

NE Elementary Community Boundary Study Public Email Log: 11/01/17 to 11/03/17

Date: 11/01/2017, 2051 hrs

Name: Michele Hogan

Boundary Committee Members,

I recently attended the boundary committee community meeting and have been following the concerns of others, especially from the community considered PB 30. I understand that they have concerns regarding safety and diversity. I believe that safety and diversity should be considered as the boundary process continues and I adamantly feel that we can address both of those concerns with the options that the committee has presented (particularly options B & C). With this community's request to stay as a part of Chapel Hill, there will be an impact on Chapel Hill or Vincent Farm. If this community stays, that will cause an increase in the enrollment at Chapel Hill. If this community rejoins and we do not alleviate the numbers at Vincent Farm Elementary, there will be safety concerns at Vincent Farm due to the enrollment numbers and projected developments. Regarding diversity, it is clearly being addressed in the options presented by the boundary committee. With the Fieldcrest community attending Chapel Hill, diversity will be similar to the PB-30 community. With regards to safety, I believe that the transportation concern presented by PB 30 community members can be addressed by BCPS by changing the routes/roads that the buses use to navigate between the school and communities. When discussing student safety, Vincent Farm Elementary School has a current enrollment of approximately 940 and, although it will receive some relief from the Victory Villa boundary study, the potential for growth in the Vincent Farm School district is still quite large. I believe that the NE boundary committee needs to consider the needs of ALL schools for student safety. It is important that the committee look at all factors not focusing on just one or two. It is imperative that we look out for all students that are affected by the redistricting.

Additionally, one of the discussions that has occurred at the boundary committee meetings has revolved around keeping neighboring communities together when redistricting occurs. The communities along the Route 7/Allender Road corridor (Fieldcrest, New Forge, and Allender Rd) are connected by sidewalks or an extremely close proximity. These communities are slated to attend Chapel Hill and it seems appropriate that it stay that way given the sense of community between all these housing developments and the close proximity to Chapel Hill Elementary. These communities are actually closer to CHE than VFES. Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

Michele Hogan Parent

Date: 11/01/2017, 2116 hrs

Name: Loni

Comments: I have been watching the videos and reading the emails and want to address the safety concerns. What is unsafe is overcrowding. Unsafe is having more children than bus seats. Unsafe is just squeezing more kids in a cafeteria or auditorium. Unsafe is having one nurse for almost 800 kids. We must look at what is best for the overall communities in the area. We have been begging for relief and now we have been given an opportunity. We need to make decisions best for the students. I moved into my house zoned for Chapel Hill. Chapel Hill is 1.4 miles away while Vincent Farm is 3.5 miles away. I did not want my kids to be on a Pulaski Highway. My neighborhood does not have sidewalks. Their bus has to make a left hand turn on Ebenezer from Pulaski Highway. These are all the same concerns that the parents of children who will be redistricted to the new northeast school from Chapel Hill. It is only human to fear the unknown. It is also easy to interchange the words unsafe and uncomfortable. Does the situation really present as unsafe for the kids or is it uncomfortable for parents? It is not fair to say my child can do it but it is unsafe for your child. My child does ride the bus on Pulaski highway. On the days that I drive him, I have watched his bus driver be more safe than the cars on the highway. His bus stop was on a main road on someone's driveway. I called to move it towards our corner because we have no sidewalks. BCPS was very reasonable when I addressed the safety concerns of elementary school kids walking in the streets. Let's not be concerned about how buses can turn. The middle school bus drives up Philadelphia Road and makes a safe U turn in a parking lot. It adds minutes to the commute but I applaud the extra effort for student safety. Let's address the overcrowding and provide the most relief to all the communities. Change is not easy. Embrace it and good luck.

Date: 11/01/2017, 2116 hrs

Name: Corinne Pohlner

Comments: Hello, Please reconsider sending students that live on Gerst Road in the Glenside Farms neighborhood of Perry Hall to the new North East school. We live less than a mile from Chapel Hill. In addition, the larger area of our neighbor is zoned to go to Chapel Hill. Why split up a neighborhood? Please keep us all at Chapel Hill! Thanks for your consideration!

Date: 11/01/2017, 2225 hrs

Name: Kate Sabol

Hi, I'm writing this email in support of the Board's recommendations for Options A, B and C as listed on the current survey, with options B & C being the preferred choices. As the parent of twin girls in 1st, VFES is the only school we've known and have enjoyed being a part of the community for the last two years. That being said, there are several concerns regarding the overcrowding/safety issues with keeping the school at the capacity it currently resides. There is certainly a strain on resources with nearly 900 students, teachers and staff present each day with the school already utilizing portable learning areas. I also support keeping the 3 communities in/around New Forge and Allender Roads together; we are fortunate to have this extended community as support the move to CHES. This move also decreases the chance that we would be redistricted again in the near future. Thanks to the committee for the hardwork being done in this process; as a Fieldcrest parent, I support the move to Chapel Hill. Kate Dzintars

Date: 11/02/2017, 0911 hrs

Name: Joan Garrity

Comments: Vincent Farm Deserves Relief! While I live in a community that appears to be in the Chapel Hill area on all the maps - and I would be happy for my granddaughter, for whom I am the custodial parent, to attend Chapel Hill -- I am very concerned about the fact that Vincent Farm ES, the school she currently attends, will remain badly overcrowded, and just become more so, based on the most-recently proposed options. In addition, VFES is in an area that is slated to have many more new homes, townhouses, and apartments built, hence many new students and even greater overcrowding. I thought this was supposed to be a group decision, and yet one member of the committee is proposing new options of his own design, and these options serve only to minimize the impact on Chapel Hill. This is not the way this process is supposed to work. This is not acceptable. Joan Garrity

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Date: 11/02/2017, 0931 hrs

Name: Craig Blinke

Many studies have found that larger classroom size and transitioning schools can be detrimental to the education of a young child. This information is readily available, and is the basis for my suggested change below.

Proposal (based on Option C) : Leave PB30 in Chapel Hill and leave PB9, PB8 and PB5 in Vincent Farm.

The current proposed map has the new school close to capacity day 1. There are no fields and limited playground space at his school. It is well known that the new school is not being designed with capacity for mobile units. Even if they found a way to put up mobiles, would that take away from the playground or other play space, there just isn't space. Both Chapel Hill and Vincent Farm have had very strong test scores and have proven to strong schools for many years with mobiles on site. This can easily be argued that the class size with the ability to add mobiles, allows these children to get more attention from their teachers.

By leaving PB30 in Chapel Hill, this would give the new school a little relief at the onset and still have Chapel Hill below the attendance level they are suggesting today. Giving the age of the PB30 neighborhood and vesting, the attendance number should drop from 42 to a projected 20 over the next 5 to 7 years. Also giving relief to Chapel Hill. In addition, WHEN the new school is over capacity, PB30 would be the obvious choice to send back to Chapel Hill. (given the fact that redistricting would be needed, or classroom size will suffer) Requiring all of those families to transition schools twice in a short time.

Leaving PB9, PB8 and PB5 in Vincent Farm. Given the move above, PB would allow Chapel Hill to be 10 kids under the current proposed option C. At the same time giving the new school a little more room to grow without being over capacity right away. The 54 kids staying at Vincent Farm, will still leave Vincent Farm below capacity as well. Vincent Farm will get additional relief from the new school in 2020 as well. Oliver Beach and Chase are both under capacity, giving additional options for Vincent Farm relief in the future. There is also no guarantee we don't have some sort of housing market hurdle in the next 5 years, slowing or halting some of the planned development that would send new kids to Vincent Farm.

Given the fact that PB9 has a completely separate entrance off of Allender road from the neighborhoods at PB10 and PB11 that enter off of route 7. The communities are geographically separate so there is no concern of splitting this neighborhoods up, since that aren't together to begin with. In addition to the capacity issues addressed above, my suggestion will require 96 less kids to transition schools.

Thank you for your consideration. Craig Blinke

Cited research and references:

Editorial Projects in Education Research Center. (2011, July 1). Issues A-Z: Class Size. Education Week. Retrieved Month Day, Year from <http://www.edweek.org/ew/issues/class-size/>

Time.com. (2014, 20 February). Alice Park: Switching Schools May Give Your Kids Psychotic Symptoms. <http://time.com/8854/study-switching-schools-may-make-your-kids-psychotic/>

Date: 11/02/2017, 1004 hrs

Name: Pat McGraw

Comments: While I live in a community that appears to be in the Chapel Hill area on all the maps I am very concerned that changes are being suggested which may lead to the relocation/redistribution of our neighborhood's children from Chapel Hill to other schools. We moved to this neighborhood for the schools and would be extremely disappointed if changes were made that moved our children from Chapel Hill - and I would like the strongly suggest that this not happen.

Date: 11/02/2017, 1406 hrs

Name: Mary Walter

I'm very confused about the map planned by John Kantorski. He refers to Route 7 as a continuous border for Vincent Farm, yet he wants to pull just PB10 which is part of Route 7. Route 7 also extends all the way down to King Avenue. If Route 7 becomes a hard boundary, shouldn't that boundary continue all the way? PB30 wants to use Honeygo Boulevard as a major road boundary but only by their neighborhood. When Honeygo Boulevard extends all the way to Route 1. Anyone else seeing a pattern here of Chapel Hill using roads and boundaries only to further their personal agendas???

JT Walter

Date: 11/02/2017, 2336 hrs

Name: Jill Cherundolo

To whom it may concern,

I have been actively following this boundary study process from the beginning in early September by either attending the meetings as an observer or watching the meetings online.

I was very surprised earlier in this boundary study process when an option was made from a single committee person's opinion. It is a common understanding that boundary options would only occur based on the feedback from the entire committee, which includes a group of unbiased parents, teachers and principals.

After reading this week's public email log I observed again that this same committee person came up with another option. It is very concerning that this process might continue to be allowed to happen again and I am stating for the record that this option should NOT be considered and presented as a new map.

In addition, based on information communicated during the October 18, 2017 meeting, Joppa View and Perry Hall Elementary are now the only 2 schools involved in the current boundary study to potentially get more relief with the Ridge Rd Elementary School. Because of this, Vincent Farm Elementary must be included in the current study for relief because the school is overcrowded and will only continue to get more overcrowded. Vincent Farm Elementary School needs to be provided relief now so they don't have to go thru a 3rd boundary study within a 3 year period.

If these issues aren't addressed you are impacting all of the students in the largest school in the county. There are many logistics and safety concerns for a school our size. Vincent Farm should expect relief during this boundary study. It would be extremely unfair not to address these issues now.

Thank you, Jill Cherundolo

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Date: 11/03/2017, 0934 hrs

Name: Greg Sauer

I have recently read many concerns and heard the concerns of the community considered PB 30. I have heard many of these concerns regarding safety and diversity. I believe that safety and diversity should be considered as the boundary process continues. I believe that we can address both of those concerns with the options that the committee has presented (option B & C). With this community's request to stay as a part of Chapel Hill, there will be an impact on Chapel Hill or Vincent Farm. If this community rejoins, that will cause an increase in the enrollment at Chapel Hill. If this community rejoins and we do not alleviate the numbers at Vincent Farm Elementary, there will be safety concerns at Vincent Farm due to the enrollment numbers and projected developments. Regarding diversity, it is already addressed in the options presented by the boundary committee. The Fieldcrest community attending Chapel Hill diversity will be similar to PB-30 community. With regards to safety, I believe that the transportation concern presented by PB 30 community members can be addressed. On the school bus, this could be addressed by making a right onto Joppa, going around the circle and then the bus will have the light at Honeygo and Joppa to cross Honeygo Blvd. Another option could be to continue down Honeygo with longer time to make a left on Cross Rd. continue to Chapel or Snyder Ln. and enter to the new NE school this way. If we are focused on student safety, Vincent Farm Elementary School has a current enrollment of 935, it will receive some relief from the Victory Villa boundary study, but the potential for growth in the Vincent Farm School district is huge. We need to consider all schools for student safety. It is important that as a committee and a county, we are looking at all factors not focusing on just one or two. We must look out for all students. Graig Sauer, parent

Date: 11/03/2017, 1033 hrs

Name: Tony Forno

Comments: As a concerned parent and former VFES PTA board member I wanted to voice that Vincent Farm Elementary School needs relief now!! VFES has been growing fast in the last couple years and is currently at 129% capacity. We can no longer have many activities as the school and its students and parents far exceed the capacities of the school, its rooms and its parking lot. The students are suffering as the school can not be utilized as it was designed since it was not designed to hold the extra 200+ students it has. Regarding John Kantorski's comments- I thought as part of the NE boundary study committee you were supposed to remain unbiased? Your comments are certainly leaning one way. I thought committee members were not supposed to voice a side and be more informational. If the people in your neighborhood want to communicate what they want that should be up to them. I also found some discrepancies in your data that I will try to address more later. As for VFES holding off until the next year- that is not an option! We are already the largest school in Baltimore County and the growth #'s have continued to be under-estimated. We could see close to 1,000 students next year if nothing is done. The Ridge Road school is going to fill up quickly and will likely not be able to give much relief if any to VFES. Based on today's enrollments- Elmwood, Fullerton, Essex, Redhouse Run, McCormick, Shady Springs would fill ~62% of the school. Including Joppa View & Perry Hall would bring them up to ~82% only leaving ~166 seats to reach full capacity. This again is at today's #'s so it's likely all schools will grow and could completely fill the new school without taking 1 student from VFES. I understand this is difficult and many people do not want to change schools, but many of these schools are in densely populated areas and we need to shift boundaries in order to do what's best for the majority of the kids. Thank you, -Tony Forno