

**LEBANON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION AGENDA
Lebanon School District Office
485 S. 5th St. Lebanon, OR 97355
February 25, 2016**

- A. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/FLAG SALUTE– 6:00 p.m. District Office Board Room**
Liz Alperin
Richard Borden
Jerry Williams
Michael Martin
Russ McUne
- B. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- C. INTRODUCTION TO BOUNDARY & SCHOOL CONFIGURATION DISCUSSION**
- 1) Review of Communication (Enclosures C-1)
 - 2) Review of Feedback
 - 3) Discussion
- D. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- E. ADJOURN**

School Boundary and Reconfiguration

Staff Survey

Dear Staff:

At their February meeting, board members requested additional feedback from staff regarding school boundaries and school restructuring options. I have been collecting information at staff meetings, but at this time not every school has scheduled a meeting, or you may have missed the meeting at your school.

You may have heard from friends, staff, or community members about a variety of potential changes that could be implemented next year or in the fall of 2017. The school board has not made any decisions at this point, but they will hold a public work session on February 25th at 6pm at the school district office (485 S. 5th Street) to explore this topic. During this work session, they will review all of the options and all of the feedback they have received from the community and staff. They will not be making any decisions at the work session.

As a school district, it is our mission to build a system that is best for ALL students. We have two guiding questions we need to keep asking as we explore options to fulfill this mission:

- 1) What are the most effective school configurations in our community for the next 15 years to prepare as many students as possible for college and/or career.
- 2) What priorities will drive this decision?

At the work session, the board will be wrestling with these questions and seeking to develop some answers. Your input, feedback, and participation is greatly valued. You can participate by completing the survey below by Wednesday, February 24th. You can also participate by attending the work session and listening to the conversation as it develops or communicating directly with board members.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for

(Enclosure C-1)

January 12, 2016

Dear Staff:

Last night the school board discussed the concept of restructuring our district into five K-6 schools, one K-8 (Lacomb), and making Seven Oak a 7-8 school. Though this move would represent a change in our district, there are several advantages to this restructure that make it a good idea to explore:

- 1) Our town is growing. Rezoning would help us to shift populations of students to where we know the growth will be occurring over the next 10-15 years so that we do not need to build additional schools at additional cost. We currently have 1689 students in grades K-6 across the district (including Lacomb). Rezoning would allow us to maximize space and serve up to 2,100 students in grades K-6 in the years to come with our current elementary schools.
- 2) This change would require rezoning our school district so that each K-6 school would have approximately 350 students (two teachers per grade level on average). This is an ideal size for an elementary school and allows us to be more efficient with our resources. All of our elementary schools have enough classrooms to support 350 students.
- 3) Having a 7-8 Junior High that is attended by at least 90% of our students would allow us to provide more opportunities to more students in the areas of AVID, band, choir, CTE programs, world languages, art, drama, advanced classes, interventions, and athletics. We believe more opportunities will lead to higher engagement, which will lead to greater attendance, and eventually more students being better prepared and more successful (a higher graduation rate at LHS).
- 4) Only 55% of our current middle school students (grades 6-8) have the experience of navigating a large comprehensive secondary school. As a result, a significant number of our 9th graders enter high school without any experience in a larger setting. Every year we see the result of this lack of experience impacting the performance of our 9th grade students.
- 5) Since we currently serve about 55% of our students in grades 6-8 at Seven Oak, the opportunities nearly half of our students receive are not equitable. We cannot afford (nor have been able to) replicate those opportunities throughout the district. Over the past few years through open enrollment, we are noticing more and more students with transportation means migrating to Seven Oak for the additional opportunities a comprehensive secondary school can provide.

(Enclosure C-1)

6) Looking at our data, it has been our experience that the majority of 6th grade students are not quite ready (maturity-wise) for a large, comprehensive middle school experience. Every year we look at data that shows 6th grade middle school students struggling with achievement, attendance, and behavior at a higher rate than our elementary schools. We believe more time in the elementary setting will help these students mature and be leaders in their elementary schools so that they can be ready for success in a junior high model.

There are many more pros and cons this conversation can spark, and we acknowledge that a change of this nature would be hard to undergo, but we think it is worth exploring at this point in the life of our community. At the end of the day, it is my belief that a restructure of this nature would provide more opportunities for more students in the area of college and career readiness and prepare us for the changing demographics of our community. Please give this idea some thought and let me know if you have any opinions on this matter that can help us decide our next steps. I will do my best to listen and respond to your thoughts. Thank you for your engagement and participation in the process. It is very much appreciated. I will keep you all posted on the progress of this conversation as the board explores their options.

February 12, 2016

Update on the School Boundary and Restructuring Conversation

Dear Parents:

At their February meeting, board members requested additional feedback from parents regarding school boundaries and school restructuring options. I have been collecting information at parent and community forums, but you may not have been able to attend one of those meetings. In your Tuesday folder or electrically attached to this e-mail, you will find a parent feedback form regarding school boundaries and school grade level configurations.

You may have heard from friends, staff, or community members about a variety of potential changes that could be implemented next year or in the fall of 2017. The school board has not made any decisions at this point, but they will hold a public work session on February 25th at 6pm at the school district office (485 S. 5th Street) to explore this topic. During this work session, they will review all of the options and all of the feedback they have received from the community. They will not be making any decisions at the work session.

As a school district, it is our mission to build a system that is best for ALL students. We have two guiding questions we need to keep asking as we explore options to fulfill this mission:

- 1) What are the most effective school configurations in our community for the next 15 years to prepare all students for a successful college and/or career?
- 2) What priorities will drive this decision?

At the work session, the board will be wrestling with these questions and seeking to develop some answers. Your input, feedback, and participation is greatly valued. You can participate by completing the attached feedback form and returning it to your building principal by Monday, February 22nd or sending it to Kathy Schurr at the school district office. You can also participate by attending the work session and listening to the conversation as it develops.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for helping us to develop a system that puts all kids first.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rob Hess
rob.hess@lebanon.k12.or.us

(Enclosure C-1)

6) Looking at our data, it has been our experience that the majority of 6th grade students are not quite ready (maturity-wise) for a large, comprehensive middle school experience. Every year we look at data that shows 6th grade middle school students struggling with achievement, attendance, and behavior at a higher rate than our elementary schools. We believe more time in the elementary setting will help these students mature and be leaders in their elementary schools so that they can be ready for success in a junior high model.

There are many more pros and cons this conversation can spark, but it is my belief that a restructure of this nature would provide more opportunities for more students in the area of college and career readiness and prepare us for the changing demographics of our community.

I have shared these ideas with staff and some parents have contacted me both in support and in opposition to a change of this nature. As a result, I have been scheduling meetings with parents. If you would like to have me come to your school, please contact your school's principal.

The biggest question I am hearing from parents is whether or not this change will require that their child involuntarily move schools next year. I can assure you that our district places a high value on reducing mobility and keeping students in one school whenever possible. We would make every effort to not have students make unnecessary transitions.

The school board will vote on boundary proposal at their February board meeting. If they decide to adjust boundaries, we will survey parents whether or not they would like to keep their child in the school they are currently attending next year. Once we answer that question, we will have data to make a good decision regarding the grade configuration of our schools.

Thank you for engaging in this important dialog about how we can improve options, opportunities, and outcomes for our students.

Sincerely,

Dr Robert Hess
Superintendent
Lebanon Community Schools

(Enclosure C-1)

January 9, 2016

Dear Parents:

At their December meeting the school board discussed the concept of restructuring our district into five K-6 schools, one K-8 (Lacomb), and making Seven Oak a 7-8 school. Though this move would represent a change in our district, there are several advantages to this restructure that make it a good idea to explore:

- 1) Our town is growing. Rezoning would help us to shift populations of students to where we know the growth will be occurring over the next 10-15 years so that we do not need to build additional schools at additional cost. We currently have 1689 students in grades K-6 across the district (including Lacomb). Rezoning would allow us to maximize space and serve up to 2,100 students in grades K-6 in the years to come with our current elementary schools.
- 2) This change would require rezoning our school district so that each K-6 school would have approximately 350 students (two teachers per grade level on average). This is an ideal size for an elementary school and allows us to be more efficient with our resources. All of our elementary schools have enough classrooms to support 350 students.
- 3) Having a 7-8 Junior High that is attended by at least 90% of our students would allow us to provide more opportunities to more students in the areas of AVID, band, choir, CTE programs, world languages, art, drama, advanced classes, interventions, and athletics. We believe more opportunities will lead to higher engagement, which will lead to greater attendance, and eventually more students being better prepared and more successful (a higher graduation rate at LHS).
- 4) Only 55% of our current middle school students (grades 6-8) have the experience of navigating a large comprehensive secondary school. As a result, a significant number of our 9th graders enter high school without any experience in a larger setting. Every year we see the result of this lack of experience impacting the performance of our 9th grade students.
- 5) Since we currently serve about 55% of our students in grades 6-8 at Seven Oak, the opportunities nearly half of our students receive are not equitable. We cannot afford (nor have been able to) replicate those opportunities throughout the district. Over the past few years through open enrollment, we are noticing more and more students with transportation means migrating to Seven Oak for the additional opportunities a comprehensive secondary school can provide.

(Enclosure C-1)

2015/2016 ENROLLMENT BY GRADE / BY SCHOOL

	CAS	GNA	RIV	HCR	LAC	PIO	SOK	LHS	TOTAL
K	47	43	52	28	19	47			236
1	61	55	71	30	18	51			286
2	62	41	72	30	24	51			280
3	70	62	76	30	19	53			310
4	65	49	76	37	30	60			317
5	55	38	55	39	17	39			243
6				34	31	31	177		273
7				24	33	42	162		261
8				36	30	50	200		316
9								297	297
10								327	327
11								342	342
12								499	499

2015-16 TOTAL	360	288	402	288	221	424	539	1465	3987
----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------	------

STUDENT CAPACITY BY SCHOOL

CAPACITY	500	500	500	400	350	500	750	1475	4975
-----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------	------

REMAINING AVAILABLE CAPACITY BY SCHOOL

Open Seats	140	212	98	112	129	76	211	10	988
-------------------	-----	-----	----	-----	-----	----	-----	----	-----

2016/2017 ENROLLMENT BY GRADE / BY SCHOOL K-6 Model

	CAS	GNA	RIV	HCR	LAC	PIO	SOK	LHS	TOTAL
K	47	43	52	28	19	47			236
1	47	43	52	30	18	51			241
2	61	55	71	30	24	51			292
3	62	41	72	30	19	53			277
4	70	62	76	37	30	60			335
5	65	49	76	39	17	39			285
6	55	38	55	34	31	31	TBD		244
7				24	33	42	162		261
8				36	30	50	200		316
9								297	297
10								327	327
11								342	342
12								499	499

2015-16 TOTAL	360	288	402	288	221	424	362	1465	3810
----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------	------

STUDENT CAPACITY BY SCHOOL

CAPACITY	500	500	500	400	350	500	750	1475	4975
-----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------	------

REMAINING AVAILABLE CAPACITY BY SCHOOL

Open Seats	140	212	98	112	129	76	388	10	1165
-------------------	-----	-----	----	-----	-----	----	-----	----	------

Sister School Configuration 2016-2017 No BC

	CAS			RIV			GNA			PIO		
PK	50	4	20-1				50	4	20-1			
K	91	4	23-1				98	4	25-1			
1	124	5	25-1				114	5	23-1			
2	126	5	25-1				100	4	25-1			
3				138	6	23-1				123	5	25-1
4				133	6	22-1				117	5	23-1
5				102	4	25-1				117	5	23-1
6				102	4	25-1				88	4	22-1
7												
8												
9	Staffing	18			20			17			19	
10												
11												
12												

341

475

312

445

BC

35

35

11

11

306

440

323

456

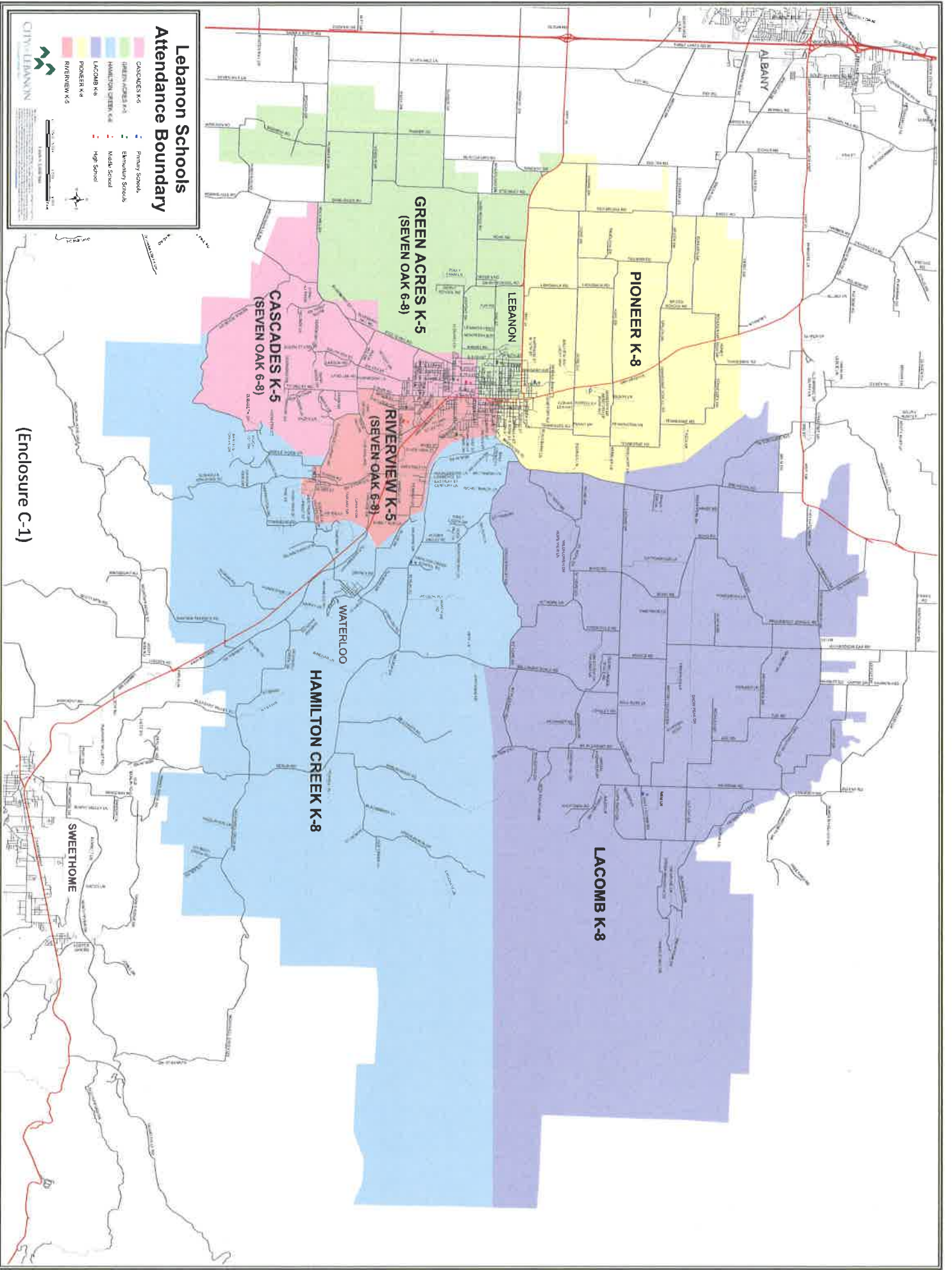
Tot. 746

Avg. 338

Tot. 779

Avg. 368

	Cascades	Riv	GA	Pio	SOK	HCR	LAC
Resident Students	435	381	325	325	565	253	209
Open In	38	92	57	155	54	75	22
Total	473	473	382	480	619	328	231
Current Enrollment	360	402	288	424	539	288	221
Open Out	113	71	94	56	80	40	10
Net OE	75	21	37	99	26	35	12
K-6 Current Enrollment	415	457	363	332	414	288	221
K-6 Resident Students	490	440	365	285	414		
k-6 CE with BC	348	371	385	433	414	336	221
P-2 3-6 Projected	341	475	312	445	414	288	221
P-2 3-6 Proj with BC	306	440	323	456	414	336	221
Total	746		779				



(Enclosure C-1)