Public invited to review draft school boundaries

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Comments sought as committee presents first draft of school attendance area map adjustments

Bend-La Pine Schools invite the community to weigh-in as they begin the second of three rounds of community meetings designed to gather input as school attendance areas are adjusted to better balance student enrollment around the district. Using public input gathered at meetings in November and December, the 32-member Boundary Committee has developed draft attendance boundaries for the 24 current schools, and three new elementary schools.The draft maps will be available for review at three community forums scheduled for:

January 29

Cascade Middle School6 p.m. January 30RE Jewell Elementary School6 p.m. January 31La Pine Elementary School6 p.m.

Community members unable to attend the meetings, but interested in reviewing and commenting on the proposed boundary changes, are encouraged to visit www.boundary.bend.k12.or.us. Comments can be posted using the online survey tool located on the web page. Comments will be collected through Tuesday, February 5. Maps will be posted to the web this week.â€œDuring the community forums we will share maps with proposed elementary, middle and high school boundaries and ask attendees for their comments and suggestions,â€• said Deputy Superintendent Ron Wilkinson. â€œMaps will be positioned around the room and the input of attendees will be captured for the committeeâ€™s use.â€• Wilkinson says that following this round of forums and public input, the committee may make adjustments to the proposed boundaries. The third series of public meetings are scheduled for mid-to-late February. A final recommendation is due to the superintendent by March 1.Three new elementary schools, two in Bend and one in La Pine, are being built thanks to the 2006 voter approved $119 million school bond. Once complete, the new schools will provide classroom space for an additional 1,500 students. Currently, nearly 16,000 students attend Bend-La Pine Schools.â€œWe look forward to hearing from the committee, and the community, to better understand their needs and interests as we begin to define the future attendance areas for our schools,â€• said Superintendent Doug Nelson. â€œI encourage students, parents, staff, business members and our entire community to continue their involvement in this great process â€“ we look forward to hearing many voices.â€•