

NE Elementary Community Boundary Study Public Email Log: 11/30/17 to 12/05/17

Date: 12/01/2017, 1134 hrs

Name: Chrissy Dunn

Dear Sir./Madam: I am writing you on behalf of my neighborhood, Fieldcrest (PB9). We appreciate your willingness to hear from our community during this time of changes for the North East District. I have studied your proposed redistricting options and really believe the option B is the best for our community. This option would move our children to Chapel Hill from Vincent Farm. While Vincent Farm is a great school, it is grossly overcrowd. This overcrowding limits our ability as parents to be involved with school activities as there is not enough room in the school to host events that would include the parents. While the school does its best to host events based on grade, its still puts parents in a position of have to take off multiple days in order to do these things with multiple children who attend the school. This overcrowding limits our children's outdoor space, as there are already 7 "villas" on the property.

There is also concern of being taking out of the Perry Hall School district. Many of the parents moved there because of its location. They are involved with sports programs and other community programs all with in the Perry Hall/White Marsh area. If you take them out of this district you will essentially be cutting us of from the surround communities. I truly hope that you hear our concerns go with option B.

Thank you, Christina L. Dunn

Date: 12/01/2017, 2032 hrs

Name: Keri Barnes

I am a parent in PB 9. I am voicing my strong support of Option B or C and moving our community from VFES to Chapel Hill. These options seem to best address the issues of overcrowding while maintaining diversity. While both of these options mean that my child would change schools, I feel they are the best options for the NE area of the county and the children in our community. It is unsafe to leave Vincent Farm at or over capacity. Currently, there are over 1,000 staff and students in the school on a daily basis. This means limited space in the classrooms, the cafeteria and bathrooms. The school is unable to host school-wide assemblies and lunch periods start at 11:15 and end at 1:40. There are already 7 portable classrooms on site. While the school has space for more, this would mean losing valuable outdoor play space, which is already limited. Our neighborhood is large. Option B or C, which moves us to Chapel Hill will allow some of the above mentioned issues to be addressed and leaves some room for future growth at Vincent Farm. I appreciate your time and consideration. Keri Barnes

Date: 12/02/2017, 1349 hrs

Name: Cheryl Patterson

Good afternoon, I'm writing you this email asking to please move PB9 from Vincent Farm Elementary(VFES) to Chapel Hill. VFES need relief now! At any day, there are about 1,000 people in the school (staff and students), limited bathroom and cafeteria space and outdoor play place, six to seven classes per grade, lunch times starting at 11:15 and ending at 1:40 so all the children can eat, 4th grade doesn't have lockers and there are already 6 to 7 outdoor classrooms. Thank you for reading this email and considering my request. Cheryl P.

Date: 12/02/2017, 2252 hrs

Name: Priscilla H

Boundary Study To Whom it may concern,

I am a parent of two children who are currently attending Baltimore county public schools Our community is the FieldCrest Community right off Allendar Road. As a parent I have followed a lot of discussions regarding the proposed redistricting. I would love the opportunity to voice my opinion. Purely from a distance perspective, Chapel Hill is the closest school to our neighborhood. Having said this and for the best interest of Baltimore County Schools and the children of our community we should lessen the debate and do what's right for our children.

Vincent farm is currently overcrowded. When the schools was 1st new it was indeed a great school but the current situation is a recipe for poor student / teacher outcomes.

Lessening the crowded situation should be a priority for Baltimore County schools board. Keeping our growing community at Vincent farm will unfortunately only continue to increase the congestion. Chapel Hill close proximity will allow parents to be have easier access to the school for any after hours programs or in case of any unforeseen circumstances. Thank you Priscilla H

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Date: 12/03/2017, 1502 hrs

Name: Jonathan Haag

I am writing in support of Option D. I think Option D strikes a good balance over the concerns that have been raised over the course of these meetings. I would like to point out first and foremost, this option runs Vincent Farm under capacity, and is really not that different than Option B & C from the enrollment stand point at that school. This leaves Vincent Farm room to grow in the near future, while not over-crowding the new school at the onset. This also leaves open in 2 years when we are redoing this all over again, that if the new school is slightly under capacity, that it could absorb more children from either Joppa View or Perry Hall to reduce some of their burden.

Unlike both Chapel Hill and Vincent Farm, the Northeast elementary school, as has been mentioned at every meeting, cannot utilize mobile classrooms. While overcrowding at these schools is not desired, there is a large difference between overcrowded schools and overcrowded classrooms. Coming from a family of elementary educators, overcrowded classrooms place too much burden on the teacher. Further, study after study has correlated poorer outcomes with increased CLASSROOM size. Option D strikes this balance, over reducing the burden on Vincent Farm and does not run the risk of over-crowded classrooms at the Northeast elementary school.

I would like to point out that both Option A and B, place the Northeast school at or overcapacity (108% and 104%, respectively). We have all learned through this process these projections are likely not accurate, and are unfortunately on the low side. So I ask the committee, where will the kids at Northeast elementary sit on day one when the school is actually at 110 to 115%? We know they won't be adding mobile classrooms for this. This school needs to start under capacity, not just for today, but for 3 to 4 years from now when the enrollment only grows.

I would like to also register concerns with Option B. One of the major benefits of a public education is learning and growing together with individuals from varied backgrounds. This serves to make our children and our communities stronger. Of the options presented, Option B appears to have been gerrymandered to exclude multidwelling units (MDU) from the Chapel Hill and Vincent Farm.

While this may not have been intent, it certainly has the effect. By having the new school's district extend down Cowenton Blvd and extend across Rte. 7, the intent was to add the new 200 unit apartment complex being built there into the new school. However, Chapel Hill would then not have any MDUs of similar nature within its district. There has been much debate over whether Honeygo Blvd should be utilized as a major infrastructure barrier that serves as a geographic boundary between Chapel Hill and the Northeast school. However, extending beyond Rte. 7 for the Northeast school crosses two major highways and appears desperate in its attempt to exclude these MDUs and lower income families from attending either Chapel Hill or Vincent Farm. This type of blatant gerrymandering cannot be allowed. There are many other paths to alleviate numbers from Vincent Farm and Chapel Hill that do not exclude individuals based on their socio-economic status, but are based of geographic proximity.

I would also like to point out that both Options D and E took a step toward alleviating concerns of such bias on socio-economic status, arguably not enough though. In reviewing the enrollment percentages in the lower income areas of the map, Option B and C run the much higher for the schools in historically lower income areas than the higher income area schools. While this is still the case for Option D and E, it is significantly less so than Option B and C.

Jonathan Haag

Date: 12/03/2017, 1647 hrs

Name: Will Chesterton

I am writing in support of Option D or E.

I get that the Vincent Farm area will be growing in the future, but there is over crowding at Perry Hall, Joppa View, and Carney today. This is not being addressed. Option D and E are a good start, but more should be moved back to Chapel Hill and Vincent Farm. The load should be equally distributed, where all schools are carrying the same or similar load.

We all know Vincent Farm has been overcrowded, but every map places them under capacity (well okay one places them at capacity). While Joppa View runs at 124% on almost every map. While there is new growth coming in that area of the county, this can be addressed with the new school on Ridge Rd. And if they are still over capacity, then the board needs to look at Chase and Oliver Beach to help give them support in the next redistricting. But that probably won't be an option, because builders will have a tough time selling homes if those are the school options.

Let's not kid ourselves as to why this is happening folks. It has happened in Baltimore County like this for years. They promise our schools will get relief, but it is a lie to build more homes somewhere else.

We should be looking to put more kids from Joppa View in the new school, both Options D and E open up this possibility.

Will Chesterton

Date: 12/04/2017, 1442 hrs

Name: Michele Hogan

I am writing to address the boundary committee as they review the options and make a final decision regarding which option to present to the school board. After reviewing all of the options and listening to the boundary committee discuss the options, I continue to believe that Option B is the best option for all communities involved. Important information was shared at the last meeting regarding how each option fits into the goals of the boundary committee such as maintaining the continuity of neighborhoods and long term enrollment and capacity trends and future capital plans. In reviewing how each option fits those goals it is clear that Option B and C rate the highest and are the best options for all schools and communities involved. I do believe that Vincent Farm ES's future capacity needs to be considered when reviewing the options since options A, D, and E do not appear to take into account the new neighborhoods that are already in the process of being built and will be quickly adding to enrollment at the school.

Again, overall I agree with the findings of the committee that options B or C appear to be the best plan to present to the Board of Education of Baltimore County. Thank you for hearing my opinion and concerns! Michele Hogan Parent

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Date: 12/04/2017, 1550 hrs

Name: Kevin Platt

To whom it may concern,

Hello, I am a parent of future students living in the Fieldcrest Neighborhood/Community in Whitmarsh MD. In relation to the Baltimore County Public Schools, Northeast Area Elementary Community Boundary Change Study, I wanted to offer my suggestions and recommendations regarding the potential boundary changes. I support option B and secondarily alternate options that locate the Fieldcrest Community within the Chapel Hill Elementary School zoning area. Reasons for this perspective are below.

* Option B offers a smaller zoned area for chapel hill and allows for probable density/population growth. Fieldcrest alone is a new and growing community of 170+ homes, young families and many young children entering the school system in the near future. Vincent Farm is currently over crowded given by example below.

* Over a thousand staff and students in the school daily

* Currently unable to have full school assemblies due to capacity

* Limited bathroom, cafeteria and classroom space

* Up to seven classes per grade

* 7 trailers on site already

* It is in fact true that the Chapel Hill School is closer in proximity and distance to the Fieldcrest neighborhood than is Vincent Farm. Logistical issues mentioned below encourage Chapel Hill zoning and allow for mitigation of mentioned concerns.

* General child safety via less road travel. Children who currently travel along Route 40 Highway would no longer have to do so, utilizing only residential streets and roadways.

* Generally, less time and distance in transit. (closer to home for young children sake)

* More efficiencies and potential for kids considering education first.

* Cost savings regarding fuel and maintenance cost. Greenhouse gas emission reduction and alignment with Baltimore County Sustainability Initiatives.

* In general the neighborhood is in favor of option B and enrolling in Chapel Hill ES. The aforementioned items allow for smaller classrooms, less congestion/ educational disruption, and reasonable distance considering school vicinity all with the main objective of quality education and children safety.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Kevin P.

Date: 12/04/2017, 1728 hrs

Name: Kenny West

On Thursday, Nov. 30 ,2017, I did assess the intersection of Sunni Shade Ct. & Honeygo Blvd. For a period of 1 hour during that afternoon, I personally observed traffic patterns and turned out of this neighborhood onto Honeygo Blvd four (4) times in a school bus during the time when the elementary bus does the same. (I saw and spoke with the driver who currently drives this route). From my observations:

I was not able to determine the speed at which any vehicle was traveling, however all vehicles appeared to be operating within reason and with due care.

There were multiple breaks in traffic, allowing for ample time for the bus to turn onto Honeygo Blvd. In fact, several times, there were no vehicles even in sight.

If traffic allowed, the bus was able to reach the legal speed limit (40 mph) if necessary, prior to making a turn from Honeygo onto Joppa Rd.

Based on my assessment, I witnessed no hazards outside of any other roadway that would warrant a reroute of a bus servicing Sunni Shade Ct.

As such, it is of no consequence the direction of travel the bus takes after turning onto Honeygo Blvd.

As information, I have requested accident stats of this intersection from Balt. Cnty gov. I expect to have it on Wed, likely just prior to our meeting. Let me know if anyone has any questions. Thanks,

Kenny T. West

Assistant Director

Office of Transportation

Date: 12/04/2017, 2053 hrs

Name: Morgan Quinn

Dear Boundary Committee Members,

I wanted to first thank you for all of your time and efforts thus far. I ask that you strongly consider the original plans of A, B, and C in the relief strategies, with options B & C being preferred as they seem to benefit most. Plans D and E only appear to benefit the few while many are in need of help. The students and staff at Vincent Farm are currently at a disadvantage for reasons several have mentioned previously: limited space for bathrooms, classrooms, the cafeteria, and outdoor play areas; over a thousand staff and students in attendance daily; six to seven classes per grade; and the lack of ability to have a full school assembly to name a few.

Newer neighborhoods continue to grow with young families, and there are more communities being built which means that there would be even more future enrollment for VFES.

Thank you very much for all again for all of your time, consideration and for my voice to be heard.

Sincerely, Morgan Quinn