also feel it is very important that two children from the same family should be able to attend the same elementary school. My particular neighborhood is slated to be moved to Western Hills on all four maps. I also have a MAJOR concern with the fact that Western Hills Elementary is slated to be closed for remodeling in 08-09, therefore my daughter would have to change schools not once, but TWICE, and in my opinion that is totally unacceptable. My address is 104 S 50th Ct., and it is the area just south of E.P. True and just west of 50th St. Now, you have chosen a VERY small chunk of this neighborhood to move, basically isolating us from the rest of the people in this neighborhood. We have also been labeled a high density neighborhood, and I do not believe this to be true and would like to see some numbers. The Wellington apts. are right below my home, and I do not feel as if they are a part of this "neighborhood". I also feel that sending my children to a school that would force us to cross "two" major streets is a problem. I feel that Grandfathering all children in is the only way to be fair to all families and especially the "children" involved in this situation. Years go by quickly, and each year the attendance at each school would adjust, and everything will gradually even out. I hope some serious consideration is given to this as it is not something that I or you should take lightly.
205. My elementary child's school would only change under option F2. I am happy with his current school, Clive. I would also be happy for him to change to Crestview for two reasons: Crestview's start/end times blend better with my two older students, and the pick-up situation at Clive is the most inefficient system I've seen. My older students attended a school in Kentucky with traffic issues, and that school hired crossing guards that not only kept the children safe, they also directed traffic to better facilitate the flow of traffic in and out of the pick-up zone and along the adjacent busy street. I don't understand why this is not happening at Clive. The traffic back-ups tempt people to make unsafe driving choices. The current solution of a "no-left turn" sign forces the majority of parents to drive out of their way to return home. The proposed option F2 at least has a greater majority of Clive students coming from south of the school.
206. I attended the first forum and I feel that many of the comments were insulting. I believe that parents should be proud to send their child to ANY WDM school. The boundary changes are absolutely necessary to balance out the population. There are too many schools with empty classrooms. Some schools are just too large. Think about it.....there are students in this district having PE class in their lunchroom! How much learning can possibly go on in there? Please consider making these necessary changes and ignore the threats of so many parents.
207. The new Jordan Creek students should be sent to Western Hills and the rest of the district should be left alone. This is where the major problem seems to be. Don't penalize the old neighborhoods for the new!
208. I live just East of 50th on Pommel and with all three options we would go to Western Hills. We bought our house a year ago (which was built in 1973 and has been in Crossroads since it was built) because we wanted our kids to go to Crossroads, and now our school is being taken away to allow kids that live 25minutes north in CLIVE, NOT WEST DES MOINES, can attend our school. If their address is CLIVE, then they should go to CLIVE to school! When the builders built all the new houses in Country Club and around, they should have built a new school. I am now within walking distance from Crossroads, and will not be with Western Hills.
209. I would not table the boundary discussion at this time. There is no doubt it would have to be opened again in the not so distant future. After what you have done so far this year, I would think it would pop up residents' radars much earlier and may possibly be met with more militant and/or combative resistance. Clearly there is a problem with Jordan Creek, Western Hills, others(?) re capacity issues. Is there no way to make changes to only the schools that have the biggest problems?
210. I am saddened and disturbed that this is being proposed on such a large scale. It is my perception that this is primarily caused by an imbalance at 2 schools and I CANNOT believe that something that affects EVERY SINGLE child and family in this district is being considered. I feel like very little consideration is being given to those who will be most greatly affected.
211. No boundary changes or change to option A2 or A3
212. It appears necessary that some changes to the elementary boundary lines are required in order to support future residential development and to increase the number of enrolled students. The current distribution does not appear to support growth in a cost effective manner. Plan F2 (as published today 2/5/2007) appears the most logical, given the factors described by members of the committee.

213. I understand that changes need to be made but I would like to see a more gradual approach taken.
214. Just change the boundaries of the schools that are over or under capacity. Crossroads/Crestview/Clive elementary don't appear to be in need of more or fewer students.
215. It looks like we could save a lot of money on transportation with option F2.
216. Boundaries should be geographically centered around the schools. If this is not practicable, then students from the affected (overcrowded) schools should be bussed into the less crowded schools.
217. If you can see the school you should go to the school. A certain or standard radius should be determined and after that point, start making boundary changes based on major streets and/or landmarks if absolutely necessary.
218. The continued growth of the West Des Moines area has obviously placed a burden on the district in consideration to classroom capacity, building limitations, and transportation issues. I encourage the committee to continue its work to find suitable boundary changes, impacting the fewest number of families possible. Boundary maps alone are not enough information for most families to give an educated opinion on this issue. How will the boundary changes impact the budget of the West Des Moines Community Schools? Are there open-enrollment options within the district? How will these boundary changes influence future needs to expand the school system - i.e. need to build additional elementary/secondary schools as the southern area of the district experiences additional growth? Will there be a need for additional staff once boundary changes have been established? Please answer these questions in detail for the parents of this district.
219. The Option F2 for Junior High students would force families living in the River Oaks and Greenbrier areas to drive more than 30 min to reach Indian Hills. Currently, our students are being picked up by the bus at 6:30am, which is too early for the students and their families as it is - any earlier would be absolutely ludicrous.
220. We live 2 blocks away from our school and our children walk to and from school every day. Why are plans being considered that would make us change to a school that is one-mile away and no longer in walking distance? We moved into our neighborhood so that our children could walk to school.
221. I do agree that overcrowding needs to be addressed at Jordan Creek. However, I feel it is unfair to force numerous other children to be uprooted from their current schools to solve this problem. I would be in favor of grandfathering ALL grades of children (and their younger siblings, to keep families together in the same schools.) Or, some of the children in the overcrowded schools could be bussed to the more empty schools.
222. I like Option F2 as it keeps geographic areas together. Neighbors will attend the same school. It makes carpooling, playdates, and life simpler. Each school attracts its kids from adjacent neighborhoods instead of some from the east and some from the west. This plan comes closest to the idea of neighborhood schools.
223. Don't have one school district inside of another, like Clive in A2 and A3
224. Students who live a block away from a school should attend that school. While lines have to be drawn somewhere, those living right across the street or around the corner should definitely go to their neighborhood school. That's why people buy houses close to schools.
225. I encourage you during this difficult project! Thanks for taking a look at all the options. You have well thought out plans. Thanks!
226. I understand the need for boundary changes ... having some elementary schools bulging at the seams while others are only at 55% capacity isn't the best way. How the "grandfathering" is handled will be the most important. I believe next year's 5th & 6th graders should be grandfathered and so should their siblings. Grandfathering everyone won't get us to where we need to be.
227. Grandfather in all existing students and make boundary changes for incoming students. Additionally phase changes over a variety of years.
228. I would very much like to see no boundary changes made. Our family has found Crossroads Park Elementary to be a wonderful school with exceptional teachers. Would very much hate to see our third grade son have to change schools.
229. I feel boundary changes should not happen until the construction is completed at Western Hills and all schools are ready to take on increased enrollment levels. Do not make kids switch to a different school next year, bounce to Clegg during construction and back again. It is too much change for children with anxiety and panic disorders.

230. If there needs to be a change to relieve enrollment overload in some schools I think something needs to be done. But, I strongly believe in the grandfathering option for students. Students should get to stay at their current school and not have to move because of boundary changes. I believe the voluntary transfer option should not be considered for next year if there is an enrollment problem in some schools.
231. I understand that changes need to be made with the schools that are under used and those that are continually capped out. I don't understand why it would be necessary to take students away from a school that is within walking distance.
232. Currently, capacity does not exceed 100% at any school. With the plans proposed, at least one school would be *100%. I attended the Crossroads Park forum and agree with much of the discussion that took place. As parents, we have turned down promotions that would require us to transfer solely for the sake of stability in our children's lives of avoiding a move to a new school. I resent the fact that despite our efforts, the WDSM school district may impose such a change and disruption upon my children. In the words of Dr. Narak on the night of the forum, this is not a "burning" issue. As evidenced by the overwhelming majority on the night of the forum, if this isn't a burning issue then why force such an unwelcome decision into the lives of so many families? Where is the consideration for the CHILDREN in this matter and the disruption this will cause in their lives? Stability is critical for children and the proposed boundary changes are absolutely contrary to conducive learning - a familiar, stable environment. F2 would force the largest disruption in that it proposes to blend three different school populations into one for four of the new proposed elementary school boundaries.
233. I'm taking this survey, but am not personally impacted by the changes.
234. I find it odd that the committee wants to relocate so many students who are at established schools like CrossRoads Park. I believe Western Hills has plenty of capacity - 50%? Bus the kids that aren't enrolled this year (Ponderosa area and any other new areas) now to Western Hills. By making any of the moves that are being suggested, and forcing these students go to relocate to different schools, you are splitting up kids' soccer teams, scout troops, etc. I have two kids at CRP, and I will not enroll them at Crestview, regardless of the decision that is made. We will move to Waukee before we send our kids there. The committee needs to leave CRP out of this, and focus on the new areas that are causing the enrollment issues and deal with those schools, not ours.
235. --agree evaluating between buildings makes sense to see how shifts could be done --think district needs more time to evaluate accurately and consider options--not done in a way that is good on public relations from what parents are experiencing/voicing concerns to the district and school board. --why don't all schools have ESL programs to distribute kids across all elementary level schools vs. busing kids? That would help to provide balance on resources and impact to students if every elementary school had ESL. --for those that do have ESL currently, how do these shifts impact the number of ESL students proposed? If percentages too large difficult for teachers to be able to keep up and make a positive impact on all students since that impacts resources and time. --how are Fairmeadows numbers projected to go down with proposed changes if picking up additional neighborhoods/area?
236. Based on all 3 changes, my child would still be able to attend Phenix and then Hillside. So we would not be impacted by any of the updates.
237. Make the boundary changes prospective only. Let existing students stay at their existing school if they choose, but Kindergarteners would start at the school as indicated by the new boundaries.
238. I strongly disagree for one reason - the proximity of students just east of the interstate between EP True and Wistful Vista to Westridge is NOT being considered appropriately. If you live in the blocks bounded by EP True, 50th street, Wistful Vista and South 52nd Street, you are a very short, very SAFE walk from Westridge. That consideration has, to my knowledge, never been raised and is NOT reflected in any of the options above. My child can walk out to door of our house onto the sidewalk, walk down S. 52nd to EP True, turn west and walk to Westridge - without ever having to cross a busy street. This consideration should be reflected in one of the available boundary options and it is not. Please give careful consideration to children who live just east of the interstate boundary but west of 50th and south of Wistful Vista. Common sense dictates these students - at the very least - have the OPTION to attend Westridge. It is a short 7 minute, extremely safe walk to Westridge; a sharp contrast to the inconvenience and much farther distance to Western Hills.
239. I strongly believe that stability is critical to the lives of young children. Thus, I believe it is very important that, if boundary changes are implemented, it should be done in a manner that is as minimally disruptive as possible. I believe that plans A2 and A3 have tried to minimize the number of students who will have to experience the instability that a boundary change will cause. However, plan F2 is extremely disruptive and does not take into account amount of disruption that would be caused to the students who are affected. Plan F2 would cause FOUR elementary schools - Crossroads, Crestview, Western Hills, and Clive - to blend what are currently three different elementary school

populations into one. Thus, the F2 proposal maximizes rather than minimizes the disruption and stress of such a dramatic change to students.

240. Because it works.
241. The newer developments could be put in different boundaries so as not to upset the children already established at their schools. Since these would be new families in those areas, you could keep new neighborhoods together without disrupting current neighborhoods.
242. I do not look forward to sending my children to a Jr High school that is a 15 minute drive from my home South of Westridge, regardless of the provision of busses. I also do not look forward to sending my children to a 9th grade only school. It's weird. We are considering moving out of the West Des Moines district.
243. The committee has not presented enough facts to support a change in the next school year. Mapping grades to new schools is incomplete and doesn't provide accurate information about class size at new schools, if staff transfers are necessary etc. It is also not clear if the jurisdiction of the committee to set new bus and grandfathering policies.
244. I strongly believe that we need to make boundary changes - however, it would be nice to effect the least number of people if possible. Thank you all for your time and energy you put into this - I'm sure it's not an easy task!
245. A2 is the best option for Western Hills. A3 would put too many kids at Western Hills and then you would be having to send them to other schools--which is exactly what you are trying to avoid in the first place!! I like redoing the entire district in F2 but a little worried about what that would do to Western Hills as well. Something needs to be done and it needs to be the best choice to help in years to come...not just a quick fix now. Good luck!!
246. I feel the issue of grandfathering should be considered. My children have been attending Crossroads Park for 11 years. (I have a son at Valley HS.) I would like to see some other options of transfer students or open enrollment children attending Western Hills to get their enrollment up. When you do not attend your neighborhood school, you should have to go to the school with the largest openings. I think this process hasn't been looked at in the best interests of our children. It's a money and a poor planning issue. I do not feel that our children should have to suffer this change when we have lived in an established neighborhood for 15 years. New development areas are pushing our children out. These new families should have to attend where there is room for them. Please reconsider how you're going about making these huge changes for our children and families.
247. I do agree that the boundaries need to be changed. My concern is why would you change the boundaries before all of the renovations have been completed at the elementary schools. My daughter will be now going to Western Hills based on your boundary changes but there are plans to renovate in 08-09. Therefore, she will go to 3 different schools in 4 years. Why would you do that to a child. I also have a son that would start kindergarten in 08 now he won't even go to his home school due to renovations. Again I do believe the schools need these boundary changes but wait until you have completed your renovations. If I had to choose I would choose Option F2.
248. The grandfathering idea is great, however, you need to be willing to grandfather not just 5th and 6th graders, but any younger siblings of those 5th and 6th graders as well.
249. I think a change IS needed. There are so many buildings that are full and can not hold any more students and buildings that are sitting with empty classrooms. Something NEEDS to be done to manage this. I agree that it is always important to get feedback from everyone, however, I believe the district should make the final decision as to what is in the best interest for everyone.
250. I do believe that changes need to be made, but you need to mainly focus on Jordan Creek and Western Hills. What would be the easiest way to take students out of Jordan Creek and and move more kids to Western Hills. In F2, my area is going to Crestview. I know allor most of the students in that area will need to be bussed at the district's expense. Have you looked into the cost of bussing by moving boundries? I think that should be a HUGE consideration since we spent so much time last year trying to reduce bus costs.
251. We are eleven year residents of the redrawn boundary area that falls between 50th street and I-35 (the Southwoods development). This region is already surrounded by three major barriers, I-35 to the west, EP True to the north and 50th on the East. Now the school district wishes to place an artificial boundary just south of Westwood Drive. This boundary in fact, will only create a "social island" for children and their parents. The neighborhood has never considered Wellington apartments nor the Westwood apartments a viable social connection for the neighborhood parents or children. A survey of neighborhood parents showed no social connections among children of either region. In addition major hills (Wellington was built into the hillside) and drainage retention ponds (a stream/pond flows under Westwood drive north) separates the upper part of Westwood and Tamara from both developments. These natural barriers have always caused our "sense of neighborhood" to be Tamara south. 50th Street will soon become four lanes,

creating an even greater eastern barrier. The city notified me that no under street tunnels are possible to construct along 50th street or EP True thus preventing children from crossing the street to meet friends. A census of the neighborhood using the Jordan creek parent directory and parental information obtained by phone shows the following school age children that would not be grandfathered into Jordan Creek: 1 Male kindergartner, 1 Female first grader, 1 Female second grader, 2 Female third graders, 1 Male child living in rental property, awaiting a spot at Jordan creek. That's right a grand total of SIX children, most of whom are at different grade levels. I have deep concerns that these six children will not be able to develop socially in such a limited neighborhood. I think any educator would be appalled to find such a socially isolated group of children was created by a school districts poorly placed boundary line. Please consider moving the boundary line to include only the high density housing (apartments) or nothing at all. I cannot image that SIX children spread over so many grade levels poses a burden to Jordan Creek Elementary. At the least, these six children should be grandfathered into Jordan Creek elementary for their own social benefit.

252. The starting time for Indian Hills is absurd. Our 8th grader gets up at 5:45 AM every morning to make her bus an hour later. This is likely the only time in her life she will be required to get up that early. Our 6th grade son is going to have huge problems next year being forced to get to the bus stop 1 hour and 50 minutes earlier than this year!!!! Please do anything that will allow WDMCS families to maintain reasonable sleep schedules.
253. I have three children in grades 3 and 1. The changes suggested in Option F2 would be devastating. My neighborhood is the closest residential area to Jordan Creek - and under F2 we would be excluded because we are on the wrong side of Mills Parkway.
254. I feel like all options make too much of an impact on the Crossroads community and have students in close proximity to the school going to another school, Western Hills. Also, those families that have to go to WH loose their junior high as well. I beleive that is the only group that gets affected this way.
255. Without the maps side-by-side it is very difficult to see what real changes you are looking at. I am specifically looking to see how you expanding Western Hills boundaries, since it is a school that clearly has room for more students. Hmmm... I can't see those boundaries changing. Maybe the maps need a summary of the changes that they actually show.
256. If the F2 option is not choosen then I would agree with making no boundary changes!
257. Rational for boundary changes has not been presented to the public. The options seem artificial and not sensible.
258. We are residents of River Oaks, currently attending Jordan Creek/Stilwell Jr. High. By distance in miles, and proximity the closest schools for the Greenbier/River Oaks developments. Please note that the bus pick-up time for Stilwell is currently 6:30 a.m. If we are moved to Indian Hills Jr. High, our pick-up time will have to be even earlier! We would be adding to the cost of busing if we are switched to Indian Hills.
259. I feel that it is very important to relieve the over-crowded schools. The current boundries are out dated. It is not realistic to have classes of 20 in some schools and 26-28 in others.
260. The F2 Option seems to fit Jordan Creek the best. The other two that move some areas to Westridge from Jordan Creek would, in my opinion cause Westridge to be overcrowded because it doesn't look like anyone lives in the areas of the proposed new Westridge areas to the north of the district that would move any kids out of Westridge.
261. It seems feasible to redraw the boundaries to streamline the best use for our facilities. Hopefully, common sense will prevail in the long run.
262. Boundaries in all three options do not seem appropriate - looks like some people will be driving past a school that is closer to them to get to their "new school."
263. As a Western Hills parent, I would like to see our school increase in enrollment. With any of the boundary change options, would those children living south of EP True or west of 50th Street be bused? It is cumbersome to flip back and forth to get the full impact on the other elementary schools. Therefore, my response is based only the impact to Western Hills.
264. Since the over/under capacity schools in the district are Jordan Creek and Western Hills, it seems the most logical to move students from Jordan Creek to Western Hills without distrupting the other schools.
265. We moved to this area for Westridge. Our children love there school and we would actually move our family to stay in this school.

266. it's definitely time to make a change. Western Hills and others have empty rooms while our school, Jordan Creek is tripping over each other. Please Please Please change the boundaries!
267. There needs to be further work done to the maps so that all schools show similar impact. Westridge looks as though it needs to have more adjustments particularly by Ep True and I35 where students are about a block walking distance to that school but are drawn into the overcrowded Jordan Creek. Also, more changes need to be made to the area north of Ashworth between 35th and 42nd street. That area should be drawn into Western Hills so that the area directly across Ashworth at 50th can be drawn back into Crossroads.
268. Make appropriate changes that will work best to maximize school usage without over crowding.
269. F2 is the ONLY plan that aligns the boundaries for the long term!! It places Country Club, woodlands,etc at Crossroads where they should have been all along. It also is the ONLY plan that keeps River Oaks/Greenbriar at Jordan Creek which makes sense since the is only ONE WAY in and out of there: HWY 5/I-35. In addition, it is the only plan that keeps those kids at Stillwell instead of Indian Hills. Why would you bus kids from the very SW of the district to the very North of the district??? F2 is the plan that keeps all the schools at roughly the same capacity,uses major roads as boundaries, and hopefully last 15+ years. Do it right the first time! Don't be like Waukee!!
270. Adjust only the schools that need it. (Jordan Creek, Western Hills)
271. I think all kids in the same elementary should get to go to the same middle school.
272. WHATEVER IS DECIDED, I STRONGLY FEEL THE SCHOOL RENOVATIONS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT YEAR(WESTERN HILLS) SHOULD BE COMPLETED BEFORE ANY CHANGES ARE MADE FOR BOUNDARIES. I DON'T FEEL IT WOULD BE IN THE STUDENTS TRANSFERRING INTO WESTERN HILLS TO MAKE SCHOOL CHANGES TWO YEARS IN A ROW. WHAT IS THE RUSH FOR NEXT YEAR? I'VE NOT HEARD A DEFINITE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION.
273. Grandfathering the incoming 5th and 6th graders would be ideal.
274. #1 did not address those children within the boundary going to Parochial or Private schools. Some of why we decided on a Parochial school was because of the current unfavorable boundaries.
275. 1. It is my understanding that a.) Western Hills is under capacity and b.) Jordan Creek is over capacity. Therefore, Jordan Creek should naturally overflow into Western Hills. 2. It is also my understanding that Western Hills will be renovated, affecting the 2007/2008 schoolyear. I think it is a good idea to approach the boundary change now but not have it go into affect until Western Hills' renovation is complete.
276. We like our schools the way they are.
277. If a student is already enrolled in the school after a boundary change is made...the student should be grandfathered in so they can continue their schooling at the same school they are now in. New families to the area should be enrolled in the lower census schools.
278. We moved to Waterford Drive that is just down the street from Jordan Creek so our daughter can someday walk to school with all her friends and be close to all her friends and play. Option A3 doesn't make any sense since we live so close to Jordan Creek and then you want to transfer her to a school that is 2 miles away.
279. I understand that boundary changes are probably necessary. But it is causing so much unhappiness and stress for so many families who are loyal to their current school for their current as well as upcoming children. Please consider the most liberal grandfathering policy you can. It would go a very long way in making people accept these changes.
280. I understand the reasoning for the boundary changes. However, I took a position at my son and daughter's elementary school because I wanted to be able to enjoy them at school. They grow up so fast and I wanted to be a part of their lives a bit longer. We live so close to Jordan Creek, we can see the school from our home. I would not like to see our elementary school change.
281. F2 seems to make the most sense as far as distance to junior high, especially for those students in the Maffit Lake/River Oaks area.
282. Not a good idea to send children that are right in Jordan Creek's back yard to a school that is 2 miles away.
283. I want to make sure that my daughter stays at the same school she has been in for 3 years. I don't like the idea of her being sent to a new school because you all have decided to stir things up.

284. Ultimately there will be no boundary change that does not upset parents if their children are involved...however to grandparent beyond 5th and or 6th grade does not resolve your inequality in numbers in the school...there are obvious social and adjustment issues for kids in those two grades as they have established social groups and friends and any of us who have have children in the age range know that that makes a big difference in their overall attitude, performance and well being...I would think that you could give those older kids the opportunity to make that decision however younger children in the family would only have until their older sibling graduates from the grade school to grandfather they would change on that graduation of the older sibling. None of your choices here will make this a popular decision but the grade schools boundaries are an issue that you should make more even , make the change, and move forward. I commend the committee for their work. Make the decision and move ahead.
285. Agree with above options except exclude the Jordan Grove/Countryside area and keep it in Jordan Creek School area.
286. I have two kids at Crossroads and have heard that Western Hills will be relocated for updating the school for at least a year so if moved my son could be in 4 different schools in 4 years. How can someone learn in that situation?
287. After a certain cost savings and rebalancing are considered, the plan with the least disruption to current student placement should be chosen.
288. 1. I prefer option A2 and A3 if there are indeed boundary changes. My main reason for choosing this option relates to safety. We live on the West side of 50th and our kids are 3 blocks from Crossroads. There are sidewalks and a walking/biking trail system that leads directly to Crossroads going under Ashworth etc.. If the boundary is changed to option F2. All the kids West of 50th would have to cross 5 lanes of traffic when walking to school and I am sure they would try to do it at the most convenient spot for them. There are no crosswalks or traffic lights to allow crossing of 50th from Ashworth to EP True. 2. If option F2 is chosen, I would request grandfathering of anyone already enrolled in Crossroads to continue at Crossroads.
289. Boundries do seem to be impacting my family; I have no opinion at this point.
290. There NEEDS to be boundary changes, this has been long overdue!!
291. We cannot comprehend that a group of educators would disrupt so many students to benefit a few. Those who recently moved to the Jordan Creek areas knew their children could not go there because of capacity problems; transporting those students to another school would resolve the issue, or building an addition to Jordan Creek. We are also disappointed in the process--no communications went home regarding the process until the committee's recommendations had been made.
292. I think Westridge Elementary should be in the Stilwell Jr. High District.
293. Whoever came up with changing boundaries is incredibly ridiculous and outrageous. Parents take into consideration where their children go to school before making a house purchase. You are disrupting lives, and relationships. Schools that are too large for our children should realize that parents like the school enough to live in that boundary. Maybe you should be building much larger schools to accomadate the students, instead of forcing them to start in a new neighborhood, and change their lives. More teachers and smaller class sizes. Who is stupid enough to build a new school without students to support it? If you have too many students, buy more property and add on to the existing building, or build an annex next door. Hire more teachers. Do not jeopardize our kids for money. Don't our kids deserve to go to school with their friends they have known their entire lives? What a stupid idea to not transport grandfathered students. All they want to do is continue to go where they know their friends. Doesn't this show what a bad idea it is for making new boundaries. How many times did the board switch elementary and junior highs in their own lives? How many great memories do they have with their friends back then? Kids face too many pressures in junior high to have to make silly changes for the benefit of money. If parents move, and they have to start a new school, it is a disruption. Can you imagine parents moving to a specific neighborhood because they like the schools, and have the school board make such drastic changes. Look into the future, and see many moves to put their child back in with their child's friends. Parents are the decision makers, and what chaos to tell kids that want to stay at their current school that they have to switch school or else no way to get to school. Parents will have to drive their kids to school and have problems being late for work, and who do you think pays the taxes for our schools? This is nonsense. Build bigger schools to handle specific overflow, and keep class sizes small. Don't build new schools just to screw up families' lives. Soon enough, kids will be moving away, and what happened to neighborhoods, and school pride? New schools just for filling schools are plain retarded, and should be reserved for special classes. Stop thinking about money and listen to kids and parents that are very happy with their neighborhoods out of choice and not force.
294. If residents are within easy walking distance of one's school, it seems somewhat ridiculous to force those families to attend a different school. Community schools are extremely valuable to children, families, and our community and we need to protect them. With all of the great minds working on this challenge, I am hopeful that a solution can be found that respects families in the above-described situation.

295. Would there still be an enrollment overload problem at Jordan Creek if the students (close to 70) from Cumming, Waukee, Des Moines, Van Meter, Clive, and Urbandale were to go to the school in their area?
296. Making changes now will be detrimental to the kids since they are so used to their current school, teachers and friends. This is one of the prime reasons, we have not moved from our current residence. If the changes must be made, they should be made applicable only to new enrollments with limited/no sibling impact.
297. The boundaries need to make geographic sense. Although each school is a part of the WDM district, most parents honestly want to know how it relates to their child and school. Without geographic sense and a feeling of a "neighborhood" school, it will be a hard sell.
298. If boundary changes are made I believe children already attending the schools should be allowed to stay. Many families have purchased their homes because they were within walking distance from the neighborhood school.
299. While I understand the proper utilization of funds and resources, it is quite frustrating to see our district so affected by this. It is also a frustration in regards to transportation as our day care will not transport to Western Hills and it is difficult to switch and/or get into Kids West for 2 kids. This is incredibly disruptive to lives, especially when both parents work and setting up transportation is already a great challenge.
300. I believe f2 is a fair change for my area. Why take away people already in a district if you are adding a new group to it.
301. I am extremely bothered by the proposals put forth by the West Des Moines school district. This type of lack of planning by our community is so disappointing. What other options have been considered? I see a valid option to the proposed boundary changes that would meet more of your criteria in term and be less disruptive. I am curious as to why this proposal was not an option. I would propose that both very large apartment complexes, Wellington and the Fountains be moved from Jordan Creek to Western Hills. This would allow more residential neighborhood houses that made a critical life purchase, their house, with the understanding where their children would attend school versus the apartment house residents that have not made such a commitment to the neighborhood and live in their apartments on a monthly basis. This change answers more of your criteria than your proposals. In our specific case, our children would be told they can no longer go to their school, Jordan Creek Elementary but instead need to travel to Western Hills, a longer distance, separating all their friends from the street south of us and making the ability to ride a bicycle or walk with their parents impossible. Then to further compound the hurt, in a year or so they would again change schools as Western Hills is remodeled. Why wouldn't such a move be recommended to the high density apartment residents that would most likely not feel the hurt of changing schools as their residents are transitory in nature? Here is my review of your criteria based on the decision to dissect our kids from their friends just 1 street south, most if not all your criteria does not seem applicable to such a change. Just what was really considered in this redrawing of our neighborhood, Westwood Drive, just west of 50th street? Why would we be more associated with the large apartment complex, Wellington apartments than we would the houses sharing our back yards whose children will be isolated with this decision? "The committee developed and applied the following criteria as boundary adjustments" In terms of our neighborhood, one that has been associated with Jordan Elementary since its inception, the criteria breaks down as follow: Capacity: Proximity: Not applicable for a making such a change as we are closer in terms of distance to two other school choices than the 3 proposals. Resources: There are more traffic lights and greater distance to transport our children to the proposed school change, Western Hills from Jordan Creek. In addition our children can currently walk, safely, to either Jordan Creek down the bike path or to Westridge, a short and safe walk as well. Stability: Not valid as our neighborhood is boxed in and is a very close neighborhood with a stable, predictable growth pattern. If you are truly concerned with stability then exclude from Jordan Creek the areas that are very dynamic and difficult to predict the number of children in your proposed arbitrary dissections of family neighborhoods, Example are the high density apartment complexes, Wellington apartments and The Fountains apartments. Balance: Balance also lends to maintaining the small tax property tax paying neighborhoods that currently are in the Jordan Creek school system and moving the high density apartment complexes which are very dynamic and thus unpredictable in terms of making balance decisions. Impact: All three proposed options would group our very small street, Westwood Drive, with one of the largest Apartment complexes in West Des Moines. There is no interaction amongst our small tightly knit neighborhood that interacts with the residential housing streets 1 block north and south of our street. One can, with a high level of confidence, estimate the impact of Westwood drive on Jordan Creek Elementary school than you can with the high density apartments. It would make more sense to group the high density apartment complexes together and send the children to Western Hills as they are more transient than the well established neighborhoods whose children play and associate closely with the kids of the neighboring streets. This proposal would allow more small neighborhoods to continue to send their children to Jordan Creek and allow Jordan Creek to continue to honor its commitment to the neighborhoods who have supported Jordan Elementary school since its inception, where we have walked the bike path to our children's school for years. I do not see Voluntary transfer as an option that would outweigh the fact you are trying to remove a small neighborhood from Jordan Creek Elementary that does not meet the criteria spelled out as what was considered in the redrawing boundaries. I really can not express the hurt you have imposed on your most loyal residents, many of which have sent their children to Jordan Creek Elementary since the school opened and to be replaced by new houses that never paid the taxes to build that school nor the fact our

children can bike down the path or walk to school with their parents but you choose to prefer students from much further distances as more belonging to our school.

302. Plans A3 does not make any sense whatsoever. The area north of Ashworth and west of I35 is cut right in the middle of a neighborhood. This drives a wall between families currently attending the same school.
303. Why are you making these big changes so late in the year and already for this fall? It seems like it's cutting it close to the hiring line. Where is the information about how big the class sizes are? I feel that that should be a large consideration for the benefit of the children's educations. Where is the information on how many sections in each building? This seems to be a hidden factor unless you are not planning on changing those. As a parent, that would seem to be a large factor that we have not been told. (unless it comes later in this survey)
304. If we are moved out of our school's district, grandfather those children to stay at their old school as long as transportation is provided by the family. We have VERY STRONG TIES to our elementary school and don't want to leave, nor do we want any of our friends/families to have to leave!
305. Recommend voluntary grandfathering
306. We are not in favor of any of these options. Our children are having to move with all of the options listed. This is not fair to them. Why are they being punished for your poor planning? Very disappointed in the school board for not taking care of our children!!!
307. It would be helpful to be able to view all three maps at the same time and to be able to read street names more easily. I have no strong opinion on any of the options.
308. It is very important that kids be able to go to school with the kids in their neighborhood. Boundary changes need to be made to allow this to happen, but the district needs to be sure that the changes they are making do enough to eliminate the overcrowding of schools. It is hard to evaluate the boundaries on maps alone, because we can't see the numbers of students involved. You should do your very best to ensure that students will not be "capped out" of their neighborhood schools not just in 07, but for the years to come.
309. I am not in favor of changing the boundaries. Our address is impacted w/every option. I can't image any of these changes will reduce cost as the new boundaries for Crossroads would be busing more students than now. I had one children attend IH and I would prefer my other children also attend IH. Another issue to consider is the KW daycare. We currently alternative summers and break daycare w/Westridge - a much more convenient alternative than having to drive to Fairmeadows!!!! I am also frustrated that this decision would be made for the following school year. I have one starting in K in 07 and now I have no idea where he will be going. This plan has not been thoroughly thought out.
310. Ideally, I think students should be allowed to go to the closet school to their house.

Boundary Survey – Revised

Grandfathering Comments

1. Our children are seven years apart. As one is scheduled to leave Crossroads, the next would begin. We have made significant investments of time and money in the school, and neither of the above two grandfathering options would allow our youngest child to attend "our" school. Our daughter is not the only one who goes to the school - our entire family is involved and committed to it. We need a grandfathering option that provides our son the opportunity to attend Crossroads.
2. Grandfather all students in the existing schools and keep bussing the way it is. You already bus students who stay afterschool at the junior high or go to the student center, which apparently is a courtesy to parents. If you can do that then you can bus the rest of the population that is in school during the day. I also think you shouldn't start at 4th grade for the grandfathering. If a child has been at the school for 3 years then they should be able to stay. I think it should at least start at 3rd grade being grandfathered in.
3. I have two children, aged 3 years and 7 months that should be able to attend Clive since their older siblings are currently attending there. To do otherwise would put a logistical burden on our family.
4. I believe grandfathering of all current students and siblings. Don't break up families or neighborhoods.
5. Families should stay together!
6. GRANDFATHER ALL STUDENTS AND SIBLINGS. BE PRO FAMILY!
7. Grandfater all existing students for one year only. After that open it up. Once your grandfathered your locked in.
8. At the forum you talk about trying to minimize disruptions. I think one way of doing that is to minimize the impact to a family. My children will be in 5th and 2nd grade at Jordan Creek and one that will be in kindergarten in 2008. I don't want to have siblings going to different schools. My view is school is important in regards to friends, but family comes first and that is why you need to grandfather with siblings.
9. Grandfather students who have been in the school for the three years. In the past has made that particular school their HOME school. Moving children can cause too much interruption of education and instability.
10. If you only grandfather grades 4 and 5, then you are creating big issues for families forced to move from Clive to Crestview. Families then would have children attending two different grade schools with two different start and end times. Two different bus stops in the morning and two different stops in the afternoon. What a nightmare for a parent to try to work around. None of the options are good for this set of parents.
11. Let kids go to school with there siblings. Outside Jordan Creek there are no major capacity issues.
12. Also need to consider grandfathering any student who has attended a school for at least 3 years. Based on the forum discussions, any student who is VT or Open Enrolled for at least 3 years is considered a resident. We should consider the same standard on students that would be uprooted based on any boundary changes.
13. Allow families to grandfather. With my 6th and 3rd grader we have been at JC 11 years. With the above ideas my 3rd grader could not be grandfathered into his home school.
14. If you allow grandfathering then that needs to apply to Junior high as well. For example if I decide to grandfather my child at JC, but they now live in Westridge, they should be grandfathered through junior high at Stillwell b/c JC goes to Stillwell.
15. I feel that ALL current students should be given the option to stay at their current schools and should not be asked to move.
16. There is no way you should send siblings into 2 different schools, that doesn't even make sense as a parent!!!
17. At minimum it would be necessary to grandfather students in grades 4 and 5 and their siblings. To have families with students at different schools makes little sense, except in extraordinary circumstances. I firmly believe it is important to grandfather students who have been at a school for 3 years and all siblings should be included.
18. Does the committee expect parents to run to two separate schools for siblings?

19. You can't make everyone happy. You have to do what is best for the district in the long run. You may defeat the purpose of the boundary changes if you allow the grandfathering of families because large numbers may choose to stay where they are.
20. The school board must allow families to stay together! It would be very detrimental to have children split up between 2 grade schools!!
21. There needs to be a cutoff somewhere, and grandfathering 4th and 5th graders and their siblings feels like the most logical and accommodating for parents. Having to go to 4 different schools is already difficult enough. Please don't make it 5.
22. vicky poole is evil
23. After 2011 no grandfather clause should be honored. By that time people living in those certain areas should be aware of the boundaries.
24. Grandfathering makes sense for those who want to maintain continuity.
25. Grandfather all children in school and future siblings. The fact that no bus transportation will be provided to children that are grandfathered will force most to go to the school within their boundary.
26. Grandfathering up to now has meant providing transportation options--even if they are "at cost." That should be continued or it isn't really an option for some.
27. Grandfathering all younger siblings would be a logistical nightmare and quite possibly make the boundary changes irrelevant for many years to come. It would be sad if this type of grandfathering led to capouts. Whatever decision is made on grandfathering, I would vote to not allow for transportation.
28. Grandfather all students with younger siblings included. It does not make sense to grandfather some students and not others. How will parents pick up two children at two different schools at the same time? It would be a logistic nightmare.
29. I still think that we shouldn't be changing them!!!
30. At some point you need to draw a line and with families that in a growing stage when do you stop the grandfathering in.
31. I believe grandfathering needs to be offered to everyone.
32. We have the opportunity to make WDM a case study for how to do boundary changes in the best possible way, not just following the other lemmings off a cliff. Next year is not a drop dead date for these changes. Therefore, why not move forward with the best possible boundary set up, while grandfathering in those at all schools in all grades who wish to stay (without transportation privileges). This must include siblings now in and coming soon to the school. Some will move anyway. And all new households entering an area would be required to attend the appropriate district. Yes, there would be administration issues. But all conquerable. Remember, it is the people who make up a school district. It is vital for the rest of the DSM Golden Circle to continue to look at WDM as the suburb of choice. Without real initiative on this issue, we just become another city making average choices for the ease of the administration and to the detriment of our families: children who have formed tight bonds with a school and its staff, parents who have forged both mental and financial bonds with a school. My children will not have to move, but that does not mean we are not affected. Please make the right choices.
33. Grandfather ALL existing students and siblings. I have no problem driving my child to and from school if bus transportation is not available as a result of grandfathering.
34. I think they should make the changes effective "cold turkey". Grandfathering only delays the inevitable change that the child must go thru. I think all siblings should go to the same school.
35. I favor grandfathering current fifth graders and their siblings for one year only. Thus after the current fifth grader graduates from the elementary school, the siblings then go to their designated school. To do anything else perpetuates the problem.
36. Both options are reasonable in my view, As long as any additional siblings just entering school would be required to attend their new boundary school.

37. Grandfathering should be allowed at all times with families especially since most parents usually have a relationship with that school and the younger siblings benefit from that relationship. Often times the younger siblings also benefit from the comfort of knowing that their older sibling is also in the same building or had the same teachers!
38. GRANDFATHER WHOLE FAMILIES TO INCLUDE PRESCHOOLERS
39. Grandfather ALL students regardless of grade with siblings should be an option.
40. The boundaries changes may force some parents to open enroll their children to other neighboring school districts due to the possible inconveniences.
41. Grandfather everyone currently enrolled.
42. Why go through the redistricting process if you are going to allow a grandfathering clause. This will not get to the root of the issue.
43. I think the district should provide transportation to student that are grandfathered. Often families choose where to live based on what school their child will be attending.
44. Grandfathering should apply as option for all children currently enrolled within a given school.
45. See my prior comments.
46. need to include younger siblings not yet in school also
47. All students should be grandfathered--no exceptions. Shame on any proposal that would not do this and disrupt the educational and social process for our children.
48. You've got to make the cutoff at some point. I believe those students in 4th and 5th grade this year should be able to finish up at their current school. Others should move to the new school. Chances are, there are several of their classmates that will move as well.
49. We need to take care of the problem now to make class size more equitable. Grandfathering just prolongs it.
50. Not allowing parents the option of having their children at the same school (assuming no district-provided transportation) could create logistical nightmares for parents (e.g. having to pick up and drop off students at different schools at the same time).
51. If you choose F2 (the one with the most dramatic changes?) then I would be more likely to support grandfathering for 4th and 5th graders AND their siblings.
52. Grandfather based on the number of years of attendance.
53. I think the grandfathering should include all siblings. I would not want two kids at one school and the other one at another school.
54. It will be crucial for my 5th grader to be grandfathered in and not disrupt the last year of elementary school.
55. ALL current families must be grandfathered - this allows for a staggered implementation and will preserve school infrastructure. It seems ironic that the younger students who lack the ability to fully understand the change will be displaced while older children are allowed to stay. We have been at our present school for four years (K-3) and my children consider this home. Ripping them from this education safety net seriously jeopardizes their education performance.
56. Grandfather all grades and their siblings that are currently enrolled in the school
57. Grandfather everyone in the schools - or at least give that as an option.
58. I think there should be a choice for families if it would make their family life easier and less disruptive for students.
59. Grandfather all kids and siblings

60. Allow all students to be grandfathered including these siblings who have not entered school yet.
61. I believe all current students should be able to grandfather in to their current school.
62. Grandfather all children in the school who want to stay. I have a child with a disability and have worked very hard since kindergarten to develop a relationship with teachers and staff. My child even knows the janitor - Mr. Fox - because he is involved in making all children feel comfortable at school. I want my 3rd grader to finish at Jordan Creek.
63. Grandfather all current students and their siblings
64. Please take into account again voluntary transfer students who have been at the particular school since Kindergarten. It would make it easier for siblings to be in the same elementary school, especially for working parents.
65. At minimum all families that currently reside within the boundaries should be grandfathered to include all children, including those yet born. One of the main reasons families purchase a specific home is the school which their children would attend. Children in the neighborhood, while growing until school age grow to look forward to attending the elementary school that their older friends and neighbors attend. When grandfathering, children should be allowed to complete elementary at the school currently attending.
66. Grandfather all in current school
67. All children and their younger siblings should be grandfathered.
68. Grandfather all students and their siblings and the siblings of those that have previously graduated from a school to finish out at their original home school.
69. Grandfather all students and their siblings currently attending the school and those whose siblings have already graduated from a school. i.e. 2 sisters have graduated from Jordan Creek allow the Kindergartener starting 2007 to attend the same school.
70. I think splitting families is not a realistic option. I would actually like to see ALL younger siblings grandfathered, not just those currently enrolled on school. I even see some appeal to grandfathering any currently enrolled student even though that would postpone the benefits of the redistricting for a much longer time. It would help neighborhoods continue to feel more cohesive and probably reduce transportation costs for a while.
71. It's a terrible idea to split siblings as it would create undue stress on families in terms of geographical logistics. Also, the WDM School System needs to step up and pay the transportation costs of 'grandfathered' students. I didn't request this change, so I need to be compensated for your decision if it would happen.
72. 1. The school district must provide transportation for these grandfathered students. 2. WDM said we would save over \$700,000 in bus transportation by going to the 3 start times. Some of this money should be spent on transporting these grandfathered students. 3. Absolutely must include the siblings. Remember, there is one elementary school that has a different start time. Does a family have to endure one (or more) elementary students starting school at 9:05 and the other siblings starting at 8:20? That would be a logical nightmare. How does that affect parents who are working full or part time? I work a part time job, and would need to reduce my hours by 50% if one of my children end up at Clive and the other one Crestview.
73. Allow all existing families to grandfather into their current elementary schools.
74. Grandfather families, not students.
75. grandfather all siblings even those not in school yet and provide transportation.
76. grandfather all students
77. ALL STUDENTS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO GRANDFATHER TO THEIR EXISTING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. Families should not be forced to move from the only schools they've ever attended and families should not be split up. It is absolutely unfair to ask siblings to attend 2 different elementary schools. Iowa promotes family values, etc etc... the school district should not place undue stress on families by making their children separate and attend separate elementary schools. My son has autism and is in the Jordan Creek level 2 program. If the boundary changes occur, my girls would be forced to move to a different elementary school. It is absolutely cruel to do this to our family. We have endured so much in dealing with our son's disability. My girls have endured so much, they do not deserve to be taken away from him and he doesn't deserve to have them

taken away. They often see each other throughout the day and it gives them all a sense of comfort. They look out for one another. Please consider what you are doing to families like mine when you are making this decision.

78. All students should be grandfathered into their current elementary schools.
79. We have a preschooler also. We would have to have all family grandfathering.
80. Grandfathering with the inclusion of siblings is the only humane way to make these boundary changes. I have faith that the administration will see it this way. To do so otherwise will/could cause serious disruption in the lives of families who have 1 child eligible for grandfathering and younger kids not. These kids see their school as a second home and family--tearing them away from it is cruel and thoughtless.
81. Families don't want their children in two elementary schools. They need to go to whatever school is their home school or provide transportation on their own. Life isn't always fair and the kids will make new friends so don't allow grandfathering for the elementary kids.
82. You need to grandfather family units. it doesn't make sense to split up elementary school families to two different schools. also provide transportation, as that is what is being done from the last round of redrawing lines.
83. allow grandfathering of all siblings. This will not affect my family but will affect many WDM families.
84. All students should be grandfathered with all their siblings.
85. Empowering the community is the only way to gain buy-in to change. Therefore, the most liberal version of grandfathering should be permitted for students CURRENTLY ENROLLED in a school. Bussing grandfathered students or those choosing Voluntary Transfer should NOT be encouraged.
86. My second-grader will be just as disrupted by any boundary changes as a fourth-, fifth- or sixth-grader. Grandfathering should be available to ALL current students.
87. Grandfathering is very important. Request consideration of a) Grandfathering all current students or b) those students who have siblings either currently in attendance or those who have siblings that have finished at a particular home school (i.e. legacy students). Again, open to having to transport and not have bus transportation if grandfathering is permitted to current school for all currently enrolled students.
88. Do not grandfather at all.
89. What about younger siblings who will be in kindergarten in the next year or two who have siblings in grade school? Will that sibling be allowed to go to the same school?
90. Grandfathering has to be an option for all students. Options "favored" by the School Boundary Study Committee do not mean a lot when 86% of its members are not affected by the changes they are proposing. (Des Moines Register)
91. If changes must be made, I urge you to take the most liberal grandfathering clause that can be taken. Ideally, all families with children currently enrolled would get to stay at their home school. All younger siblings should be able to stay at their current school. AT THE VERY LEAST CURRENT 4TH & 5TH GRADERS SHOULD BE GRANDFATHERED. Grandfathering will help ease the stress of a change on families.
92. Grandfathering is certainly better than nothing, but putting my house in the Western Hills boundary hurts the value of my home, given that it is so close to Crossroads (across the street).
93. YOU MUST KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER -- THAT'S PART OF BEING A FAMILY
94. I know it will be hard for kids to leave a school they've been at since kindergarten, however they will be moved with classmates and won't be thrown in alone.
95. Allow the students who attend school there now and their siblings to continue to attend. Allow siblings of students who have graduated from a school to attend that school.

96. Grandfathering - if the boundary change HAS to go thru is the only fair option. Not grandfathering siblings would cause emotional trauma to the younger siblings of 4th and 5th graders as well as difficulties for parents to provide transportation and support(financial and volunteer time) to both schools.
97. I agree with the district's plan not to provide transportation for grandfathered students.
98. grandfather ALL students. There is no reason the changes have to be immediate. Money will also be saved in transportation because there will be a lot of students who will not be eligible to ride the bus if they are grandfathered.
99. Again when looking at the budget last year this should have been a consideration. I feel you should bus those students. Even though my child is not in need to be bused I think this is your responsibility. The school board decided to take this action now figure out what is going to be in the best interest of the child and not for the school board. I also feel you should include the siblings of 6th graders as well.
100. Why is transportation not being provided for grandfathered students? Unless it is highly difficult, logistically, or extremely expensive, I think it should be considered.
101. If the district boundaries had been enforced all along, would we still have had this issue? How is it that families that formerly lived in the district, but decided to move further out (for more land, etc), can continue in the WDM district because they prefer WDM over the new school district. In terms of grandfathering, just because one student goes to the school should not automatically assume siblings should be guaranteed a spot. Whatever happened to neighborhood schools?
102. You need to include grandfathering and student currently enrolled in grades K and 1
103. No Grandfathering should be allowed. If someone chooses a school that is not assigned they should be allowed as long as there is room.
104. I believe if you have been in that school and you are not a VT your whole family should be able to stay and go to school together. You disrupt too many families by not allowing all children in a family to go to the same grade school. A parent cannot be everywhere in order to pick up multiple grade school children, especially when the roads are bad and the schools are several miles apart. You will end up having more people moving out of the district if they are forced to have children in different grade schools. This just does not make sense.
105. If many families decide to Grandfather in, is this really going to help with the enrollment numbers? I do not want to change schools, but if there is a need for a change then just do it. I would want my kids going to the same school.
106. Grandfathering needs to be kept to a minimum so that schools that are overcrowded can reduce enrollment so that capouts are no longer necessary.
107. Grandfathering students with brothers and sisters is necessary. How can parents be there to pick up/drop off at the same school start/end times? It is not safe to have children standing alone waiting for parents to pick up let alone the extra driving risk of parents rushing school to school to get their children. Children need to be with their brothers and sisters.
108. I don't agree with the boundary changes at all!
109. You should allow grandfathering of all children within a family regardless of whether they are currently in school. Parents have built relationships with teachers and administrators for that school.
110. Grandfather only current 4th and 5th graders: Temporary and necessary (although not easy) growing pains for the good of the re-bordering process. Do not let the wishes of the minority sway what's best for the majority.
111. You need to allow ALL STUDENTS AND SIBLINGS to grandfather in. What good will it do me if my third grader and kindergartner can grandfather in but my three-year-old will end up at another school?
112. I think that only current 5th grade students should be considered for this option. With 2 years in a new school, the current 4th graders would adjust. I think that the district should consider providing bussing for the current 5th graders.
113. Grandfather for EVERY child in the school as long as parents are willing to provide their transportation.
114. Once the older sibling moves to middle school, we would not want the younger sibling to have to shift schools.

115. to be considered on an individual basis for daycare, family issues, etc.
116. Ideally every parent would like his/her child who is currently enrolled in an elementary school to have the option of grandfathering regardless of what grade they are in.
117. Grandfather in siblings as well.
118. If you grandfather, make it possible for siblings to stay as well. It would be extremely inconvenient to have parents going back and forth to two schools to pick up kids (and the pick-up situation is enough of a nightmare at Crossroads).
119. We live a long ways away. If you take away the busing in effect you take away the grandfather clause.
120. I feel you should grandfather ALL students currently attending a elementary school that will be affected by this change. All NEW students to the distrcit and schools should start off at the new boundary schools.
121. My son wants to stay at Crestview for his last two years of elementary school. This is not even a practical idea for me at all. It would be difficult to drive him to and from school every single day, If the younger siblings are not allowed to grandfather, then my kids will be in two different schools. I am extremely upset with this thought. We might think about open enrolling our kids in another district.
122. If you do any grandfathering...it needs to be for the whole family. What about the kids that were to enroll in kindergarten next year? The family involvement is what makes the school successful in addition to the teachers. You will destroy this if families have some kids at one school and some at another....that is why I think maybe there should be no grandfathering.
123. If you are willing to allow these students to stay at their current school, why would you not provide them with transportation?
124. I can understand older kids feeling a loss if they had to move and leave their school. Schools work a lot on school spirit. But most kids will do fine at a new school in no time. Especially if others in their neighborhood are there with them.
125. No comment, no children of this age.
126. It is a very good decision on the committee's part to grandfather current 6th and 7th graders to Stillwell and Indian Hills based on their existing boundary lines. The proposal to not provide transportation seems inconsisent with this sound decision.
127. And why can't our 3rd grader stay at the same school!!
128. siblings staying together is very important to most families...
129. i think you should keep the schools the same
130. Grandfathering for any student currently enrolled and including younger siblings
131. I have a son in 4th grade that is doing very well (ITBS 99%, ELP program etc) his teacher has said that he is a very good kid but very fragile at this time. He is very sensitive! This move could really damage him and he may never recover. I also have a 4 year old that will start Kindergarten in fall of 2008. I want these kids to be in school together, it will be the only time that they will attend the same school. I have very strong feelings about not providing bus service to the grandfathered kids. Both my husband and I work we have to be at work by 8:00 every morning and don't get home until after 5:00. You are now making a decision about my ability to provide for my family by working. I don't know how I would be able to transport my child to school if there is not bussing available. Kids west is a possibility.... if they have room. I think that it is very insevstivity for you to offer grandfathering without bus service. One man at the meeting asked about a law pertaining to bussing, if it was mandatory to provide bus service to those kids going to school, paid or not paid. That question was not answered. I would like to know. I don't see how one could say you can come to school but you have to find your own way to get here. That does not seem right!
132. Just make the changes and have them take effect for all students now.
133. I oppose this entire action. Maybe the Country Club should have thought of schools when they were building out there and so you are going to punish all my children. We have 4 boys and I am not going to let them be thrown around West Des Moines because some PTA leader, parent or school board member needs more status or hype associated with their name. I assure you if

this happens there will be legal consequences all over the place. I will make the issue of Emotional Disturbance known to all and the effects this will have on all young children. Please quit thinking about yourselves!

134. I want all my kids at the same school. It would be a real hassle otherwise.
135. Not providing bussing is a hardship for our family. If our girls choose to stay in the current elementary and then be grandfathered to Stillwell Jr. High - the none bussing issue is a huge hardship for both working parents. Is it legal to not provide busing for student over 10 miles from school. I believe this is an issue that needs to be researched more carefully.
136. Grandfather any child to their existing school
137. Grandfather those FAMILIES who currently go to Crossroads - my soon to be 3rd grader will have a kindergartner sister - they should both be able to walk to Crossroads from Brookview Drive and 50th. We can see the school, for Christ's sake.
138. 1) Please consider grandfathering "legacy" siblings, regardless of grades, whose older brothers and sisters may have moved on to junior high. Community roots are deep after the number of years a family has been at one school. 2) Please consider grandfathering all current students. We are understanding of the decision not to provide transportation to grandfathered students and would not expect it to be provided.
139. make school choices convenient for families and grandfathering will not be necessary.
140. Why would you not think of the "whole" family being affected?
141. you should grandfather all kids
142. I do not want any boundary changes made to Crossroads Park. But if it does happen, and the older kids are grandfathered, the younger siblings need to be grandfathered also.
143. Grandfather all students that choose and younger siblings
144. I think we should consider grandfathering special education students who might have a more difficult time with the adjustment to a new school.
145. It is critical to grandfather current 4th and 5th graders AND THEIR SIBLINGS. It would be very detrimental to students and their families to break up the family unit. It is very important to elementary students to be in the same school as their siblings. This helps to incorporate a positive and productive learning environment. It is crucial to keep children at this age with their siblings.
146. Grandfather all currently enrolled students and younger siblings. If transportation is not provided, a fair number of people will elect to change schools anyway. I realize this will not result in the immediate hoped for changes in enrollment but the problem did not occur in one year and I feel it is unfair to cause major upheaval to people's lives by trying to fix it in one year.
147. My daughter, who is currently in 4th grade, was so upset when a flyer from the school news letter informing us there was going to be a change in boundaries. She stated her teacher explained a little about what that meant. She was terrified that she wasn't going to be able to go to her school, with her friends. So, I think it's wonderful for you to at least consider the 4th & 5th grade to be grandfathered, no matter what. I hope you realize that kids do have strong, real, & valid feelings about their school. We, as parents & you, as teachers, school board members, and the community; teach them to care about & be concerned with our community. Don't let our community teach them that their school & community is willing to get rid their friends & school family just because of where they live.
148. Don't grandfather any but rather let the parents open enroll if there is room.
149. It is very important to grandfather students that will be attending 5th and 6th grade. They have attended their elementary schools for several years and have established friendships. They will soon be attending Junior High, which can be enough of a transition.
150. My 3year old is not in school yet, but I would not want my two children going to two different schools. However, from what I understand this whole re-boundary issue seems to be an immediate problem that needs taking care of now. In a perfect world only new Kindergarten and incoming 1st graders would be moved to different schools, spreading the re-boundary process out over a 5 year period. But since the WSDM school district lacks the leadership that was able to foresee the growth of WSDM

and this current problem, many young children will be forced to depart from their current school and schoolmates. Let's start looking ahead so this does not happen again 5 years from now.

151. Families should not be forced to have their children attending different elementary schools. This would be a difficult concept for younger siblings. Many parents rely on an older student to make sure younger siblings arrive at school and return home safely. This makes attending different schools difficult for families and raises significant safety concerns.
152. Grandfather ALL students
153. Including younger siblings is very important to parents who are in that situation. Transporting to two schools would be an unreasonable burden.
154. If you are considering grandfathering any students, this should be applied evenly across all grade levels to ease the transitions for families. I can certainly understand that you would not be able to provide transportation to students who are grandfathered.
155. I don't think you should grandfather because it completely splits up neighborhoods and all the kids that know each other don't go to school together. Either move a neighborhood or don't.
156. Grandfather ALL student already enrolled within existing boundaries
157. This doesn't really help- since the district refuses to provide transportation.
158. I believe all children K-6 should be allowed to complete their education at the school that they are currently enrolled in. Children who are not of elementary school age should begin their years at the school with the designated new boundaries when the time comes.
159. You need to keep all neighborhood kids together at the same school. You can't base it on who has kids that are old enough as of today's date as younger kids will be coming up and won't go to the same school as their neighbors. Otherwise, you'll have one kid at one school and their neighborhood friend at another school separated only by a year or two in age, or by the fact that one has an older sibling that is of school age already.
160. It is much easier to have all your children go to one school but if the school does not have an all day kindergarden, you are forced to go to two different schools. I would recommend that the children currently enrolled should be grandfathered for the duration of their stay and that other children of that household be allowed to attend the same school. This would be considered an inconvenience if this is not allowed.
161. Grandfather all students.
162. I believe that they should grandfather all children currently enrolled and kindergartners who are already signed up. If they grandfather the 4th & 5th graders with siblings it will completely split up our neighborhood. There are only 49 in the Jordan Grove neighborhood that go to Jordan Creek and very few of those will end up going to Fairmeadows if they do anything other than grandfather all students.
163. Grandfather all families with children at existing schools, ahead of voluntary transfer.
164. I disagree with both, that or they are not worded properly. You need to make sure all siblings remain in the same school. Trying to get to two different schools to pick up and drop off, and attend other activities would be a tremendous headache for parents. You need to start with the younger siblings, if it is determined that the new boundaries would mean moving the younger sibling to a new school, then, all older siblings should move also. These kids are going to be spending their remaining elementary years at this school (hopefully) they should get moved over with their neighborhood friends and get acquainted, instead of having to potentially be the only outsider a year or two later. I also do not understand the need to keep the older grades at the same school they are currently in, instead of moving with the new boundaries, sentimental reasons? I can not fathom a logical reason. I personally was bussed to a different school for my last year of elementary, and do not see any problem with it. I'm not sure what you are trying to achieve by offering a grandfather clause. If you could ultimately leave it up to each individual family, would be the most ideal.
165. Grandfathering does not apply to our family.
166. Please do not break up families as this will bring an unnecessary burden to them.

167. Grandfather all students that are currently attending a school you are switching boundaries on. Why not make this applicable to new students coming into the school rather than discriminating with just 4th and 5th graders? Grandfather all current students. Only fair thing to do.
168. The fact sheet noted that "current sixth and seventh graders will be assigned to Indian Hills or Stilwell based on existing boundary lines. New junior high boundaries would be implemented in 2008-09 for incoming seventh graders." I did not read "assigned" to mean "grandfathered" with respect to current sixth and seventh graders. Wouldn't transportation be available to students based on their assigned school (at least in 2007-08), particularly when the new junior high boundaries would not yet have been implemented?
169. I think that the grandfathered thing is unnecessary and shouldn't be an option, but since it is, I think that the parents should have to drop the kids off if they want their kids to go to a specific space. Why did we do all the changes to the starting times if you are going to have to resurrect certain busses to go get those grandfathered kids. Makes no sense. It isn't like it will take the parents an hour to drop their kids off to a school that is only a couple of minutes from their house.
170. Grandfather ALL STUDENTS and ALL SIBILINGS. Make NO Boundary CHANGES. PERIOD.
171. I believe any child that is currently attending a school at this time should be grandfathered in!! I have a 6th, 3rd, & kindg. ... I believe my children should be able to all stay together at the same school. I am very passionate about staying at Clive because we have gone thru the transition time of going to Klegg Park and it wasn't a pleasant experience. 1st grade had to share a room and it wasn't a good! With lots of help from the parents, we made it! We have dedicated a lot of time into the school, and believe our family deserves to be grandfathered in to keep us together!
172. You should grandfather all students and siblings. It is hard for some people to have their children go to 3 differnt schools. Even if the schools are from the same district the individual schools I believe if you change the people living in Urbandale they will try to leave the West Des Moines district for Urbandale.
173. I feel it would be unfair to uproot students in 4th or 5th grade at this juncture. I also, think that it would be unfair to seperate siblings. I think that you need to leave any student 4th grade or higher and their siblings where they are.
174. As I stated in my previous comments, I feel it is VERY important that all children should be grandfathered in at their current schools. I also feel that siblings of current students should be able to attend the same elementary school. "Families" need to be at the same elementary school. How are people who pick up and drop off their children at school supposed to be two places at the same time? Current students and their siblings should not be forced out of their home schools because of a problem that should have been addressed several years ago was not and if they had started the grandfathering process with students years ago my family and I'm sure "several" others would not be in this situation right now!
175. Although grandfathering may be very important to some families I feel that if we do this we won't see the results of the changes for at least 6-7 years! That's too long for all of the time people of put into this.
176. All current students K-6 should be allowed to continue with their current school.
177. Grandfather those students involved in special education in all grades and include younger siblings enrolled in school.
178. What a MESS you would have with bussing! Any gains you made with the change in start time this year would probably suffer. (Just a guess...)
179. I feel like I really have no leg to stand on our even a voice, as my children are in 2nd grade and kindergarten.
180. I would rather see anyone currently enrolled be allowed to stay and let the change happen over the next six years.
181. Grandfather rules should apply to a student of any age, and be open to any child presently within the boundaries of a designated school. Voluntary transfer students; however, should only be grandfathered on a case-by-case basis if space is available given the number of students within the new boundary lines.
182. I can't beleive it is being considered to split up a family. This is not an option that should be considered.
183. I want my child to start new and be with peers from the neighborhood. Starting new friendships will help in middle school. Young students can make new friends easier than older students

184. Students who are currently in 3rd grade should also have the option to stay in their current elementary school.
185. Families already in a school should be grandfathered in to that school.
186. I think that all current students should be offered the grandfathering option.
187. Not offering transportation to students who are grandfathered is unfair to the students and families. The district is making the decision to change boundaries, not the parents and students and so the district should provide transportation since the boundary change impetus originated with the district, not the parents.
188. I feel that you need to keep families together at one school. Dividing children up between two elementary schools that have the same start time would make dropping-off and picking-up very difficult.
189. See my earlier comments regarding grandfathering. I would strongly prefer to also see the younger ages grandfathered into their elementary schools as well. As to the above, IF younger children (e.g. grades K-3) are not allowed to be grandfathered, then I would change my answer to strongly support including younger siblings to ensure a family is not split between schools.
190. This is a tricky one. I do think the kids in the upper grades should be allowed to finish elementary school with the kids they have been with for 5 or 6 years, but do you want to be in the business of splitting families? If I had a 6th grader and a 1st grader, I would want them together so that the older could look out for the younger on the bus. Buses are rough places for little kids. Also, trying to navigate fundraising and activities for 2 schools is a large burden to place on a family. If you grandfather younger siblings, where does it end? How long will they be able to stay at that school? Do they have to shift to their new "home" school, when the older sibling moves on to junior high or do they get to complete all 7 years at the same elementary school?
191. Grandfathering is complex I think and better to do it on a case by case basis instead of some policy. I think it will decrease the effectiveness of you reaching your goal of utilizing all the buildings to their capacity. Change is hard but people need to accept that there is a problem with enrollment balance. I commend you for doing something about it!
192. Why couldn't we grandfather in all students currently attending Jordan Creek that are within the district?
193. I believe the only fair approach to Grandfathering elementary is all children that have been at the same school for at least 3 years and their younger siblings. This follows current guidelines of considering children that have attended the same elementary for 3 years within the district, residents of that school.
194. I don't think you should grandfather at all. If grandfathering is allowed, especially with younger siblings, the desired benefit of this study will not be met for who knows how long. If you do allow grandfathering, many parents may have children at multiple schools, which doesn't make sense. Just set the boundaries, make the change and move forward. Children are so resilient, they will look at it as an adventure and maybe teach their parents a lesson or two in the process :)
195. I think ALL students should be allowed to stay at their current school with their family and friends. I think new incoming families should fall under the new boundary lines.
196. I believe that students that are already established in a school, should be allowed to stay there.
197. I want my kids to be grandfathered in - they are CRP kids, all their friends and neighbors are also. We are in 3rd and Kindergarten. Anyone not currently enrolled should go wherever they have the space for them. Maybe you need to consider adding a new school as well.
198. I think any child currently enrolled in the West Des Moines school district should have the opportunity to finish elementary and 7th and 8th grades in the same school. It is difficult for children to adjust to going to different schools.
199. I think you need to go younger for grandfathering...into at least 3rd grade and possibly 2nd. These students have developed relationships and it is hard on them having to leave their friends for no fault of theirs.
200. Family should stick together.
201. If changes need to be made then changes need to be made. If you can grandfather all of these children in, then leave the boundaries alone.

202. Families should not be attending separate elementary schools.
203. My children who are currently in 6th and 7th will presumably be allowed to continue attending the same jr high (Stilwell); however, two of the three plans has my youngest not only being switched to a new elementary school (less of an issue) but to a different jr high from her siblings. We live out in the Maffit Lake area and the bus ride to Stilwell is already a long one (but atleast a straight shot with not traffic). I can't even imagine what time the kids would have to get on the bus to Indian Hills.
204. Grandfathering for all families currently in their 'home' school is essential. A phased approach makes sense to allow for future planning. There is no clear focus on what is best for children and their ongoing education by providing a known environment. I'm also concerned there is no transition plan or recommendation to help if kids are forced to leave their current schools. I would expect to see counselors and open houses at the schools to ease student concerns.
205. If you grandfather everyone in then the entire reason for the boundary changes is not going to be effective. A change needs to be made at some point.
206. Why not grandfather families who have attended this same school for so many years rather than the grades that the children are in right now. We have invested over 11 years in Crossroads Park, Indian Hills and Valley. Our remaining 2 children now do not fall into your favored requirements. There needs to be consideration for the families who have been stable supporters of their schools. Rather than currently enrolled grades, why not make it years attended at current school. Grandfathering is for people having attended a school for some time. Someone who has just transferred to their school and their children happen to be in 4th or 5th grade, get to stay over someone who's been there 11 years? That's not right and doesn't make the best sense. This is not the best way to go about grandfathering in students. It should be years attended, not current grade. Please consider making the right change for our families.
207. If you start Grandfathering kids then you aren't eliminating the overcrowding. If you are going to Grandfather children in then you need to include their siblings. No parent wants their child going to 2 different schools.
208. Please consider grandfathering all students currently enrolled. Special consideration must be made to those students going to Western hills. If the school is not ready for them they should be grandfathered into Jordan Creek. NOT MOVED THREE TIMES.
209. I'll say it again... The start time for Indian Hills is absurd. It is unreasonable to ask 13 and 14 year olds to be at their bus stop at 6:45 AM.
210. I think those students grandfathered should be grandfathered to their junior high as well. Yes, junior high is only two years but that is a pretty difficult two years with many changes. I don't think the kids should have to go thru the stress of a school change without their peers.
211. All students are still going to West Des Moines schools. They are not leaving the district. It is nice to allow the upper grade students to grandfather in since they might have an older sibling currently at a specific junior high. However, if parents and students want this beyond a year or two for other students then they should request a voluntary transfer and also provide their own transportation.
212. I think that any student already in school should be allowed to stay with the class that they started school with.
213. No Grandfather clause
214. Any child with special needs should be grandfathered regardless of grade.
215. The way this is presented, it seems the key consideration is to fit the children to the bus schedules, not the children to the school and the community. Running a school system by what is best for busing is a ridiculous idea.
216. Separating siblings due to boundary issues is not fair to the younger siblings and could be very traumatic.
217. Grandfathering, if allowed at an elementary school, should be continued into the corresponding Junior high. Do not force the kids to separate from their class mates at the end of sixth grade.
218. I would like to see the process phased in over the next few years. It would be appealing if we could have current families with siblings stay within their community of school and phase in the new boundaries as new families move, and or new developments are built.

219. I would grandfather only those students currently in 5th grade and include younger siblings. I believe it would be hard for a parent to get their children to two different schools when the start times are the same. From my own experience, a new school was built and I had to switch schools in the middle of 4th grade. While not easy, it was doable.
220. Grandfather all current students
221. This would be a HUGE inconvenience to parents and children if they did not go to the same school. Think of all the separate functions parents would have to choose between.
222. No transportation is highly recommended!! Truly to make a true impact on the proposed new boundaries all students should switch at this time.
223. Sooner or later families will have to go with the change. The district should take charge of what works best to even out numbers.
224. Only do the Jr. High grandfathering. Grandfathering DOES NOT does not help solve the capacity issues at the schools- the reason behind changing the boundaries. If you grandfather indefinitely.. why change the boundaries.
225. Grandfather only students currently enrolled. Those new to the school, and or kindergarteners would go to school within boundaries.
226. Let students stay in the school they are in now.
227. I think you should go farther than 4-5 and younger. People move to neighborhoods based on where they want their kids to go to school. The district may have to be patient for a few years while the grandfathering is in effect, but you would have much happier families. Why is impact on families listed LAST on the criteria list? You have so many loyal families to their neighborhood schools - you need to show loyalty to them as well.
228. I know for us, grandfathering students in grades 4 and 5 would affect us. We would certainly very strongly agree to grandfathering them. However, it doesn't make sense not to include younger siblings, if there are any.
229. If we grandfather...we should treat all K-6 students the same. Do I have to leave because I am the only member of my family attending the school?
230. I have a child in 4th grade and another child who will be entering Kindergarten this fall. If you include grandfathering, you must also include other children who will be attending that school. I will NOT have my children attending different elementary schools nor am I in favor of making my older child be bussed way across town and have to start over at a new school. This whole thing is absolutely ridiculous. While I understand the need for updating existing boundaries, it is NOT in the best interest of individual children or families of children to have to be separated or made to change schools mid-way through their elementary years. If the boundaries must be changed, then you need to allow for grandfathering of ALL children currently attending a particular school to be able to continue to attend that particular school AND allow for any younger children in that particular family to start and complete their elementary years at the school that family started at. So, all siblings will stay together at the same school start to finish. Any other way to do things would be cruel and unfair to the children and families involved. The new boundaries need to take affect for all new families whose kids have not yet started elementary school and for all families that move to the area. ALL children who are already attending a particular school prior to the boundary changes and ALL of their siblings who will start elementary school at some point in the future should be allowed to stay at the school they started at.
231. Allowing all grade levels the option of grandfathering.
232. Only until the older sibling leaves the school.
233. Grandfather all students that currently attend the school and their siblings and siblings of previous Jordan Creek graduates.
234. Transportation should be provided. We have based our decisions on house location and not moving to avoid moving our children currently enrolled in elementary school to another elementary school.
235. I think we should allow more grandfathering. The numbers will shake out eventually and we will have boundaries that make sense for the long term.

236. All students should be grandfathered. Stability in education is very important and one of the reasons we chose the West Des Moines School District. We cannot imagine an option that does not grandfather all current students. Shame of the educators for even considering an option that would not do this.
237. Why would a family with multiple kids want to drive each kid to different schools, when they were just fine with public transportation and school. Are you trying to disrupt family spirit, convenience, jobs, friends? What about school spirit? Do not change boundaries.
238. The District should NEVER NEVER NEVER split up a family through re-districting. It is about as heartless and non-personal as a political body can get. Allow parents the option - but we should never force a family into a situation where siblings can not treasure the short years they have of attending school together.
239. I believe that if a family has had children in a specific Jr. High that the family should be grandfathered into that specific Jr. High without going through the transfer process with understanding that the family provides transportation.
240. Why is the transportation being removed? Transportation should be provided as per current transportation guidelines/rules.
241. Grandfather all students currently enrolled.
242. You should grandfather by the family. If a family would like to be in the new area for half of their family then that should be their choice.
243. I strongly agree that the district should grandfather in the 4th & 5th graders. Some of these boundary shifts will affect where they go to middle school. They should not have to transition to middle school with a group of kids they don't know well. Middle school is a big change for some of these kids, especially shy ones. It is really important for them to have a good base of friends. A lot of families count on older siblings to walk home with their younger siblings. The kids enjoy seeing their siblings at recess. If kids were at 2 different elementary schools, parents would have to juggle 2 different schools for conference schedules, concerts and other school events that teachers host during the day. If they went to school for a holiday party, they couldn't walk down the hall and see their other child.
244. I also strongly agree that others should have the grandfather option if they so choose to stay at their current school.
245. Keep the students there that want to stay if they are outside the boundaries as long as those families provide transportation. This would be for as many years as it takes the youngest child to leave 6th grade.
246. You MUST include all children currently enrolled at our school. How is it fair to a family to be splitting their elementary? We are huge volunteers. How can we do this for 2 schools? This is a huge mistake. All students AND siblings need to be grandfathered. Please do not punish these children. They do not deserve to be split up because of your decisions.
247. I feel that it would be difficult for many current fifth graders to change schools for their last year of elementary school.
248. There should not be any grandfathering! Even if kids in 5th and 6th have to change schools, they will still be attending with the kids in their neighborhood. If you allow grandfathering, especially if you include younger siblings, then there will continue to be kids unable to attend the school in their neighborhood based on overcrowding. If the point of boundary changes is to fix that problem, then make boundary changes - stick to it- and actually solve the problem.
249. I do not believe anyone should be grandfathered. It will be MUCH easier to plan for the appropriate amount of students and teachers at each school if there is NO grandfathering. People will adjust even if there is a lot of complaints. I have a 5th grader at JCreek. It would be fine to go to Fairmeadows for his 6th grade year.

Boundary Survey – Revised Voluntary Transfer Comments

1. I believe you should still allow bussing in this situation. You are trying to force a change on us without proper advanced warning. You are trying to push this vote through by March. That is unfair. Having to drive my child to school would be a hardship for me.
2. What is the rush, more information needs to be disseminated before anyone can make an informed decision. Let's not put suchers in a solution that can be solved with a bandaid.
3. handicap children need special consideration
4. From the forums I have attended, it sounds as though the voluntary transfers w/in the district have been causing stress on individual schools. I believe that families with special needs students should be allowed to do voluntary transfers. I feel that voluntary transfers should be suspended for at least one year in WDM, with the exception of special needs children.
5. We need gray areas to work in if we are going to "lift every child".
6. The data already reflects you having sent all VT back to their original zone. So, you have to keep them there - Duh
7. People purchase their homes knowing where their children will be going. That is their choice in the beginning to move there. I don't think they should be granted "residency" when people that live closer to the school can't because they are not going to their assigned school.
8. What about the open enrolled students who have also been in the school district for 3+ years and have moved out of the district but have elected to stay in the district? Do you have a plan for these kids?
9. Some of these transfers are due to some of the current boundary issues, where they are attending a school closer to their neighborhood but are not located within their elementary boundary. Again, any student currently attending a school should have rights to continue their education at that school, if they choose, before allowing re-zoned students in.
10. I am not against voluntary transfers but would be unhappy if they were allowed to stay and my 3rd grader would have to go to another school.
11. Transfer OUT=yes Transfer in- NO!!!
12. Voluntary transfers should be at the discretion of the principal.
13. Case-by-case/special needs based decision cannot be guaranteed to be fair and equitable. Either apply the rule to all or none.
14. I think they should all be returned to their new schools, and then if some people are really upset by it, allow case by case consideration. The redistricting may put them in the school they wanted to be in.
15. VT's are fine if there is adequate space in the classrooms. I don't feel that VT's should be allowed if another student is being capped out of that classroom.
16. This all depends on the grandfathering decision.
17. where is omatani????
18. Again, bonds have been made and clubs have been joined within these current boundaries.
19. The Special Needs students should be approved for the voluntary transfer along with their siblings. It do not agree with approving voluntary transfers for those that have been in the building for three years or more. That seems like part of the grandfathering issue.

20. If there are no changes (or minimal changes) to the boundaries, I would like to see there be no (or minimal) changes to the current VT program. It seems logical to allow VT if there is room in the school. Don't say No to VT unless there is a valid reason.
21. I STILL think that we shouldn't change them!!!
22. See comments above. Voluntary transfers should not be on a case-by-case needs, but should be allowed if space is available in the classroom.
23. Certainly, many people have been promised the opportunity to continue their children's education at specific schools after they have moved away. Several families I know have it in writing from a school that they will be allowed to finish their families' elementary education at that specific location. You can not break these obligations. This is yet another reason our district will need a comprehensive grandfathering policy including all siblings for those who wish to utilize it. Otherwise, the potential exists for lawsuits at worst and exceptions to a brand new policy at best (neither of which will be viewed favorably by the area's public).
24. Voluntary transfer students should receive no special treatment for being in the school for 3 years or more. My child has been at the school for 3 years and lives in the boundary area and is receiving no special consideration so neither should the voluntary transfer students.
25. Students that attended a school k and 1st deserve to stay at that school. Really children deserve to stay where they are currently enrolled and do not allow any transfers from here on out. I would be very upset if my daughter had to switch schools next year. We are very happy where she is and so is she. Switching schools could be very harmful for students.
26. I would think there are some good reasons for a child to be able to "Voluntary Transfer".
27. I favor returning ALL voluntary transfers back to their assigned school. Exceptions could be made only in very special circumstances and then for a short-term defined period of time.
28. I think both options are appropriate. I echo my earlier comments that teachers who live in the district should be a special case, and allowed to have their kids attend the school that the parents teaches in, even if not the boundary school.
29. My child is currently open enrolled into a school which is not the jurisdiction that we live in. We have chosen to open enroll him due to the reputation of the teachers, and the smaller close size. It would be unfortunate if we try to peg hole all children into a school that is larger and may not need the social and emotional needs of all children!
30. ALLOW KIDS DISPLACED TO GO TO OLD SCHOOL THEN ALLOW VOLUNTARY TRANSFERS
31. The purpose of the redistricting should be to get students in their neighborhood school. There should be no reason for voluntary transfers other than for medical reasons - a students needs to attend a school where there is a full time nurse - or special developmental needs.
32. children that are is special education &/or counseling their exsisting school should be given the choice to stay. Individual needs/situations should be looked at.
33. I think if you have to move kids out of crowed schools these should be the the first to go. Not, however the special needs kids. If a particular schools can better accomidate a child with a special need then that should be off limits.
34. Allow no voluntary transfers because so many will opt for that option that the boundary changes won't have the desired result.
35. Voluntary transfers who have been in the building for more than 3 years should not have more rights than those that live in the immediate neighborhood of the school and have been in the school for more than 3 years. Voluntary transfers should continue on the same basis they have in the past.
36. If voluntary transfers are allowed to stay after three years, so should those within the current boundaries who have been there for three years.

37. I do not understand the voluntary transfer issue. If a voluntary transfer who has been in the school for 3 years would mean that anyone currently in 2nd and up should be considered to stay at Crossroads regardless of boundaries.
38. All students should return to their assigned school. Can can return to their desired school if there are no cap out.
39. I have a special needs student who has received services at Jordan Creek Elementary for the past several years for a Level 2 program. We have had great success there for my child. The only other level 2 program from what I understand is at Clive and I am not sure it completely provides what my child needs since my child is on the autism spectrum. If Clive does provide services I do not wish to transfer there due to the location being twice as far away. Jordan Creek Elementary is much closer to my home and my child is already on the bus for a long time and Clive is so much farther away it would be an even longer time. There has already been busing issues in lateness and a school further away would be a problem. My child does therapies before and after school and this would be a hardship my family does not need due to time and location being so far. I feel that siblings should be an automatic voluntary transfer if the family desires...life can be hard with a special needs child and if the school would let a family decide which school best serves their needs location wise as well as having it available for the siblings that would help make life easier for the family. I would also like to see the voluntary transfer for the families children be extended to transfer for the Jr High as well since their friends would be at that school. Jr High is a hard age especially for those on the autism spectrum and I would like to see the school district work as much as they can for children with special needs including the siblings and families.
40. Please specify in writing if Kindergarten counts as one of the three years.
41. Voluntary transfers should only occur if boundaries stay unchanged. In the event boundary changes were to occur, no voluntary transfers or open enrollments should be allowed. It is not equitable to allow voluntary transfers if changing attendance boundaries.
42. Allow siblings of students that previously graduated from a school to voluntary transfer to the school.
43. Allow students whose siblings attended the school previously to voluntary transfer to the same school.
44. I don't think most people, unless they happen to use the voluntary transfer system, have a clue how or why this is utilized. I doubt the information you collect on this subject through this survey is particularly useful or well thought out.
45. No voluntary transfers or open enrolees until all kids that are displaced have an option to stay at their previous school.
46. let kids go to their present school that are within current boundaries, then let others in if there is room
47. Special Needs siblings should be allowed to stay at school together. Period.
48. allow all grandfather students in first, then allow in on case per case basis
49. Why limit voluntary transfers if the space is available? Even with new boundaries, extra spaces will still be available at some schools. It makes sense to use them, especially if students are transferring from a more crowded school to a less crowded school.
50. Phase out voluntary transfers. Make this a policy that comes into affect in greater amounts over the next five years.
51. If grandfathering not allowed for all currently enrolled students, return voluntary transfer students to their home school and allow impacted students to apply for voluntary transfer to their current school.
52. If the voluntary transfer does not have a special need or does not requires special services that only the school they are transferring into provides, they need to be sent back to their home school. They are raising the capacity of the school they are transferring into.
53. Why the 3 year exemption? Other families may be moved immediately from their home schools if the grandfathering clause is not adopted, regardless of the number of years we've invested in the school!
54. I think VT should be allowed only in very special cases. This type of practice is one of the things that makes drawing boundaries so difficult.

55. If a voluntary transfer has been at a particular school with a particular class they should be given grandfather consideration
56. Make a clean cut, why drag it out. We will be opening up a Pandora's box if we allow a case-by-case basis. I realize this will affect some teachers, but their employment shouldn't take precedence over the residents the district is serving.
57. Students should return to their respective school district regardless of how long they have been in the building. If there is a waiting list for kids within the district they should be given first priority. People move to certain school districts based on the individual school merits.
58. You cannot favor voluntarily transferred students just because they have been at a school three years, and push out kids who have been going to their assigned school for three years. That would be ludicrous.
59. Kids who have been in the school for three years or more (2nd and 3rd grade) and who will not be grandfathered, have been there long enough to develop close friendships with friends and staff. I believe it is a difficult time/age to remove them from familiar friends/surroundings. That is one reason I would only move if absolutely necessary; I would never want my children to unnecessarily go through that experience.
60. Why is there an exception on the second option? I think the community would benefit from returning to the concept of neighborhood schools. As it is right now, we have students in our neighborhood attending all sorts of different schools other than our "neighborhood" schools. This has definitely been an impediment on the closeness and bonding (or lack of) in the neighborhood.
61. Any student should be allowed to attend the school of choice as long as there is room.
62. I understand there may be special circumstances that a child needs to go to a certain school due family/work reasons, but they should be decided on their own and yearly. If a family moves into the area, I don't think it is fair for a VT to take their spot just because they have been there for years.
63. If there is room in a school and the parents are willing to provide transportation than all requests for voluntary transfers should be allowed.
64. Only if there is room in the school of choice then I would think we'd want to consider on a case-by-case basis.
65. This is where the special needs kids and their siblings need to be considered strongly. They need to remain in their current schools that they know and their siblings need to be in school WITH them. You cannot just separate families!!!
66. Please see my earlier comments re: all students and siblings should be allowed to grandfather into their old school.
67. All WDM schools are excellent. There is no reason to voluntarily transfer to a different school. We need to have ALL full day kindergarten in all schools to avoid a lot of these transfers within WDM and also out to Waukee and Urbandale.
68. IF there are voluntary transfers available why should it be for students that have been there for 3 or more years? (As indicated in the 2nd option). Don't you think students you have been there for less than 1-2 years and are asked to MOVE AGAIN is more traumatic than a student that hasn't moved at all? Again I feel let all students finish off their tenor at the school they reside in currently!
69. Don't allow any voluntary transfers. If you are going to make the changes, don't waffle. What is so special about "three years"...does something magical happen once someone has been in a building 3 years? If you allow it on a case by case basis...won't there be accusations of "preferential" treatment. How can that be managed without looking like someone got something that others did not? This is what goes on with who gets in the parochial schools and it is all about who gives the money and time to the school that gets their kids in....why would that be any different here?
70. Unless there is a specific reason for a child to be at another school, they should be at their home school. I think the practice of "school shopping" is getting ridiculous. If parents want their kid at a certain school, let them move to that district.
71. again consideration for families with multiple children involved is important to me.

72. Students who live in the district and have parents who bought real estate for the reason of a specific school should take priority of students who have been in voluntary transfer.
73. I really don't know how to answer this. There is some reason that they are a voluntary transfer and they have as much right as any one to be there.
74. I oppose this entire action. I will not allow you to do this to my children. We did not move here for them to be thrown around West Des Moines. I assure you I am not the only one who feels this way, we are forming our own community group and if necessary will bring about information regarding everything to do with boundary changes so as to be used in a legal setting. How convenient this happens after school board elections.
75. Accept kids grandfathered first then if any space left allow voluntary transfers
76. Students living in the school district should automatically be able to go to that school - no transfers should be needed.
77. Allow students to apply for voluntary transfer to their current home school, no transportation, for their remaining elementary years. (Not make it year to year)
78. 98% of the families will ask for a voluntary transfer. No one wants these changes to be made.
79. This is what I was talking about. What gives the kids that have been at the school on a voluntary transfer more rights than those that have been within the boundary for 3 or more year. Absolutely nothing. If you are asking those with in the boundary to move than there should be no one that has a right to remian at the school unless the new boundaries allow them in. First new boundaries. Second grandfather 4 and 5th graders Last voluntary transfers.
80. I would like to know the process involved in determining a "case by case/special needs basis". Will there be guidelines, or will there be a "lottery" as there is for all day kindergarten? Is there reasoning behind returning voluntary transfer students to their assigned neighborhood schools unless they have been in attendance for three or more years? Critical relationships are established in far less time for some students than for others. If there must be a choice for this survey question, I suppose voluntary transfers on a case by case/special needs basis should be allowed.
81. Continue with the policy that voluntary transfers are approved by the principal of the school and are dependent on available space in the classroom.
82. All students should be returned to their boundry schools and have to reapply for voluntary transfer, regardless of number of years at that school. With option 2, voluntary transfer kids have an advantage over kids in the boundry who have also been there three or more years.
83. You should only be allowed to voluntarily transfer if there is room after all kids who live in that district get the first chance to go to their school. If there are openings at the end of each year, you can voluntarily transfer. If not, your kid goes to the school by your home. That is only fair. Otherwise, you ship kids away from their appointed school to another due to the convenience of someone who does not live in the district.
84. I agree. I do believe that children who have open enrolled from outside the WDM district should be unallowed to attend, unless there is space after all of the voluntary transfers are evaluated first.
85. There are always exceptions, so we must consider transfers on a case-by-case basis. One example is in the case of a teacher working at a specific school, who should be allowed to have their students attend there.
86. A liberal "grandfathering" provision would likely reduce voluntary transfer requests significantly.
87. We moved to Western Hills boundary when my daughter was in 4th grade and my son was in 6th grade. I have transported them to Crossroads and Indian Hills those years. I would prefer my daughter stay at IH 1 more year until they go to Southwoods. I don't ask for transportation even though the busses all run right by my house.
88. MAKE NO BOUNDARY CHANGES.

89. First, those who are currently in the district boundaries should have first chose of being assigned to the school. I have a problem with boundaries changing, and then a vol. transfer is able to stay at a school that another pupil has attended for 3 yrs, yet needs to transfer due to boundery changes. This is where the grandfathering of all those attending now comes into play!
90. Voluntary transfers should be on a special needs basis only - for special programming etc.
91. Voluntary transfers occur for many reasons, and if the space is available, students should be allowed to attend any school within the district.
92. The people that want transfers should have them granted.
93. If you are going to force students to relocate and not grandfather them based on boundary, how can you allow voluntary transfer of students that are already in the school stay? They should have to move too.
94. I would like some special consideration given to WDM teachers that are residents of WDM and their families on the VT rule. It would be nice for elementary teacher's children to attend the same school they teach at, even if it's not their home school. We would be able to make conferences, attend special events, and be more readily available in case of emergencies.
95. My 3rd grader has been at Crossroads for 4 years and yet under one of the plans she will have to move to Crestview. Would she get to stay at CRP?????It would not be fair to make her move yet let someone from a different area stay. Every current student should be allowed to be grandfatherd.
96. I did not respond because I did not entirely understand the question
97. Voluntary transfer students should not be given greater consideration than students whose boundaries are changing. For example, if a "Student A" is currently within the Crestview boundary, but has been allowed to voluntary transfer to Jordan Creek, then that particular student should not be allowed to take the spot of a "Student B," whose current boundary is Jordan Creek. If Student B has been at Jordan Creek for three years, then Student B should be allowed to stay before Student A would be considered as a voluntary transfer.
98. If currently in 3rd grade or older, should be able to stay in their current school.
99. In general, I think voluntary transfer students should be returned to their assigned neighborhood school. It only seems fair that if there is going to be a big boundary shake-up, that those students should be forced to adjust as well. However, I would hope the school would also consider individual cases (such as those living quite close to a school yet not being allowed to attend their "neighborhood" school due to some of the proposed boundary changes.)
100. All voluntary transfers should be reassigned to their neighborhood school. The exception should be a special need program that is not offered at their neighborhood school.
101. I think the biggest issue with voluntary transfers is that you have families with multiple children, some who may not yet be enrolled and the difficulty of trying to shepherd kids between 2 elementary schools seems unwarranted.
102. The boundaries are set for a reason. Keep children where they are supposed to go.
103. I don't think I agree with either one of these options. What if the student has only been there 2 years but is within walking distance of their school? Is it right to make them have to leave?
104. Families should not be split up. That is just plain wrong. All students who are currently enrolled at CRP need to be allowed to reenroll until they go to Junior High.
105. I would like to add that transitioning to a different school can greatly impact a child's education and emotions.
106. I think I agree with the second one if it means that a student who has attended a school for three years or more can keep the voluntary transfer to stay at that school. I think it is asking too much of a student to have to switch schools after spending three years there.

107. I believe three years is too long. Please consider students who have been voluntary transfers for two years to continue attending their school.
108. Choice is important.
109. The rules need to apply to all current students, not just those who have been there a certain amount of time....that seems unfair to show special treatment to some when many students are affected
110. My child was unable to attend the school within the school boundaries due to student transfers into the area. Students living in the area should be given preference over out-of-district/ -area children.
111. This is the same issue to me as grandfathering. My family has been in the school for 11 years. I don't feel that someone who is a voluntary transfer for 3+ years should take the place of my children, when we have invested many more years at the same school. These people should be returned to their assigned schools OR they can attend Western Hills where enrollment is extremely low right now.
112. The students who have been a voluntary transfer will be able to stay at their school and my child who is going to their neighborhood school is not allowed to stay? Does that sound fair?
113. I'll say it again... The start time for Indian Hills is absurd. It is unreasonable to ask 13 and 14 year olds to be at their bus stop at 6:45 AM.
114. There is no reason that current students cannot be "grandfathered." Those attending from outside the school district (Des Moines, Waukee, etc) can go back to their school districts. Set a student limit (like you have already done) and stick to it. That can and would resolve the number of students issue.
115. It is not fair that a family that isn't even in that neighborhood should get to stay in a school while others are forced to change schools. We moved two doors down from our old house because we felt it was important to stay in the Crossroads boundry. We have been at that school for eight years, so it should be our home school. We should not be forced to change schools, especially while someone who has not been in our boundry gets to stay. That is very wrong.
116. I think that parents should have the option to voluntay transfer any child based on the parents choice, work schedule and convience for the parents and based on the childs best interest.
117. These options are not explained well and it is difficult to answer the question. Not enough information has been presented to make a good answer.
118. I would like to no longer allow voluntary transfers for teachers' children. I believe this creates a conflict of interest. It is hard to separate the dual roles of these individuals as parent and teacher.
119. Our district needs to strive to have community/neighborhood schools where possible
120. Students should be going to their assigned schools unless there is some EXTREME situation. Such as retaining of a student due to academic inability (ie holding back a grade)or a staff member working at a building that has different hours than the rest. Voluntary transfers should be very RARE and should be at the review of a committee so that it is not an easy process to opt out of schools!
121. Very limited voluntary transfer
122. I believe that these students should be assigned back to their neighborhood school, regardless of time they have voluntarily transferred. I believe this the only fair assessment in order to take into consideration, the families that have lived within the school boundary of their assigned school for years.
123. PLease keep students in their current school.
124. This is confusing. Do VTs get preference over those who are sent somewhere else due to capping out?

125. I do believe that there should be a case-by-case basis available for parents and the principal. I also believe that any parent who wishes their child to stay in a particular school because they have already attended 3 years or more should be allowed.
126. If you allow voluntary transfers, you must also allow for voluntary transfers for that child's siblings who will be starting school at some point in the future. You CANNOT separate families and expect their children to attend separate elementary schools. That is ridiculous and completely insensitive. The only problem with voluntary transfers would be the possibility of favoritism with certain families who are granted voluntary transfers over other families who are denied voluntary transfers. The best way around that problem would be grandfathering in all families to include their children currently attending a particular elementary and ALL of their siblings, both those in school and those yet to start school.
127. Keep the rule the same as it is now, where families that have attended a school for three years or more are considered as the home school for siblings.
128. Except for students with special needs or in any extreme case basis.
129. We are not sure we understand this option, but our position is that all students currently going to an elementary school should be able to finish at that elementary school, no matter what grade they are currently in.
130. Do you hear how ridiculous these decisions are sounding. Do not change boundaries. Parents have the rights to open enroll and any kid that wants to stay should stay, and should never have to leave in the first place.
131. It is paramount that the district respect the wishes of parents as much as administratively possible, especially when it comes to the schooling of their children. As a former school administrator I understand the potential challenges with this -- but educators are problem solvers and good solutions can be found.
132. I believe all the voluntary transfer students should return to their neighborhood schools to free up room for the students in the West Des Moines area. I feel you should be able to go to the same school as the kids in your neighborhood. You should not have neighborhood kids living on the same block that are not going to the same school because you allow voluntary transfer students. The West Des Moines students should come first since they live in West Des Moines.
133. Voluntary transfers chose the school they are attending and rejected their home school for one reason or another. The idea of returning these students to an environment they selected not to be in is unsettling.
134. If they have been in a school they should have a choice if there is room in the school of their choice.
135. Again you seem to have room to allow such exceptions but prefer to cut out existing families that are currently in the Jordan Creek Elementary school boundaries and live in residential houses versus huge apartment complexes. The last time I checked we pay our property and school taxes and apartment residents do not yet we are being told to move our children so as a very large apartment complex, The Fountains, can take our children's places in the school we belonged to since Jordan Creek was built. Such a decision will send the value of our property value downward and I for one will certainly protest the next property tax evaluation based on your decision to move us to a nother school further away and much for difficult in terms of accessibility.
136. Instead of losing more families to the parochial schools, let families have their free choice!
137. Voluntary transfers need to happen for all students, not only in elementary, but for Jr. High, as well. STOP punishing our kids.....let them continue going to school where they started. That includes Jr. High as well. As a school board, we are very disappointed in your thoughts and actions. You have been VERY sneaky in how this whole process has been enrolled. I am sorry you represent our schools. We deserve better!
138. All voluntary transfer students who are not special needs should be returned to their boundary applied school no exceptions. Special Needs students should attend the best elementary school to meet their educational needs.
139. no child adolescent or younger should be on a school bus for an hour or more per trip in or out of school. just the knowledge of this idea has many elementary school children in tears each evening after sharing thoughts with friends at school each day this week.

Boundary Survey – Revised

Other Comments

1. The boundary change decision needs to be tabled for the time being so that the committee, district and public can do the job well.
2. I disagree with how this is being handled and the lack of preparation on the part of the city and school board in seeing how new construction growth would effect schools.
3. Let the Jordan Creek taxpayers pay for their own school(s)and leave the rest alone.
4. Western Hills school is to be remodeled. It is not fair to move children to that school before it is remodeled. Remodel first, then move the students. I would rather move my family than to deal with this hassle. The area around Western Hills doesn't have parking to handle all the parents dropping off and picking up. How many crossing guards will be available for kids to cross EP True, 50th Street, and the railroad tracks? A "sense of neighborhood" issues I feel haven't been discussed in the committee. My neighborhood is surrounded by 3 major roads, 50th street to the east, EP True to the north, I-35 to my west. The new boundary line would include two streets, Westwood and Tamara. This is not a large enough area to take away from the current school of Jordan Creek. Sure we have apartment buildings, but we have never thought of those as our neighborhood. We have invested in our property as a family, rental property people come and go. Our area of neighborhood includes 6 kids, that you would socially isolate. This would create a social island. How is the school going to help these children relocate into their new school? Only separating 2 streets away from the current line is not enough area.
5. You efforts are appreciated, it is a good start but you have a long way to go in getting the job done!
6. Dear Committee/Board members, I am the Father of a second grader currently attending Jordan Creek Elementary. In addition, I have a 3 year old that I have always assumed would attend the same school as his sister. Having attended all three community forums on the boundary issue, I feel the following issues are what impact my family the most. The failure of the school board and committee members to properly notify parents in a timely manner both concerning the boundary change issue and procedures for the formation of the “unbiased” boundary committee. These actions alone have created an atmosphere of mistrust and rumor. It should have been the school boards first priority to bring transparency to this entire process. I believe a decision now, on any of the proposals, will only create community wide mistrust, fear, and anger- at what would appear to be a heavy handed school board. At this point, I feel all data and input should be handed over to an independent consulting firm skilled in demographics and schools boundary issues. Let’s see the maps they would create and the reasoning behind their decisions and go from there. **WHAT IS THE RUSH! DO IT RIGHT!** “Sense of neighborhood” issues were apparently never discussed by the committee. I feel the basic question “what composes a legitimate neighborhood” in respect to number of children, geographic size and similar housing conditions (high density vs. family housing) apparently was never addressed. I feel this especially applies to our neighborhood, the redrawn boundary area that falls between 50th street and I-35 (the Southwoods development). This region is already surrounded by three major barriers, I-35 to the west, EP True to the north and 50th on the East. In addition, it’s a mixture of high density housing with lower income single family housing that obviously has never socially intermingled. Now, the school district wishes to place an artificial boundary just south of Westwood Drive creating a social island of six school age children on Westwood and Tamara. 1 Male kindergartner, 1 Female first grader, 1 Female second grader, 2 Female third graders, 1 Male child living in rental property, awaiting a spot at Jordan creek. Also, this neighborhood has many single mothers who already are having a difficult time socializing. I feel all three current maps failed to take any of these points into consideration. A lack of supporting data and information provided to parents. I need to see a map that shows the number of children per neighborhood or region. I’ve asked for this information and have been told that it exists; however, I just seem to get the smile and nod routine whenever I asked for it. Why wasn’t this type of information provided on the internet? I wish to be sure our neighborhood isn’t so small it isn’t socially functional. Even if all of our children are grandfathered in, I still feel it’s important for the school district to consider future families in neighborhoods so small. Western Hills remodel and moving of students. - **NO!** Remodel first, and then move the students. My family won’t do this! I will leave the school district and go to Waukee rather than put up with that nonsense. Logistics- can the Western hills neighborhood take the traffic load with the transfer of students? I have serious doubts. Grandfathering of all current student and siblings-**YES! YES! YES!** Do not break up neighborhoods and families.
7. At the forums, you state that you are listening...I don't sense that. I think consideration needs to be made in regards to the whole Western Hills move. I don't think we should be moving students and then moving them again for construction. Don't rush on the decisions because my kids are going to have to pay for any mistakes made.

25. Please take your time and do what makes sense for the long term, but give people the choice to transfer if there is room available.
26. As with two high schools, and adjusting the school hours, you did NOT listen to the parents! (Please do not think that you did.) With this issue, could you please listen to the parents?
27. Please make our community proud -- and other school districts sit up and take notice on how to do it right!
28. My husband and I recently purchase a lot in Clive (right down the street from our house). We have been looking for a new house or property for the past two years and had very specific boundary requirements of our own so that our children would not have to change schools. If we wanted to be shifted from school to school, we would have moved to Waukee.
29. We are currently within walking distance (7 blocks or so) to Jordan Creek Elementary School. Two of the proposals would change us to Western Hills - definately NOT ever within walking distance (in addition to crossing a major road). Part of the reason we bought our house was knowing the proximity of our location to Jordan Creek Elementary School for our children - currently 2 yrs old and due in April.
30. I think WDM has provided a consistent platform for some time. Unfortunately change is needed to keep up with the changing dynamics of the community and we appreciate the fact that this isn't an every year issue as in some other districts.
31. don't do this. this is so stupid.
32. I DON'T SEE THE HURRY THERE NEEDS TO BE MORE INFORMATION GIVEN OUT TO THE COMMUNITY
33. Office Park Road should be the cut-off for Hillside when considering redrawing school boundaries. It simply does not make sense to have resident children of this street attend Clive.
34. My son currently open enrolls to the Des Moines downtown school because we can not get into Jordan Creek. I am very involved in West Des Moines and would love to send my son to his neighborhood school.
35. It would seem likely that schools north of I-235 would resist F2 option as it would affect many students. However, the current boundary maps for both Crestview and Clive schools DO NOT MAKE geographic sense and F2 is the ONLY plan that seems to correct this... F2 is also more likely to help fiscally from a bus fee standpoint.
36. I know that there are changes that need to be made to better utilize the facilities, but it seem like the disruption to families could be minimized by grandfathering all current students. I know the dollars are also an issue. If you can free up space in the most desirabile schools you can pull more open enrollments from surrounding districts. I just don't agree that people that live in the district and purchased homes based on school boundaries should be disrupted so you can accomadate people who chose to live in Waukee or Des Moines School districts. If you want money I'll pay. It will be much cheeper than moving.
37. This process has been done quickly and with little public input until after the fact. The process should begin anew with a more representative committee, and not one that has for a majority employees of the school district.
38. I'm all for a plan that evens out enrollment at all schools, and maintains the obvious neighborhoods, such that kids can attend the school nearest to their house. I believe that all kids within walking distance of a grade school should be allowed to attend that grade school, if they want to.
39. I fear that people with strong opinions are taking the survey multiple times thus making survey results unreliable.
40. There are neighborhoods being broken up. For instance, the area between EP True and Raintree, on the west side of 50th Street. Westwood Drive and Tamara Lane are subject to relocate in two of the three plans, and there are minimal elementary aged children on those two streets. I would assume room could be made for the less than 20 students in order to not seperate neighborhoods.
41. I feel this whole process was handled poorly. There wasn't enough communication. There are people who do not know about it if they don't have kids in school; therefore, they do not get an opportunity to speak. I also think that people do not feel that the opinions matter much and our voices our not heard. I do not understand why there are two maps currently out there that would put the schools over 100%. Why is a vote being done on maps that need to be changed significantly?

42. In addition to a 7th grader, we also have a four year old registered to begin at Jordan Creek for the 2007/2008 school year. Each of the proposals results in him changing schools.
43. I am dissatisfied with the amount of information that's been provided. What might the boundary shifts do to the economic balance of schools. What are the projections for other neighborhood "turnover" in the older areas (Western Hills, Clive, etc.) If F2 were to be implemented, Clive Elementary would suffer an incredible loss of extremely active parent volunteers. It would take several years to re-establish networks and participation. It also appears as if F2 would bring a significant number of rental properties (less stable population) to Clive vs. other schools. Has any additional studies been conducted to address this? I urge you to NOT make any changes for the 2007-08 school year. Many parents have been blind-sided. If you must make changes, F2 causes the most disruption while appearing to benefit the fewest students. Do NOT adopt F2.
44. The committee was convened to examine boundaries and is now recommending policy changes to busing as well. As a 13 year resident, tax payer and voter, I find these proposals unacceptable. All families, including children yet to enroll in school, who have been at schools for more than three years should have rights to stay. The younger children have special needs and uprooting them in these formative years seems contrary to the very idea of what is best for the children who attend the schools.
45. I think another school needs to be built out West as Jordan Creek and Westridge are the ones with the issues! Neighborhoods naturally turn over and Western Hills will fill up. Changing the boundaries seem to only temporarily fix a problem that will only be solved with another west school.
46. The board and the committee needs to take into account the fact that they would be making children who can currently walk to school not able to. I assume that the district will not provide free transportation to Western Hills from 50th street since it is less than 2 miles. If we have to pay for transportation then we no longer have free public education. I bought my house because of th proxsimity to the school. If we can't attend that school, then our property value goes down and I am very stongly against that.
47. It will be extremely cruel to particular children to allow the grandfathering of siblings. It will split our neighborhood, and allow one child to remain at Jordan Creek, while forcing his/her "best friend" who lives just outside the backdoor, to transfer to a new school. How will we explain this to our children?
48. The WDM school district is one of the wealthiest in the state. Things work as they are and parents are not complaining about class size or what is being taught. Why now, why RIGHT now, why not slowly work into a boundary change plan?
49. Should the boundary changes occur, open enrollment applications should not be honored for any reason. Especially if full grandfathering of all existing residence and yet to be born children are not included. Movement of a neighborhood should be prioritized on seniority based on the age of the neighborhoods. Newer developments within the boundaries should not take precedent over neighborhoods that were established first.
50. Students and siblings should be allowed to attend/finish elementary school where their older siblings and parents have spent their money, time, and talent. It seems as though this change is being rushed through just to get it done. I think a professional agency should have been used to look at the issue and come up with accurate figures.
51. This survey does not ask about children that will be Kindergarteners next fall. Previous siblings have graduated from Jordan Creek and our pre-K student has essentially been used to this school since birth. We want our last child to be able to complete elementary school where her sisters did. She should be able to benefit from our time, talents, and funding provided to the school over the past 11 years.
52. I've heard many comments about this process happening too quickly. While the redistricting took me by surprise, I believe you do need to implement the changes shortly after analyzing the situation otherwise the results will become out-of-date and irrelevant. I would like to see more notice from the board prior to a major reorganization or possibly a stmt that every X years there will be an evaluation possibly resulting in redistricting. Maybe the board already does this but I would like to see figures published annually showing district size and current enrollment with a brief evaluation of population trends and when possible district adjustments might be necessary.
53. I do not think that it is in the best interest of the students to have current year 5th graders forced to change elementary schools and then turn around and have to get adjust to Middle School the following year. One of the reasons that I have not moved for the last 12 years is to allow my children to continue to attend the same elementary school. I find it disappointing that an issue that I suspect has been building over a number of years is now a problem that has to be dealt with immediately.

54. Our family isn't affected by the changes, so I leave it to the district to make the right choices.
55. 1. How many families will open enroll to Urbandale or other area schools if these changes are implemented? 2. Have you studied how the traffic patterns will change at each school under these plans? Will there be an increase in car traffic? Will there be an increase in # of buses? Can the elementary schools effected handle these increases? Again, using the Clive, Crestview example of F2. The area of Clive being moved to Crestview would probably fall under the "pay" for busing. If that results in parents driving there child to/from school, can Crestview handle the increase in cars at their school at drop off and pick up times?) 3. Has the committee researched how many years each one of these plans would work before WDM needs to redraw boundary lines again? 4. Please slow down and don't rush this decision. If the over crowding and under crowding has been a problem for years why are you trying to make a decision in a 4-month time period?
56. Where are the demographics, the numbers based on something other than guesswork, that project what EXISTING neighborhoods may look like in 3, 5, 10 years etc? If new housing is slowing down and we know where all of that is likely to happen isn't it LIKELY that the next big area of growth is going to be in the turnover and repopulation of young families in old neighborhoods? More data before you redraw please.
57. All existing families should be allowed to stay at their current elementary schools.
58. Why create a huge problem for the whole community when the problem only involves a small portion and can be fixed easier?
59. What's the hurry? Why does it have to be done this year? Have all other options been exhausted. Cut out open enrolees and voluntary transfers to Jordan Creek, Westridge, and Stillwell and see how much of a problem there still is.
60. This whole process has been a mess. There was no communication on the website until a week or so ago. Were you trying to hide something? Please listen to the people, not just push forward your own agenda, these are real children and families and not lines on a map and numbers.
61. The school boundary change options should include an option to grandfather all existing families at their current elementary schools. Many will choose not to grandfather due to transportation situations so this will help your numbers in the immediate. For those of us who would choose to grandfather, your numbers will still occur, just at a slower pace. All families not yet attending an elementary school could be directed to the new boundary guidelines. It is imparative not to split up families. My son has to attend Jordan Creek - they are the only school he's ever known and the only school equipped to handle his disability. My daughters should not be forced to move to another school. This would add so much stress to our already stressful family life. The girls don't deserve this. Nor does my son. Families need to be together to support eachother throughout the school day. This is IOWA. Families should come first. Not statistics, not dollars, families.
62. No families should be divided by the process. It is unhealthy.
63. Why don't you just fix the problems where they exist instead of making the whole district a mess?
64. we do not trust the "system" we are told that the district is going to take its time but the school board is going to vote on a plan in march. that does not allow enough time to address all the complex issues involved such as demographics, make up of classes, esl students, transportation, grandfathering, and psychologig studies, additional counselors, etc.
65. Be as flexible as possible. Grandfather liberally the first few years. Allow voluntary transfers to less crowded schools to take up slack. Parents who feel strongly about not transferring will probably be willing to figure out their own transportation.
66. Take your time this community feels as if you currently do not listen to them WDM is currently is BEST--please keep it the best. If your families leave, you will no longer be the best. Keep in mind that you serve the kids and families. **THIS IS NOT A BUSINESS THAT SHOULD BE RUN LIKE A WELL OILED MACHINE.** These are our kids. Is it good for them?
67. More data is necessary before an informed decision regarding boundary restructuring can occur. Data pertaining to demographics, impact of grandfathering, and future population change needs to be obtained. A decision of this magnitude needs to be supported by statistics to ensure appropriate changes are made for long term results. It seems that decisions are being made quickly and the necessary research has not been done.
68. Just because our student is not required to change schools does not mean they will not be affected by the boundary changes...every student in every school will be affected. The PR campaign thus far has been extremely disappointing. The lack

of professionalism by WDMCS staff toward parents with questions makes me ashamed of this district. I am hoping the District Staff will take a different tact as this process continues.

69. My husband and I are EXTREMELY concerned about the possibility of our Crossroads child being moved to Crestview...and then being moved to another school during construction...and then being moved back to Crestview. That's absolutely ridiculous!
70. Respectfully request heavy consideration be given to public input and all student grandfathering. The district could accomplish this over time, without so dramatically impacting students academic and family lives. In our situation, we have worked closely with current grade teacher, prior grade teacher, next grade teacher, and an occupational therapist to help our student achieve academically. Such a transition would be very disruptive to the strong progress he has made this year. We feel that the staff has been very attentive to our students needs and are already planning his transition to 4th grade. Concerned about his ability to succeed with this additional transition.
71. As a growing community change sometimes is necessary, yet we are talking of changing the lives of young children who do not always easily adapt well. Please be careful to limit the number of lives effected in this situation.
72. i am concerned about my property value.
73. The School Boundary Study Committee, the Superintendency, and the Board of Education need to listen to the families they are impacting. Not everything is about dollars. My son is 5 years old. Kids are not as resilient as "adults" sometimes make them to be. Making friends can be hard. Trust relationships take time. Even if our address ends up not being affected by one of the proposed plans, my son will still be affected. His friends may be affected by the changes and need to switch schools. Teachers may be transferred to other schools in the district as capacities change in the various schools. My son will not understand(or care) that these changes will provide more consistent enrollment across the district. He will just be sad that he no longer gets to see his friends. Again... please listen to the families you are impacting.
74. When our oldest child was ready to start school, we made the decision to move from DSM to WDM because of the school system. While we recognized the excellence of all WDM schools, we specifically found a neighborhood where our children could attend Jordan Creek. We have invested much in this school in the last 11 years we have had a child there. Our oldest & youngest have planned for years that when the youngest is a 6th grader, the oldest will return for "Senior's Come Home." Like many families we've heard from, we are invested in this school. Please consider ALL options before so many families are disrupted. I'm also concerned that existence of this committee did not come to our attention earlier. I have expressed my concern with our principal that regular notices were not appearing in our newsletter and that an open call for parent volunteers was never made. I, for one, would have volunteered so that our neighborhood, one affected by all of the plans, would have had a voice!
75. As I stated earlier, I think the current effort (and maps) should be scrapped. More hard data should be collected. With the right demographic information, meaningful boundaries could be drawn that would stand the test of time.
76. I would be more inclined to agree with the boundary changes if there were going to be adjustments made for the schools that would be gaining more kids. As the parent of a soon to be kindergartner and a toddler, I think it is ridiculous that we don't have all day Kindergarten at ALL West Des Moines schools. Adding more kids to my childrens school now decreases his chances at getting all day Kindergarten. I think it is important to note that my desire for all day Kindergarten has NOTHING to do with the cost of daycare. My son currently attends preschool everyday for half a day. If he only gets half day Kindergarten next year, I don't believe he will be getting anything more than what is getting at preschool this year. It is a huge disappointment and really does influence my responses to the boundary changes.
77. Please think long-term about this. I know that change is difficult, but I'd much rather you think ahead to the future about our area west of 128th. It makes no sense that we're in the Crestview district. We should not be driving 25-30 minutes to a neighborhood school. Plans A2 and A3 do not take into account the established community west of 128th. Thank you for your consideration.
78. I would consider moving out of the district depending on the effect the new school had on my child / children.
79. It would be in your best interest to listen to the parents and make the recommendations accordingly. Forcing your own decisions on a group of people when it is not the will of the majority would be a huge mistake. Please think of our children. We want our schools to stay together.

80. Thank you for providing this opportunity to learn about the options and give our feedback.
81. I have heard many Jordan Creek parents express an interest in all-day kindergarten. But this is not possible because of the lack of space. Since the majority of parents drive their kids to and from school, why not designate certain schools (that have extra space) as the full day kindergarten schools. I think parents are hung up on the kids "adjusting" to a new group of friends the following year. Isn't it time we teach the kids about adaptability and diversity? Change is not bad to be exposed to.
82. this suggestion is biased and partial. i intend on letting other Sun Prairie Apt. renters know about this and banding together to voice our opposition to the proposal.
83. Please listen to what the WDM taxpayers are saying. Slow down and review the numbers, all of them, psychological effects, future numbers for neighborhoods, etc. Then think logically. Does it make sense to move kids who can walk to school just so you can bus new kids in? Listen to those with kids in the system and who are affected, not those who are not affected by these drastic changes.
84. Change is hard for everyone. The longer we go through discussions, options, pros, cons, etc. the more time people have to come up with more of the above and it becomes a vicious cycle. I say let's make a decision, stand behind it, find the positive in it to communicate to the kids and move forward!!!!!!
85. I have not heard one parent say they want to change schools! If they wanted a different school then they have already done the voluntary transfer.
86. I appreciate the work of the committee. I hope that the administration and the school board have the courage and foresight to look at the needs of the entire district and make the tough decisions. Thank you.
87. A street is not a "Natural" boundary. That statement is false logic. A street is a man-made transportation facilitator, with sidewalks for children and parents to walk to school on. Distance IS a natural boundary. All students living within walking distance of school should be allowed to go to that school as their parents certainly chose to purchase that home based on the proximity of the school. People who did not choose a house near a school should NOT receive favor over people who made choices based on the school district when they bought their home.
88. We just ask that you really remember the special needs families. These aren't animals or material things, they are people with feelings. You can't just move them around and expect it to all be okay. There are so many factors to consider when you have a special needs child and this would be so incredibly difficult on these children. Almost impossible in many cases. I'm not willing to put my special needs child through this. And I'm not willing to separate him from his siblings. If need be we will move back into the Jordan Creek boundary area, but we don't want to leave our HOME. We specifically picked this neighborhood and this home because it was within the Jordan Creek boundary and because it had the special needs program that fit my son's needs. Please base your decision on more than just numbers. PLEASE.
89. Thank you for giving parents the opportunity to fill out this online survey.
90. Please make every effort to consider our neighborhood, which is west of 128th Street. Our drive to Crestview is at least 25 minutes; for those in our district closer to 142nd Street, that drive time runs closer to 30 minutes. We're very disappointed that only one of the plans moves us to our "neighborhood school" -- which is Crossroads Park. Thank you.
91. Perhaps the District should "tweak" boundaries every few years to avoid a groundswell change every 15 years. This change may be especially tough to swallow for some on the heels of the start/end time change this year.
92. We love Crestview. My older child is going to Indian Hills next year regardless. I also have a current Kindergarten student. My preference is to stay at Crestview because of the parent involvement in PTC and because of the relationship we have with the Principal. I'm not sure that Crossroads offers the same kind of relationships that we have formed at Crestview. We have a very active PTC and have purchased a lot of equipment for our school that Crossroads does not have. We will, however, adjust if we move to the other school.
93. Give families some flexibility -- Don't upset all these families who are desperately needed to keep schools held together so tightly by family and community ties.

94. The only proposal that makes sense for the people out in Greenbrier is to leave them at Jordan Creek. The older kids are already on the bus for an hour. Think about this are you really going to send these Junior High kids all the way over to Indian Hills? My daughter had a couple of accidents on the bus when she was little because she was on for almost an hour. The only solution for this neighborhood is to leave them be F2. We have already lost our exit of the Interstate are you going to take away our school too?
95. I am a teacher in another school district. I do understand the need to restructure the boundaries to make all schools at a constant capacity with each other. I do feel to make this a win-win situation for everyone that you should let all current students grandfathered in and let them finish up their tenor at their current school. The district can still make their boundary changes and have all new students in the district start off in the new boundaries. Current families would be happy that their child can finish off at their current school and stay with their friends. This is a simple solution that I KNOW MOST PARENTS would agree with.
96. We need to do what is best for our district. Heating and cooling a building that is only 1/2 full doesn't make sense.
97. Please disregard the F2 proposal.
98. We are happy with the present situation and prefer that it not change.
99. Please do a census of the current students that reside in the western area of Clive. I am confident that you will discover regardless of what changes you implement, these students will not attend the eastern elementary schools of West Des Moines. Therefore any change implemented will not have the results you expect to achieve. Children should attend schools in their neighborhood. What else can make sense?
100. My students are in high school. I work at an elementary school and our school will definitely be impacted. Change is good, but scary. If the adults can stay positive, the children will all benefit from the changes.
101. Re-zoning is necessary due to the rapid growth within the district, we fully support the re-zoning efforts.
102. I have several concerns, the grandfathering of the kids and siblings and the bussing issue if you do allow grandfathering. I also have another issue. My son is bussed from a daycare provider that he goes to as well as my 4 year old. She will not end up in the same school if any of the proposals are adopted. So I am screwed. My 10 year old will end up being a latch key kid from home in order to go to school either way. If we go to Crestview and are Grandfathered in to Crossroads I won't have bussing at all. If we go to Crossroads, my daycare will go to Crestview, and I will have to bus from home. I don't like that but what else can I do. When my 4 year old is ready for school, I will have to take him out of the in home provider that he has been with since he was 12 weeks old and try to find a place where I can get bus service to. So he will not only start school, probably without his brother being in the same school but will also have to adjust to a new daycare provider. I hope I can find one. I was planning on leaving him there before and after school for several more years. (This also impacts my daycare providers ability to make a living as well.) Now this proposal has made us change our whole life. We bought a house, choose a neighborhood and day care for our kids around the school that they would be attending and now a committee wants to change all of that. I don't see that the schools are at 100% capacity from the information provided, they are close. I don't think that the committee has enough information about the neighborhoods to make a decision. Do they know the number of siblings that could be grandfathered in, another point was made about the demographics of the schools in question. I feel for the kids who can walk to school now but next year will have to be bussed and the parents will probably have to pay for it, because they will be in the pay range. There are a lot of issues that I don't believe were taken into consideration. Thank you for listening and I hope that you understand my concern in this matter.
103. Make your decision on common sense for once!
104. As a 5th grader currently grandfathered into Crestview from Clive. We hope she can remain at Crestview for her last year.
105. Do not throw my children around West Des Moines. I am sad that I have to fight this. Because if you cared, you would know what an impact this has on elementary students. There are too many coincidences surrounding this change, and I intend to go to the papers and stations with the information I have. You are not going to manipulate my children and my family and neighbors like this. Stop thinking of yourselves and start being an advocate for these children. This makes me sick
106. Please change the boundaries. It makes so much more sense bus riding, etc.

107. What is the rush to change school boundaries for next year? I believe more time and research should be done on incoming pre-k youth in neighborhoods and the impact of renovating schools(Wester Hills) and having students move more than once. This issue seems be hurried and pushed thru for financial reasons not the students best interest.
108. I do not want my children changing schools
109. This is a poor plan and needs to be re-evaluated based on parents reaction and benefits for the children.
110. Bad idea all around. What is the hurry? If you're going to do it, do it right. Plan for the future, not the next few years. Remember, these are kids and families.
111. This is absurd. We can see the school yet I would have to drive both kids to another school and they would never be able to walk with friends - too far. We would move and our property values would all diminish under this plan...
112. every student deserves to go to a school within a reasonable distance from their home
113. Understand why the district is looking at this. Respectfully request that parent input be heavily weighted on this issue as it was for the school start/end time decision. Impact to families should be higher on the list of criteria. Have all new students (no prior family members) attend in the new boundary lines.
114. Crestview is too far away for families west of the interstate. We need a school board that represents everyone.
115. Please think about the students and how they will be effected. The younger ones have just started having new friends and finally feeling like they belong and to move them would be hard.
116. keep the kids where they are at with the friends this is a very irresponsible plan
117. Crossroads Park is a large family. Everyone knows everyone else and the kids are very comfortable there. Changing schools and leaving teachers and classmates will not only be very stressful for the parents, but will be even more stressful for the kids. My children may have to go to Crestview. I do not want my kids at Crestview. If this happens, we may have to move to a new house and/or start home schooling them. This was not supposed to impact Crossroads in the beginning. Crossroads should not be impacted. Please leave Crossroads out of it.
118. Are school board members aware of ALL the changes that will occur i.e. special ed., start times, socio-economic status, quality of resources, reassignment of teachers, are we really saving money?
119. It is very important to phase the proposed plans in over time and not make a drastic change. We have to take into consideration the impact this will have on young children and their families. It could be devastating for a child to have to switch schools and leave their friends, teachers, and familiar environment. It is critical to grandfather current 4th and 5th graders and their siblings, no matter which plan is chosen. These children have attended their school for a large portion of their life and have established close friendships.
120. I am very concerned about the school start time. For those at Crestview...We Love the early time. I feel you will see alot of open enrollment out of WDMCS if you make us change. What does the new boundaries do to the money that was saved by the new start times last year? It was mentioned that budget was not discussed in these new boundaries. That seems wrong when money is always an issue.Will crestview remain the early start school? This push for new boundaries seems to be progressing to fast and has missed alot of important issues. Give the parents more information and rerun this survey and forums a second time when all the issues from the first forums have been brought back to the board and possibly new boundaries etc have been established. I am for change but feel there are key ingredients that have not either been discussed such as what would happen to the budget or it is just not be disclosed to the parents. A motto to go on... Change is inevitable. Struggle is optional.
121. This committee has done an excellent job at upsetting all the parents that I know in Clive. Excellent work. Another fine use of Tax dollars.
122. My child currently goes to Crestview and I have a younger child that will start in the fall of this year. I strongly want my children to remain at Crestview.

123. My child may or may not change schools depending on the plan choice. I worry that a change in schools will have a negative impact on the desire to attend school and also to learn. I fear school will transform from an eagerly anticipated event to an additional traumatic experience.
124. If this occurs please provide what to say to children that have to move.
125. My children will not change schools with the boundry change only because we are currently on a wait list for Jordan Creek. We are attending Clive until we get into our home school. Our address remains in the Jordan Creek boundries for all 3 versions. These boundry changes are really needed.
126. Thank you for having the survey. It shows that you care about how very important changes will affect the community, and specifically the parents at your schools.
127. Thanks to those of you who have come up with these options. It's a truly thankless job - if your children are moved, then we're ticked off; if your children aren't moved, then we don't care.
128. If students are open enrolled and the school board determines it is necessary to return them to their neighborhood schools, then possibly to cover any added costs their bus pass rates should be more to offset the costs.
129. If changes are to be made, please make them with children at the center of research-based decisions. One of my concerns is that by any of the new plans, our son would attend Clive instead of Crestview. Both are good schools, so I do not have an issue there. Both are close in proximity to our home. My main concern is the time difference in the school day. Research shows that elementary students should start school earlier in the morning (like Crestview's current schedule). Starting later in the day is not beneficial for students.
130. Nowhere have I seen any numbers showing the capacity of the schools. It is ridiculous under the proposed plans to bus my child further away than they currently are. It will not save money! My children are already on the bus for forty minutes in the afternoon. I cannot imagine how much longer they would be on the bus if they have to attend a school several miles further away. Let the kids attend the schools closest to their homes. There are other ways of resolving the problem of too many children at one school. Those solutions need to be addressed!
131. My kindergarten child will be moved from his current school, to Western Hills, moved from Western Hill during renovation, moved back to Western Hills upon completion of renovations. How can this possibly be in any child's best interest???
132. I have reviewed the maps and I can not tell the differences between the boundaries - at least for the elementary schools. It is critical that you be specific about the changes you are exploring and/or seeking - do not leave items like these up to the interpretation of people. In addition, there needs to be an explanation of why this committee was created, when it was created and who elected the members to the committee.
133. I would like the boys to stay where they are. All of the before and aftercare is familiar to them and the change of the new staff fall was enough. I didn't go back to Urbandale school district with the year-around school because we didn't want to change schools this past fall. I really don't want to have to do it the coming fall. I am thankful to be in WDM schools and am grateful for the wonderful facility in which they attend. Please work out other ways to make room for the kids further out in West Des Moines.
134. Leave Crossroads boundaries as they are. We have all worked hard to make this school the great place it is. New neighborhoods should not take a precedence over established neighborhoods when drawing boundaries. This is what it looks like is taking place. Relieve Jordan Creek by utilizing Western Hills.
135. Leave things as they are -- things will cycle around and enrollment will go down in heavily populated areas with elementary students now and enrollment will go up where there is less activity at this time. LEAVE THINGS ALONE!! Changing times was enough disruption -- especially when you don't have all the elementary schools starting at the same time.
136. Will there be boundry exceptions for people who currently work at their children's school?
137. There seem to be TOO many questions left unanswered for me to make a reasonable decision. Here are some of the questions that I am wondering. Have you really considered all the factors involved. What is the socio-economic status of the schools close to equal? Is the diversity at each school close to equal? What kind of diversity does Westridge have? From an outside position,

it doesn't look like much. How much will it cost for transportation with these changes? How many students are moved from their original schools? Would it be best for a majority of kids to change schools? Shouldn't we find a plan that considers changing as few children as possible? Have you looked into long range projections or is this a year by year fix? Seven years ago, Crestview had too many students and they went to Crossroads. Now you are flipping the students from Country Club area with the area west of 100th Street. Why is it necessary in plan F2 to have students that go to Crestview already switch and go to Crossroads and the students that go to Crossroads will then go to Crestview? I believe the public would be able to accept boundary changes if you had some beef behind it besides the amount of children at each school. Why would you ever consider bussing students that can walk to school? That seems crazy since we spent so much time last year trying to save money on transportation. Is the new transportation working or is this a reason for the wide changes in boundaries. If Jordan Creek and Western Hills are the schools looking for the most impact, why does it need to involve the whole district? I know I would accept boundary changes easier if I knew the answers to some of these questions. It doesn't look like you've considered many additional factors.

138. Do the right thing here and keep all kids from the same neighborhood at the same school - no matter what age. Splitting kids from the same neighborhood to different schools causes division and disrupts their knowledge. The well-being of the kids must be the goal.
139. Please read my earlier comments about changing my daughter from this school due to boundary changes!
140. I see no reason why grandfathering of all students should not be the answer. It will be the least disruptive to students and their families and will achieve the same result for the district over just a couple more years. My daughter has made DOZENS of friends at Jordan Creek and we have laid the groundwork for that over several years starting from preschool and taking her away from EVERY ONE of her friends would be so detrimental to her development. You try and say that you are moving "neighborhoods" but by doing any sort of grandfathering other than all students, you are completing splitting neighborhoods apart.
141. With the committee making the decision having only 15% of their children affected by the boundary change, the whole study is skewed and should be thrown out. The first step should be facts that are accurate (school census, children in neighborhoods, sections of schools current and after remodeling, etc.).
142. Option A3 I strongly disagree with because you are splitting our neighborhood in 1/2. This does not make sense as you are eliminating about 3 blocks of kids from attending Westridge. This is bad for community & neighborhood comradory.
143. I realize that JC is at capacity, however, I feel that this boundary change effects the families in this areas greatly. I hope you will consider other options. Much thought was put into deciding which school to entrust our child with. This was not an easy decision and much went into it. Our son will be in K this fall and upon placing him on the list in August, I felt he was ensured a place within the school. This is very disappointing. Again, please consider all options.
144. Why all of a sudden has this come up? Haven't heard about it until a month ago. Nice Communication on possible changes. Children currently enrolled in a school where they will potentially be moved should be grandfathered along with their siblings. This should only apply to new students entering those schools without siblings.
145. With these boundary changes is all day kindergarden going to be looked at
146. In a shrinking demographic school base, analyze the savings/costs association of making a longer range decision to close the most under utilized building and utilize potential savings for greater benefits longer term.
147. My son is a level 2 special education student at Jordan Creek Elementary which is also our home school under the current boundaries. We need to keep our family together. My son and his sisters deserve to go to the same school. If boundaries are changed, my family will be split up with my daughters going to Fairmeadows and my son staying at Jordan Creek. This is terrible and devastatng. I can't believe this could happen in West Des MOInes Iowa. Who is thinking of the family? Who is thinking of what's best for the children? This decision should not happen. Boundaries should stay the same. They should not change. This will devastate our family if the changes occur and no exception is made to allow my daughters to stay at school with their brother. It will devastate him and the girls. My children have already had to go through so much hardship, so much sacrifice. They need to have the security of school. Please consider not changing the boundaries. You have no idea how many lives you will negatively impact if you move forward.
148. We live in Urbandale & attend Clive. At this point, we will open enroll into Urbandale School District if we are forced to go to Crestview. Our community does not want to leave Clive, but if we are forced, we have decided as a group to leave together.

other comments

There are currently 23 of us at this point (and we are intending to get contact all Urbandale residents). We have been dedicated families to Clive, and want to stay! Five of the 23 are in 3rd grade & close friends. They are the driving force to move to Urbandale because they want to stay together during these important growing years. We hope you take this into consideration when you look at tearing Clive apart!

149. The F2 plan is the ONLY plan that returns to the idea of neighborhood schools. Why should children be bussed to far away schools, when they have a school 6 miles from their house. So many children in the Huntington Ridge neighborhood have opted out of the West Des Moines School District for this reason. PLEASE HAVE THE COURAGE TO GIVE US BACK A NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL. Thank you.
150. Please reconsider changing the Clive boundary. The school is a perfect size and has a lot of parental involvement. My concern that some of the people that live in Urbandale will try to open enroll their students to Urbandale schools. We do not want to lose any to Urbandale. I already know of 4 students that transferred last year to Urbandale.
151. I do not think the Western Hills Elementary neighborhood is ready to infuse several cars for pickup and drop off. Also, there is no sidewalk for students to walk from the Jordan Creek area, who now can walk to school, to get to WH, when they cross EP True. The city of WDM needs to be involved in planning for this with sidewalks and crossing guards.
152. Please do not change the current boundaries. My kids are doing well and are happy at Crossroads.
153. School district employees living in the WDM school district should have the option of having their children attend the school at which they teach.
154. Currently we are within the 2 mile boundary of Crossroads and WDM is not paying for bussing. If Plan f2 is put into place our entire neighborhood would be bussed to Crestview at the cost of WDM. This cost should be considered. Deal with the immediate issues at Jordan creek and Western Hills and leave the rest alone. Don't move my 2 children from the school closest to their home!
155. Either way, my kids will be going to Western Hills with all three options, and I think this is punishing the people who live in West Des Moines, by allowing the people with Clive addresses to push us out. I think MONEY has a lot to do with this. West Des Moines is a better school district and they want their kids in our district and I think it is sad that West Des Moines school district is allowing this to happen. SEND THESE KIDS TO CLIVE OR BUILD A NEW SCHOOL FOR THEM.
156. The board should also consider the opinion that it does not seem logical that a child would be moved from a school within sight and walking distance to a school further away. While it is understood that this is not an easy task, hopefully, common sense and objective decisions based upon facts and numbers will prevail. Ultimately, change is difficult and will take time to adjust. Given the final decision regarding the boundary changes forthcoming, please also consider some of the suggestions that will be communicated via the forums, emails, and phone calls on this matter. Based upon the description of the guiding criteria for making adjustments to the boundaries, it appears that option F2 (as published on 2/5/2007) meets the requirements the best. Given the potential implementation this boundary change, the board should consider allowing all current students and family members to remain at their current schools. The board could minimize impact to families currently in school by allowing this, but could also manage the rate at which the final numbers would be reached by imposing a time limit on family members not currently enrolled. For example, the board could produce models, using the same factors as were used to ultimately create the new boundary proposals to determine what impact allowing current students and family members to stay in their current schools would have in one, three, five, or seven year increments.
157. I live within walking distance to Jordan Creek and can see the school from my house. If we are sent to Western Hills my kids will have to ride the bus. This does not make sense and could also make it a problem when trying to resell homes in the area.
158. My son's close proximity to his current school is important to our childcare needs (Kids West).
159. I think it's very unfortunate to live 2 blocks from Crossroads school and have to switch to another elementary school a couple miles away. It makes me question being a WDM resident, paying high taxes so my children are unable to attend & walk to a school that is so close. (The major reason we bought this house!!!!)
160. I'd like to reiterate my belief that the proposed changes go too far. Jordan Creek, Westridge, Western Hills and Fairmeadows are the schools that appear to have either too many or too few students. So change the boundaries to remedy that situation.

Crestview, Crossroads Park, and Clive elementary appear to have the proper number of students. Why impose change on them when it's not necessary?

161. I know the impact of changing schools would be very difficult for my child, emotionally and academically, based on her shy personality. I'm sure there are many others faced with the same issue.
162. I, like many other parents, feel that splitting up the friends/families is just as devastating as splitting up siblings. A lot of these kids have been together since birth. A school is an integral part of the neighborhood surrounding it. Asking families, within view of the school, to travel to another is unacceptable.
163. The options which place the students from Greenbrier Estates and River Oaks into Indian Hills are flawed. The travel time from home to Indian Hills is nearly doubled that of home to Stilwell and since our students are being picked up by the bus at 6:30 am (meaning they have to be at the bus stop at 6:25am), the pick up time would be even earlier - an incredibly poor choice for 7th and 8th grade students. Grandfathered students should receive transportation since these changes are at the behest of the district, not the parents.
164. I do not feel that these new boundary proposals consider proximity, since they change a neighborhood that is in walking distance to Crossroads Park to a school to which students can no longer walk. I sympathize with families in the Jordan Creek boundaries that are within walking distance from school but are not able to attend because of overages. I do not feel however that it is fair to take this away from Crossroads to give to them. I feel there are ways to handle the overages and underages at schools without changing the boundaries and impacting fewer schools and therefore fewer children.
165. Good luck!!!
166. Thanks for having the survey and the forums. I appreciate you asking for our input!
167. I find it terribly upsetting that boundary changes are being made which could affect my son's education. We could not be more satisfied with Crossroads Park Elementary. It is a wonderful place for children and their families.
168. I don't feel like enough research has been done to assure we will not have to go through changes again in a few years. All remodeling should be done at schools before boundaries change and you need to research the effects on young elementary age children. We have not moved our family because we did not want to have our young children switch schools. If boundary change forces us to switch schools, it will allow us to move where we have been looking at real estate, which will take us out of WDM schools.
169. I hope the "grandfathering" option will apply to ALL STUDENTS. I hope the "voluntary transfer" option will not be an option next year unless all the boundary area students are taken care of first.
170. We bought our home 14 years ago knowing that we would be able to send our children to a school that was within walking distance. At this present time, they could take the bike path and not even have to cross a street, not even a side street. If our school boundary changes, this would not be the case. In fact, it would be a longer distance, and they would have to cross several side streets as well as a 5 lane road. I believe it will also affect the resale value of our home if children cannot go to their neighborhood school.
171. Let's take a step back and find a way not to impact quite so many families. Deal with the problem where the problem is, not at CRP.
172. --why can't you update these surveys to allow user to go back to a prior question? Frustrating as a user that you can't do that. --think timing and implementation time frames need to be closely evaluated to be sure what's done makes sense now and going forward if projected 2-5 years. --think good time to also evaluate ESL needs across all elementary schools and implement so that ESL students are more evenly distributed across schools for resources/impact.
173. I understand the need to change the boundaries, but I stress I think it should be prospective starting with new students. Or at a minimum, abide by the three year rule and grandfather second graders and up.
174. Again - please consider children who live east of the interstate boundary but west of 50th and south of EP true but north of Wistful Vista as Westridge students. It is the safest, most common sense consideration for these students. Safety and proximity are two key components of this study, yes?

175. Considering the magnitude of the boundary changes proposed under F2, the vast number of children who will be affected should be considered. The dynamics of the change that will occur under F2 when three different student populations are blended into one for FOUR different schools under the proposed plan will be counterproductive to continued learning and extremely disruptive to an inordinate number of students. Thus, A2 or A3 should be highly considered ahead of F2 to minimize the impact on children.
176. Don't do it.
177. I would like to know what you define as "minimal disruption to families". Since K, my child spends the majority of her day (between 9-10 hours) w/Crossroads friends and staff. If these proposed changes take affect - my child would be required to 1) change daycare to a new KW site, 2) move to a new school w/out any of her friends, 3) leave the special resources she has built relationships with to assist her academically, and in addition to all of these changes, she will also have to leave the Brownie troop she has been w/for four years! These are NOT miminal disruptions - these are life-changing changes!!!!
178. Why not turn Valley Southwoods into a third Jr. High, change all three to middle schools including 6th grade through 9th grade. Move 9th grade back to high school.
179. While generally changing whole neighborhoods to a new school makes sense, due to the small numbers total and then smaller by grade in our neighborhood (Maffit Lake area) and due to the fact that two of the plans have us not only changing elementary but also jr high...most children from our neighborhood will only have one or two friends in the same situation. In addition, given that the Hillside district will stay the same and that the bus route for the Hillside and Stilwell kids comes down our road: does it really make sense to have the bus turn around with almost at the end of Maffit lake road and send another bus out to our neighborhood to pick up the Westridge-Indian Hills kids (Plans A2 and A3)?
180. Public education - two words. First, public..we have not been informed of this in a timely manner and administrators/staff seem to have more priority than residents/parents/taxpayers/voters. Second, education...children are at the heart of education and yet I have heard nothing that outlines a smooth transition to help children ripped from their home schools will receive any assistance to assimilate to new learning environments. The schools do not offer equal programs therefore their academic future is not the same.
181. I know this is a difficult situation and that there are many sides to be looked at. I just hope that the people who have the correct and important information are allowed to make this difficult decision. I do not believe that parents, who are just concerned for their own child, should be allowed to change opinions and help make this decision. It needs to be made by the committee that has been put together to do this. They are the ones that have worked on this and know what is going on. Don't let outside influences change things. Do what is best for the district as a whole!! Thanks for listening.
182. I really feel that some other options other than boundary changes need to be looked at to solve the over/under crowding issue. Such as the transfer students, new development areas attending the lower attended schools. This will be devastating for our children to be removed from the schools that we've attended for a decade or more. There has got to be another way.
183. I do believe that the boundaries need to be changed but PLEASE wait until all of the remodeling is complete.
184. A school should be a diverse mix of children from different social and economic groups. This allows them to better understand each other and accept each other. I felt Jordan Creek was accomplishing that goal currently- with the new boundary changes I am not so certain. What will be the ultimate destiny of Jordan Creek? A country club elementary school or an equal opportunity for all school. It may take another 5-10 years to know the real answer. However, I think everyone knows which way the balance tips with these border changes.
185. I'll say it again... The start time for Indian Hills is absurd. It is unreasonable to ask 13 and 14 year olds to be at their bus stop at 6:45 AM.
186. Grandfathering, especially of younger students, must be allowed, in some form. The Map designated as A3 is the map that would do the most damage to the student population living closest to Jordan Creek.
187. I do not think that many of these changes are in the best interest of the children. Our family has not taken job transfers and moved so that we would not uproot our children and now we are being uprooted. I feel like the rug is being pulled out from under me and it is a very helpless feeling. Also, it does not make sense to move a large group of students to Western Hills right before their remodel and then bus all of those children to Clegg Park. That would make that adjustment even harder. Also, we

can walk to Crossroads and do in nice weather. We could not walk to Western Hills. I don't think that kind of a move makes sense either. I appreciate the opportunity to express my opinions and concerns.

188. For question 10 by son would not be affected at Stilwell, but my daughter who would be assigned to Jordan Creek would be assigned to Hillside under the F2 option which is where we have put in for a voluntary transfer to based on the best interest of the child and based on where she goes to daycare at this time.
189. The public has been left in the dark on this entire process until now. It seems like the board is trying to minimize public input by a late announcement approximately 1 month prior to when they want to make a decision. I do not believe there is any reason to rush to a new boundary system and this should be publicly discussed for months prior to any decisions.
190. I am very glad this subject is being addressed. A boundary change is in the best interest of the kids, even the kids who would need to change schools. We all know smaller classrooms are better for our kids.
191. Do the long term plan.... F2!!!! It groups areas together with clean boundaries. Keep the River Oaks/Greenbriar kids at Jordan Creek because the ONLY road to reach them is Via HWY 5..and exiting at George Mills.. right by Jordan Creek. There is no road/bridge over the river(west of I-35) to get them to Westridge and if moved to westridge, it would change these kids to Indian Hills-the Furthest Jr. High. These kids are already on the longest bus route in the district-don't make it worse!!
192. This will cause major upset within schools and entire district. How will the changes still allow the district to save money on busing?
193. Don't do this. Children want to go to the schools that their siblings go to. Or they just want to stay at the same school. Don't make some of the children sad.
194. I understand the need to change the school borders..however, I believe it is in the best interest of the student to remain at his/her current school.
195. One of the three options has my current 4th grade child changing schools unless the grades 4 and 5 are grandfathered in. I strongly want her to stay at Jordan Creek because, as I said, I work there and I want to be around her for her last two years.
196. The only fair and reasonable way to handle this issue is to allow families to continue attending the elementary their children start at and include their children who have yet to start school. That way, families are not split between two different schools. New boundary guidelines take effect with all families whose children have not yet started elementary school and all families who move into the area.
197. My children currently attending CRP are in the 6th and 2nd grade. Their 3 older siblings have all been at CRP. We know the staff and volunteer at the school in a variety of capacities. We know the families of children from our oldest to our youngest. The biggest reason I do not want my child to move to a different school has to do with her adjusting to a different school, different teachers, different classmates, different families. I do not want to put her through this unnecessary upheaval. I know from my Child Development background that children are resilient--but they show this resiliency in situations that they cannot change. This change is not necessary for all of the schools--so why are we upsetting the entire system?
198. I feel a longer time frame should be used to implement the changes rather than fall, 2007. This did not give families of incoming Kindergartners the chance to apply for private schools, attend new boundary preschools, etc. If you have a history with a school younger siblings should be allowed to go to the same school as older siblings attended.
199. There are students who are in my sons full day kindergarten class that are outside the boundaries. They should not have been let in before students that actually live within the boundaries. Especially since this class is so sought after by families in the boundaries.
200. There is no good way to slice the pie. Good luck.
201. We urge you to drop the issue and retain current boundaries, or at the very least grandfather all existing students. This massive disruption is not necessary.
202. Do not change boundaries. Kids need to grow up in familiar territory. Neighborhood schools they love, teachers they know or gotten to know through siblings and familiar settings. Maybe you should have improved and enlarged the buildings that are

growing or decide to make it bigger with small classroom sizes. You have no right to disrupt lives. How is school spirit without familiarity? Maybe the schools that are built with less kids in the area should have small class sizes, and parents that want to open enroll can so choose!!!!!!

203. Thank you for allowing input from the community. Please work hard to keep families together -- there are enough forces in our society to pull families in ten different directions .. the school district should not contribute to this societal problem.
204. I called at the beginning of the school to ask about a voluntary transfer so my child could go to all day kindergarten at Western Hills and I was told if I did I would have a hard time getting back into Jordan Creek. I wanted my child to be with the same neighborhood friends and go to the school in our district, so I decided to have my child go half day so my child could stay at Jordan Creek. And, now it sounds like after paying over \$7,000 in daycare because Jordan Creek only offered half day kindergarten last year that my child will have to go to the school I inquired about at the beginning of the year, as well as leave the friendships that were made behind. What is very sad is there are students that don't even live in the West Des Moines area that might take the place of a student living right by the school. I think West Des Moines needs to take care of the West Des Moines students first. I think the voluntary transfer option should not be allowed if it takes the spot of a West Des Moines student. I don't think changing the school boundary is good for the kids. Try explaining to a sad little 5 year old that they will not be able to go to the same school with their friends.
205. This committee is made up of a minority of parents and community members. This is a policy decision that recommendations should come from the community, not staff.
206. West Des Moines obviously is suffering from some problems. Thankfully, not as many as some of our neighboring communities. However, we have lost many families to these very communities and private schools. You need to put kids in their neighborhood schools where they feel a sense of community and commitment. Otherwise, be prepared to lose more great families.
207. I think F@ is the best option for all students that are involved.
208. I hope decisions are made empathetically remembering that these are real people that will be told to make some huge changes in their lives.
209. Again, I am very distressed by the F2 proposal of course because it affects our children. We are very happy at Crossroads and childcare and transportation are a huge issue for us. This change is going to uproot very carefully laid plans that are difficult to change. In addition, we are much closer to Crossroads than we are to Western Hills and it just doesn't make logistic sense at all.
210. Good luck!
211. We are contemplating as others legal consul on this matter.
212. Where are the lists of number of students per section and number of students per school? Please be honest with us as you make these important decisions. Honestly, after the school time committee making one recommendation and then it not being heard, makes me nervous that this committee is going through the same motions. Also, this survey nor the website lists the important numbers at all. Quite disturbing.
213. I understand boundary changes may be necessary for future planning, but it's unrealistic to upset hundreds of families with strong ties to their neighborhoods and school communities with overnight changes. If these types of changes are needed, then they should be established now and set forth for new families entering the schools and gradually allow for those children already enrolled to continue in the school they are already in until they exit 6th grade (unless, of course, that family chooses to make the switch to the new boundaries sooner). This should take several years as many, many people are affected.
214. Our entire school is hoping and praying that our school board does the right thing. Our children should be your top priority. This is not a clear-but process. Please stop running the school board as if it's a business. I am sorry you represent us. What a huge disappointment!
215. I haven't heard if the current elementary schools feeding into the junior high schools would remain the same.
216. A survey probably is not the best way to resolve this issue because those people who are "capped out" of their neighborhood schools are going to be in the minority, but they are the people the boundary study is supposed to serve.

217. See box 5
218. I am glad you are considering boundary changes. It is something the district has needed for quite a few years to alleviate capping out at JC and Westridge and to help new families moving in to go to a neighborhood school instead of being told there is no room and they will have to go to another school without bussing. Thanks for considering this issue. I also feel strongly about NO grandfathering. I hope you vote against it for everyone. Kids will know more students at their new school than they realize from the many other activities they participate in. Good luck.
219. Use Clegg Park to alleviate overcrowding or sell it and use the \$ to build a new school or add on to existing schools that are at capacity.
220. I would love to see class sizes decrease at Jordon Creek.
221. DONT DO THIS PLEASE