



2018-2019 Elementary Redistricting

“January 2019 - Frequently Asked Questions”

Q: Will Morrow Elementary School be completed on time?

A: All indications as of now are that Morrow Elementary will open on time for the August, 2019 start of school.

Q: When do you think the redistricting plan will be complete?

A: The plan is scheduled to be presented at the March, 2019 Board of Education meeting. The plan could be completed as early as late January, in February, or early March. The committee is on a schedule to meet every other week in order to leave plenty of time so they don't feel rushed.

Q: Have there been any updates to the process or the timeline?

A: The process is the same as was outlined. The January 10th letter posted on the district website lists more details related to the most recent steps in the process.

The only change in the timeline is that the district has decided to post the principal position for Morrow Elementary in late January. The reason this has been moved up on the calendar is to provide time for interviews and, hopefully, hire the principal by early March. With the teacher shortage in our state, we believe this is wise so that all the schools in the district will have a principal and we have the chance to hire the highest caliber teachers for your children.

Q: What are some of the challenges when a redistricting plan is created?

A: Here are a few items the committee has had to consider:

- Different areas of Owasso have different population densities. Therefore, there are higher concentrations of students in some areas than others.
- Geographically, distances from neighborhoods to the schools is different through city streets than “as the crow flies” so the committee must consider transportation routes.
- No decision is made in isolation. There are many possibilities and each change in a boundary line affects other items. The team has discussed the “domino effect” frequently in their work.
- Trying to anticipate every future population change in a school district is challenging. The team must make the very best decision with the information at hand today. It helps to have many people collaborating to see a variety of items.

Q: Did the demographer take into consideration the areas of growth in our district?

A: Yes. The demographer met with the City of Owasso to study new housing starts within our district. The committee those areas of new housing starts into consideration with the options they created.

Q: Will members of the community get to see the new boundary map before the Board of Education votes on it?

A: Yes. Once the committee has finished its work, it is the intention of the district to share the map with the community. We will likely schedule several meetings so that parents can view the map and hear the “story” behind how it was created. Those meetings won’t be set until the committee finishes its work.

If, after reading these January 2019 FAQs and the other information on the district website you have questions please feel free to email Dr. Amy Fichtner, Superintendent, at amy.fichtner@owassops.org.

FAQs will continue to be updated throughout the redistricting process.