

Middle School Boundary Update May 2, 2023

Auburn-Washburn Staff and Families,

I hope you and your families are doing well as we move into a busy month of May. The purpose of this email is to provide an update on middle school boundaries.

A Middle School Boundary Committee that included four to five involved parents from each school was created. The Committee held two meetings, meeting one took place on March 22, 2023, and meeting two took place on April 5, 2023. The task of the Committee was to make a recommendation to the Board of Education on middle school boundaries based on the following ground rules:

- Create two comparable middle schools
 - Student enrollment
 - Distance traveled to/from school
 - At-risk factors
 - Protect elementary boundaries, if possible
 - Minimize disruption and impact

When viewing the elementary school boundary map, the following observations were discussed:

- Washburn Rural Middle School is located in the Jay Shideler attendance area.
- Middle School #2 is located in the Indian Hills attendance area.
- Wanamaker Elementary's attendance area surrounds Middle School #2 to the north and east.
- Pauline South's attendance area surrounds Washburn Rural Middle School to the south and east.
- So, with the remaining two schools being Auburn and Farley, which combination would best create two comparable middle schools as defined above.

After reviewing and discussing elementary student data that included enrollment, free/reduced priced lunch, special education, and school bus transportation, the Committee gained consensus on the following recommendation:

- Auburn, Jay Shideler, and Pauline South elementary school students attend Washburn Rural Middle School.
- Farley, Indian Hills, and Wanamaker elementary school students attend Middle School #2.

This recommendation was presented to the Board of Education at the April 17, 2023, Board of Education meeting by a parent who served on the Middle School Boundary Committee. The Board of Education approved this recommendation at the May 1, 2023, Board of Education meeting.

Work will begin this summer at both Washburn Rural Middle School and Middle School #2. Specifically, 24 classrooms at Washburn Rural Middle School will be completely redone (carpet, paint, LED lighting, ceilings, operable interior pod walls, cabinetry and furniture). Groundwork will begin for Middle School #2 located at the northeast corner of 29th Street and Auburn Road.

Thanks,
Scott

Dr. Scott McWilliams
Superintendent of Schools