

Summary of Public Comments

12/14/2021

Below is a summary of comments that were received through our Public Comment form specific to the December 14 board meeting as of 4:00 p.m. on 12/13/21. A total of 24 comments were received regarding the following topics:

- **Board Zone Redistricting (8 for map 1, 12 for map 2, 1 opposed to redistricting)**
- **Conflict in Schools/SRO's**
- **Board Members**

Board Zone Redistricting – Support Alternative 1

- The fairest decision
- Balances high school feeder areas, populations, natural geography and equity
- Closely resembles current zones
- Follows elementary boundaries
- Stronger representation for all by keeping known communities of interest intact
- Protects voting rights of marginalized communities
- Minimally disruptive
- Allows for continuity

Board Zone Redistricting – Against Alternative 1

- Political/gerrymandering only
- Saves Carson-Cottingham's seat
- Supports an unhealthy agenda from some board members

Board Zone Redistricting – Support Alternative 2

- Directors should live in the zone they represent
- South and West split is not good
- Equal division
- Makes voting and campaigning easier
- More equity now and in the future
- Most comprehensive/accurate plan
- Divides by demographics and geographics

Board Zone Redistricting – Against Alternative 2

- Doesn't support geographical boundaries
- Breaks up central Salem
- Puts two current board members in Zone 2, making four seats up for election in 2023 – too much turnover
- Keeps South Salem together
- Poorly executed and doesn't solve any issues

Conflict in Schools/SRO's

- Writer felt Board Chair was not concerned about the safety of his children so others should not be either. Some writers support the return of SRO's and others do not. Writers also want to know how the money saved from no longer having SRO's is being used.

Board Members

- Some writers support Danielle Bethell and others do not. They felt she should clear things up regarding her comments. Some feel she cannot properly assess what is best for all Salem-Keizer students considering the comments she made about her family. Some have asked for her to resign.
- Most writers have asked that Ashley Carson-Cottingham and Osvaldo Avila recuse themselves from any further discussion on redistricting – they have made this political and the advantages to them are hard to overlook.