

NE Elementary Community Boundary Study Public Email Log: 12/05/17 to 12/06/17

Date: 12/05/2017, 1426 hrs

Name: Jackie Diehm

The current boundary options A-C place Vincent Farms at only 84%-89% capacity to the detriment of all other elementary schools in the study. These options (A-C) provide Vincent Farms too much relief given the fact that possible new construction within the Vincent Farms boundary has currently been halted and future capital plans provide Vincent Farms additional relief in 2020. At the last boundary committee meeting, Vincent Farms committee members stated that they would not consider new boundary options D and E, which place Vincent Farms at 95% and 100% capacity, respectively. Additionally, members of the Vincent Farms community have written numerous emails which expressed the following concerns:

- Over a thousand staff and students in the school daily
- Limited bathroom, cafeteria and classroom space
- Currently unable to have full school assemblies due to capacity
- six to seven classes per grade
- Lunches start at 11:15 and end at 1:40
- 7 portables on site already

These Vincent Farms families would like their children to attend Chapel Hill.

However, Chapel Hill is also over capacity. In addition to experiencing the issues cited by the Vincent Farms community members (limited bathroom, cafeteria and classroom space; inability to have full school assemblies due to capacity; large numbers of classes per grade), Chapel Hill experiences the following additional issues:

- Earlier lunch times, which start at 10:50
- More mobile classrooms, 10 at Chapel Hill compared to 7 at Vincent Farms
- Less parking than Vincent Farms in total and as a percentage of students

I imagine other area elementary schools face similar challenges as most also exceed capacity.

Current boundary options move students from Vincent Farms to Chapel Hill, which then requires Chapel Hill students (and future students noted in the development yield map) to be rezoned to the new Northeast elementary school. These options place the new Northeast elementary school near or over capacity. Placing the new Northeast elementary school near or over capacity is highly problematic as the new school has documented that they have no room for mobile classrooms. Therefore, if the school is over capacity, they will have overcrowded classrooms. Overcrowded classrooms place too much burden on the teachers. Overcrowded classrooms have a tremendous adverse impact on the quality of education that even the most effective teachers can provide their students.

It is not fair to place the new school (with no room for mobile classrooms) at or over capacity, leave Chapel Hill (and every other elementary school in the study except Kingsville) at or over capacity and place Vincent Farms significantly under capacity, given the additional planned relief for Vincent Farms in 2020. Please select an option with an equitable distribution of students to provide a quality education to all.

Options D leaves excess capacity at both Northeast Elementary and Vincent Farms and provides an equitable distribution of students to other schools.

Option B is one favored by many who have provided feedback as part of the study. To achieve a more equitable distribution of students using Option B please consider the following:

- Return PB30, 26 and 164 (current students 48, additional development yield 33) to Chapel Hill.
- Return PB5, 8 and 9 (current students 71, additional development yield 8) to Vincent Farms.

This results in the following statistics:

Northeast – total students = 682 (97% capacity), total with development yield per the Northeast boundary study yield map = 690 (98% capacity)

Chapel Hill – total students = 631 (99% capacity), total with development yield = 717 (113% capacity)

Vincent Farms – total students = 696 (100% capacity) – a reduction of 223 students based on current enrollments of 919 per the Vincent Farms website. Additionally, some future development has halted, and future capital plans provide additional relief.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jacqueline Diehm, concerned parent

Date: 12/05/2017, 1934 hrs

Name: Kristina Redmer

Hi, I am a parent and a resident in neighborhood PB9, Fieldcrest Community-White Marsh. We are currently zoned to attend Vincent Farms Elementary School. My family would like to vote for Option B, which would redistrict our neighborhood to Chapel Hill Elementary. Vincent Farms has over a thousand staff and students in the school daily. There is limited bathroom, classroom and cafeteria space. Lunch time starts at 11:15 and ends at 1:40 to accommodate all students. There are six to seven classes per grade with an additional 7 portable classrooms, which is an unsafe environment for elementary students, in my opinion. If more portable classrooms are added to Vincent Farms, then it will be taking away playing space, which is already limited. The school can not have full school assemblies due to amount of staff and students now. For all of the reasons above, we believe that Chapel Hill is a better option for my child as well as our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Kristina Redmer

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Date: 12/05/2017, 2258 hrs

Name: Kim Hatfield

Dear Boundary Committee,

I would like to express my support for Option C as I believe that it provides the best scenario for low enrollment in the Northeast Area schools that will not be participating in additional boundary studies in the foreseeable future. My overall concern with this current boundary study is that the committee should put high value in reducing to the greatest extent possible the total numbers of students attending any school in a given year. We are new residents of PB 9 (Fieldcrest) and my daughter is in 2nd grade at VFES. She has only attended VFES during the current school year (currently 4 months) and previously attended kindergarten and 1st grade at Glenmar Elementary in Middle River. Our family has a unique perspective in observing the operations and opportunities at a school that was at or below capacity at ~360 students (Glenmar) versus a school that is over-capacity at 900+ students (Vincent Farm). We are very happy with her progress and the education she is receiving at VFES, along with the state of the art facilities and campus. We were also very happy to know when we moved to Fieldcrest that we were districted for Vincent Farm Elementary. However, the differences between the two schools due to student numbers are dramatic – VFES cannot accommodate full school assemblies during school hours, lunch time is inordinately long with some students not eating until 1:30 in the afternoon, parking for events outside of school hours is nearly impossible and unsafe with families walking in the dark along Ebenezer Road at times, some evening activities are limited to only a certain number of students in order to not be over-capacity, buses can be overcrowded, and there are upwards of 6-7 classes per grade. Coming from a school of a smaller size, there were 2-3 classes per grade, there was a lot of unity and community within the school because the students and teachers knew each other, greeted each other by first name, school assemblies provided a lot of school spirit among all students, the number of classes passing through the halls at any given time was minimal, and as a parent who volunteered occasionally, the staff recognized me. As a member of such a large school like VFES, with more students than it can accommodate, it can be easy to just be a face in the crowd, and I think that our students deserve much more than that, and need to feel a sense of community in their grade and in their school, and feel that they are a part of something greater. I do realize that the Northeast Area schools will operate at or near capacity at 500-750 students depending on the school, so my comment is not that <400 students is in any way a magic number. My comments are that the committee should strive for options that result in under-capacity at the area schools, with worst case scenario of being at-capacity.

I can only give perspective on VFES because that is the school we attend. While we like VFES, we are also very happy with the current options that redistrict the Fieldcrest community to Chapel Hill Elementary because it is an equally strong school. However as a former Middle River resident, I can also comment on the large amount of development in the vicinity of VFES that would likely further increase student attendance (i.e. neighborhoods on the 43 bypass, neighborhoods along the new Campbell Blvd extension and those on Bird River Road). Lowering the enrollment numbers at VFES should be a high priority. While VFES is doing a great job in operating at over-capacity, this should not continue to be the norm just because they are doing well with it. Subjecting VFES to a 3rd boundary study, when they have gone through 2 in a span of 2 years is not acceptable as it severely takes away from the sense of unity and community at the school. As such, my vote is for Option C, since it will provide the best option for lower enrollment at all schools.

~Kim Hatfield

Date: 12/06/2017, 1049 hrs

Name: Kathleen Ballard

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to express strong support for Option B.

When comparing Options B and C, option B is a no brainer:

1-Option B is beneficial in terms of a decrease in enrollment for three schools involved in the study (Carney, Chapel Hill, Perry Hall)

2-Option B is neutral in terms of no change in enrollment compared to Option C for 6 schools (Gunpowder, Joppa View, Kingsville, Oakleigh, Seven Oaks, Vincent Farm)

3-Option B would keep enrollment at the new school under capacity, which is an important component of this boundary study, while also providing relief to many of the neighboring schools

4-Option B is a good compromise to Option A and Option C.

If the committee finds Option C to be a preferred choice over Option B, I strongly suggest this revision:

If PB 40, PB 41, PB 43, PB 44, PB 45 were added to the new school, more balance in terms of enrollment would be provided, which is what I though we were going for with the redistricting. The new school would still be well under capacity and this revision would benefit Perry Hall Elementary by providing a decrease in enrollment, which it desperately needs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind Regards,

Kathleen Ballard

President, Village of Silver Hall Community Association

NE Elementary Community Boundary Study Public Email Log: 12/05/17 to 12/06/17

Date: 12/06/2017, 1142 hrs

Name: Ryan Patterson

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

Additionally, Chapel Hill School is geographically 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 presently travel along Route 40, a move to Chapel Hill would mean that children would now travel along residential streets and roadways exclusively.
- * Generally, less time and distance in transit. (closer to home for young children sake and less time spent on a bus)
- * More efficiencies and potential for kids considering education first.
- * Cost savings rearding fuel and maintenance cost. Greenhouse gas emission reduction and alignment with Baltimore County Sustainability Initiatives.

In general, our neighborhood is in favor of option B and enrolling our children in Chapel Hill ES. The aforementioned items allow for smaller classrooms, less congestion, less educational disruption, and provide a reasonable distance to school all with the main objective of providing quality education and improving children safety.

Respectfully,

Ryan Patterson

Date: 12/06/2017, 1218 hrs

Name: Corey Redmer

Hi, I am a parent and a resident in neighborhood PB9, Fieldcrest Community-White Marsh. We are currently zoned to attend Vincent Farms Elementary School. My family would like to vote for Option B, which would redistrict our neighborhood to Chapel Hill Elementary. Vincent Farms has over a thousand staff and students in the school daily. There is limited bathroom, classroom and cafeteria space. Lunch time starts at 11:15 and ends at 1:40 to accommodate all students. There are six to seven classes per grade with an additional 7 portable classrooms, which is an unsafe environment for elementary students, in my opinion. If more portable classrooms are added to Vincent Farms, then it will be taking away playing space, which is already limited. The school cannot have full school assemblies due to amount of staff and students now. For all of the reasons above, we believe that Chapel Hill is a better option for my child as well as our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Corey Redmer, CLCS, AAI
Account Executive

NE Elementary Community Boundary Study Public Email Log: 12/05/17 to 12/06/17

Date: 12/06/2017, 1304 hrs

Name: Yash Patel

To whomsoever it may concern

The current boundary options A-C place Vincent Farms under 90% capacity and overcrowd of all other elementary schools in the study. These options (A-C) provide Vincent Farms too much relief given the fact that possible new construction within the Vincent Farms boundary has currently been halted and future capital plans provide Vincent Farms additional relief in 2020.

At the last boundary committee meeting, it appeared as though there was a lot of representation and support from Vincent Farms families that prefer their children attend Chapel Hill ES.

However, Chapel Hill is currently over capacity. In addition to experiencing the issues cited by the Vincent Farms community members (limited bathroom, cafeteria and classroom space; inability to have full school assemblies due to capacity; large numbers of classes per grade), Chapel Hill experiences the following additional issues:

- Earlier lunch times, which start at 10:50
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It is not fair to place the new school (with no room for mobile classrooms) at or over capacity, leave Chapel Hill (and every other elementary school in the study except Kingsville) at or over capacity and place Vincent Farms significantly under capacity, given the additional planned relief for Vincent Farms in 2020.

As a very concerned parent and resident of the area, I make some suggestions/recommendations which I hope are considered in all seriousness.

- Return PB30, 26 and 164 (current students 48, additional development yield 33) to Chapel Hill.
- Return PB5, 8 and 9 (current students 71, additional development yield 8) to Vincent Farms.

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Vincent Farms – total students = 696 (100% capacity) – a reduction of 223 students based on current enrollments of 919 per the Vincent Farms website. Additionally, some future development has halted, and future capital plans provide additional relief.

These recommendations provide more equitable distribution of students keeping current enrollment and future enrollment needs in mind.

Yash Patel

Date: 12/06/2017, 1556 hrs

Name: Tinea Burley

I am in favor of option B or C which provides equal balance for all in the communities. The children of Vincent Farm are suffering from overrowing, limited space and lunch times that are span 4 hr windows throughout the day. This redistricting has to impact all communities not what is the greatest plan for 1 community. As adults we tend to lose focus of that. Option B or C provides the greatest overall plan for all students participating in the study.