

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

S. Dallas Dance, Ph.D., Superintendent

6901 Charles Street Towson, MD • 21204-3711

Lutherville Laboratory Community Questions and Responses

Question	Response
<p>1. Why would BCPS want to eliminate a nationally recognized Magnet School of Excellence (as well as nationally recognized Magnet Teacher of the Year) instead of preserving it? How does this elimination allow BCPS to offer equitable accessibility countywide?</p>	<p>Lutherville Lab is currently still considered a magnet school. There has been no change to the instructional program.</p>
<p>2. If a 5-year plan has not been presented and approved by the board, why has Lutherville Lab been removed from the magnet application and from the magnet programs on the Web site?</p>	<p>Lutherville Lab was not included in the brochure because of current capacity and future enrollment trends at the school.</p>
<p>3. What were the specific reasons behind removing Lutherville Lab's magnet status? Why was Lutherville Lab chosen to lose their status over other elementary magnet programs?</p>	<p>Lutherville Lab's magnet status for the 2014-2015 school year has not changed.</p>
<p>4. How does the decision to remove the Lutherville Lab magnet status reflect the responsibilities that the Magnet Task Force was to undertake as outlined in the Magnet Audit Report available to the public on the BCPS Web site?</p>	<p>Currently, no decision has been made to remove the magnet status from Lutherville Lab. The decision at this time is to limit the student enrollment to the established boundary.</p>

Lutherville Laboratory Community Questions and Responses

Question	Response
<p>5. How were the stakeholders chosen to serve on the Magnet Task Force? And in what capacity were they involved in the decision to eliminate Lutherville Lab's magnet status?</p>	<p>The current Magnet Task Force consists of 63 members. Fifty-four members participated last spring to write the 5-Year Magnet Programs Strategic Plan in response to the findings and recommendations in the 2013 Magnet Audit (conducted by Metis Associates). The task force is comprised of: principals, students, parents, and teachers of magnet and nonmagnet schools, an area advisory representative, school counselor, TABCO representative, business community representatives, a representative from CCBC, representatives from the Chamber of Commerce and the Department of Economic Development, and BCPS central office staff. The following lists the categories and number of representatives from each category who serve on the Magnet Task Force.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 – Principals (magnet/nonmagnet schools) 3 – Students (magnet/nonmagnet schools) 4 – Teachers (magnet/nonmagnet schools) 3 – Parents (GT, special education, PTA) 1 – Area advisory council 1 – School-based counselor 1 – TABCO 3 – Business community 1 – CCBC 4 – Chamber of Commerce 1 – Secondary School Administrators Assoc. 1 – Department of Economic Development 1 – Magnet Schools of America 32 – BCPS central office (curriculum and instruction; business services; human resources; law office; organizational development; and research, accountability, assessment, and performance management) <p>63 – TOTAL</p> <p>A list of recommended stakeholder groups was recommended to the superintendent and he and his staff identified additional stakeholder groups that should be included. Contacts were made to leaders of the stakeholders groups to either serve on the task force or to recommend a representative.</p>

**Lutherville Laboratory
Community Questions and Responses**

Question	Response
<p>6. How often has the task force met?</p>	<p>The Magnet Task Force convened its first meeting on December 19, 2013. It met as a whole group once a month for the next 3 months (January, February, and March, 2014). A work group, that received input from the task force and incorporated that into the construction of a strategic plan, met several times (8 or 9 times) over the three months (January – March, 2014).</p> <p>This fall, the task force as a whole met twice in August and once in September, 2014. It is anticipated that the task force will meet as a whole committee once a month for the rest of the school year. The task force is also subdivided into 5 work groups to address the 5 major goals in the strategic plan. Each work group has met at least once, and some have met multiple times over the last month and a half.</p> <p>The task force reports to the chief academic officer, Verletta White. There will be community meetings in the spring to discuss the recommendations and allow the community to provide input.</p>
<p>7. If the final recommendations of the magnet audit were not presented to the board as of yet, how was a decision made to remove Lutherville’s magnet status?</p>	<p>At this point a decision has not been made to remove Lutherville Lab’s magnet status, only to limit enrollment to its boundary.</p>
<p>8. What will be happening with current enrolled magnet students who are not within the school boundary? If the students remain at the school, will funding also remain for those “magnet” students?</p>	<p>All students currently enrolled in Lutherville Lab, regardless of whether they are living within or outside the boundary, will be able to remain at Lutherville Lab through their fifth grade year. Recommendations for funding will be discussed once recommendations from the Magnet Task Force are presented, discussed, and approved.</p>

Lutherville Laboratory Community Questions and Responses

Question	Response
<p>9. The families that applied for the magnet program were given expectations regarding the curriculum/programs offered. Would these students be accepted into another magnet program offering the same areas of focus as Lutherville Lab's current magnet program?</p>	<p>Families can request special permission to any school, as permitted by Board Policy and Superintendent's Rule 5140, and have the option of applying to other elementary magnet programs in the county.</p>
<p>10. Is BCPS proposing that all currently enrolled students are able to remain at Lutherville Lab if the student moves out of the Lutherville Lab zone?</p>	<p>Yes, all currently enrolled students are able to remain at Lutherville Lab, even if the student moves out of the Lutherville Lab zone.</p>
<p>11. If it was known that redistricting was going to affect the number of seats available to magnet students, why wasn't the decision to eliminate Lutherville Lab's magnet status delayed until it was known how many seats would be available?</p>	<p>At this point a decision has not been made to remove Lutherville Lab's magnet status, only to limit enrollment to its boundary.</p>
<p>12. How will the school budget be impacted? What is the actual budget for this year and the proposed budget for Lutherville Lab next year (2015-2016)?</p>	<p>Recommendations for funding will be discussed once recommendations from the Magnet Task Force are presented, discussed, and approved.</p>
<p>13. With the loss of magnet status, which will decrease the budget, what changes to the curriculum and scholastic abilities will occur, as well as the enrichment programs that are currently offered? Will there be staffing changes as a result?</p>	<p>At this point, Lutherville Lab has not lost its magnet status. Once the recommendations are made and finalized, additional decisions will be made and future meetings can be scheduled. The Lutherville Lab community is encouraged to attend the community forum meetings in the spring concerning the recommendations of the Magnet Task Force. Mr. Buettner will make sure that information is sent home concerning the dates, times, and locations.</p>

Lutherville Laboratory Community Questions and Responses

Question	Response
<p>14. How will we get word from you about the decisions/recommendations from the task force?</p>	<p>Mrs. Lichter will inform Mr. Buettner of the date when the recommendations will be presented to the superintendent. She will also inform Mr. Buettner of the dates for the community forums. The forums will provide the community a chance to share their views concerning the recommendations made to the superintendent. Mr. Buettner will inform his school community of these dates.</p>
<p>15. Will there be any way for funding to stay (in light of the students that are staying here through the fifth grade)?</p>	<p>Funding decisions will be made through the recommendations of the task force.</p>
<p>16. Why was Lutherville Lab removed from the brochure/pamphlet before the findings from the task force were shared?</p>	<p>Lutherville Lab was removed due to capacity issues. Students from outside the boundary are no longer being considered for enrollment to Lutherville Lab. It is considered a neighborhood magnet school, which is a school that has a definitive boundary and does not accept students outside of the boundary.</p>
<p>17. Is there any way there can be representation from the schools whose names were removed from the brochure? Can they join the task force now?</p>	<p>The task force currently has parent representation. The parents are representing BCPS. Additional task force members are not being added.</p>
<p>18. Are the current magnet schools Title I schools, and how does the funding work if so?</p>	<p>Halstead Academy and Church Lane Elementary are Title I schools. Title I funding is separate from magnet funding. The use of Title I funds is aligned with state and federal guidelines.</p>
<p>19. Are Wellwood and Church Lane parents on the Task Force?</p>	<p>There are currently parents on the task force who are representing BCPS.</p>

**Lutherville Laboratory
Community Questions and Responses**

Question	Response
<p>20. Why did redistricting occur without magnet school discussion? What part of the discussion about redistricting reflected the magnet school numbers/enrollment?</p>	<p>The purpose of the redistricting committee was to form a boundary for Mays Chapel Elementary while reducing overcrowding in neighboring schools. The work of the committee focused on enrollment numbers for students who lived within Lutherville's boundary. The number of students who attended Lutherville Lab, but live outside the boundary, were also shared with the committee.</p>

**Cromwell Valley Elementary Regional Magnet School
Community Questions and Responses**

Question	Response
7. What is Dr. Dance’s plan for students during construction/expansion to CVE?	The design is in the very early stages of development. However, it is currently anticipated that the project will be phased to allow all students to remain on campus. These students will have to be located either in portions of the existing building not under construction, in the newly built addition (which will be used as “swing space”), or in relocatable classrooms brought in specifically for this purpose.
8. When will construction begin? How long is CVE expected to be under construction? Will children be in trailers?	It is anticipated that construction will begin in the spring of 2015 with a substantial completion in August 2016. It is likely that some students will be housed at one time or another in relocatable classrooms during construction.
9. When expanding CVE, it is important to have sensible plans to expand parking, cafeteria, gymnasium, and outdoor play spaces. Can the CVE principal, and/or other key CVE contacts, please be included as part of this planning process?	It is part of the standard procedures for all projects to include the principal and other key curriculum and instruction representatives in the planning and design process.
10. Please define a “neighborhood magnet” vs. a county magnet school, and how this applies to CVE.	A neighborhood magnet is a school that has a definitive boundary and does not accept students outside of that boundary. The magnet program remains the same. Currently, CVE does not have a boundary and accepts students through the magnet application process. Once a boundary is established for the school, all students within the CVE boundary will be zoned to attend CVE.

**Cromwell Valley Elementary Regional Magnet School
Community Questions and Responses**

Question	Response
<p>11. How will the integration into a neighborhood school be done?</p>	<p>The process for establishing a boundary for CVE will begin during the 2015-2016 school year based on the tentative completion date of the renovation in August 2016. Once a boundary has been established, families will be informed in early Spring 2016 to which schools their children will be attending.</p>
<p>12. Will bus service continue for students who are not in the catchment area?</p>	<p>BCPS transportation is not provided for students who reside outside of the established transportation zone of a magnet program. School bus transportation is provided from established stops for elementary school students in the catchment area who must walk more than one (1) mile to the assigned school.</p>
<p>13. For the siblings who are allowed in the next two school years, will they be “kicked out” when the boundaries take place, or will they be able to stay through completion of the fifth grade?</p>	<p>Sibling and walkers are eligible for priority placement at CVE for school years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016, and are subject to Superintendent’s Rule 5140, Special Permission Transfer, when CVE has a defined boundary. This means that siblings/walkers who are in Grades K to 2, and do not have an older sibling in Grade 4 or 5, would need to go to their home school if not included in the new boundary for CVE. Those siblings/walkers who are in Grades K to 2, and have an older sibling in Grade 4 or 5, will be allowed to remain until their terminal year.</p>
<p>14. Please explain why your February 10th letter to Cromwell Valley Elementary parents addressed the seat addition as a response to the overcrowding in the Central area. I have been to the numerous town meetings and am aware of the overcrowding issue. Bringing the Halstead students from a school that is underpopulated to CVE is not the same issue, correct? Please explain why you are labeling it as such.</p>	<p>The 189-seat addition to CVE and the 100-seat addition to the former Loch Raven Elementary School do increase the number of seats in the central area. The student population at Halstead will be relocated to the former Loch Raven ES. This allows the current building housing Halstead students to be repurposed with community input and would provide additional seats for the central area and countywide.</p>

**Cromwell Valley Elementary Regional Magnet School
Community Questions and Responses**

Question	Response
<p>15. Since Cromwell Valley Elementary will be considered a neighborhood magnet school, will they still be a member of the Magnet Schools of America?</p>	<p>BCPS holds a district membership to Magnet Schools of America, so all of our schools are eligible to participate in MSA activities and conferences, and have access to their resources and services.</p>
<p>16. If a child will be entering kindergarten in the 2016-2017 school year and has an older sibling in the fourth or fifth grade, will that entering kindergartener be allowed to complete all elementary years at Cromwell Valley?</p>	<p>The tentative completion of the addition is scheduled for August 2016. Only those incoming kindergarteners who reside within the boundary will be able to attend CVE. The sibling rule for fourth and fifth graders only applies to those students who would be currently enrolled at that time. Not those who would enter in August.</p>
<p>17. We are losing a kindergarten teacher for this upcoming school year 2014-2015. Why not have the neighborhood families who currently get to choose whether they attend Cromwell Valley or Hampton Elementary go ahead and switch to Cromwell Valley this coming school year? This would allow CVE to retain the current team of kindergarten teachers currently in place as well as keep the existing first grade team that potentially could be reduced the following school year. Moreover, it reduces the stress on those families who will have to change to CVE in two years. For example, if a family has a kindergartener who is starting Hampton this fall, then in two years, they will have to change schools. Why not have them just begin at CVE, so there is less stress on the children and families?</p>	<p>Until the Boundary Committee does its work, we do not know the footprint of the CVE boundary. This year, priority placement for CVE was given to siblings and walkers so parents had the opportunity to enroll their children if they had siblings at CVE or if their child could walk.</p>