

Community Meeting & Survey Response Report

Community Meeting

Approximately 90 people attended the Northwest Area Boundary Study community information session on November 19, 2014, hosted by the Northwest Boundary Study Committee and BCPS staff. Cropper GIS facilitated the meeting and shared information about the committee goals, guidelines, and process and introduced four options developed by the committee that help to meet the boundary study goals. The public then participated in a gallery walk where each option was displayed on large maps along with data tables. Staff and committee members answered questions and heard input from the public as they viewed and discussed the four options under consideration. A computer lab was available to attendees during and after the gallery walk to facilitate the public's participation in related online survey, however, none of the attendees took advantage of that option on the eve of the information session.

Online Survey

319 respondents participated in the online survey that was available to the public from 11/19/14 until 12/01/14. The survey asked respondents to provide their thoughts, observations, and overall attitude toward the four options that were presented at the 11/19/14 information session and posted on the BCPS Web site.

The data - aggregated, summarized and reported below - is intended to be used by the Boundary Study Committee as a tool to help facilitate their deliberation and decision-making regarding the redistricting process. The results of the survey alone do not constitute a decision regarding a boundary change and are not intended to be used in decision-making process independent of other information, discussion, and deliberation.

Summary of Survey Responses

Question 1: *In which elementary school boundary do you live?*

Total Respondents by Live in Elementary Zone		
Live In Elementary	Total Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Church Lane ES	7	2.2%
Deer Park ES	3	0.9%
Hernwood ES	9	2.8%
New Town ES	106	33.2%
Other	7	2.2%
Owings Mills ES	67	21.0%
Randallstown ES	8	2.5%
Winand ES	4	1.3%
Woodholme ES	104	32.6%
No Response	4	1.3%
Total	319	100%

Questions 3, 6, 9, 12: *What is your overall attitude towards Option A, B, C, D?*

Elementary Options Attitude Summary								
Option Attitude	ES Option A		ES Option B		ES Option C		ES Option D	
Approve	50	26.9%	54	34.8%	51	27.4%	49	31.6%
Like	22	11.8%	25	16.1%	12	6.5%	18	11.6%
Neutral	47	25.3%	57	36.8%	60	32.3%	50	32.3%
Dislike	16	8.6%	10	6.5%	16	8.6%	13	8.4%
Oppose	51	27.4%	9	5.8%	9	4.8%	12	7.7%
Total	186	100.0%	155	100.0%	148	79.6%	142	91.6%

Questions 4, 7, 10, 13: *You indicated that you dislike or oppose Option A, B, C, D. What is your primary concern? (Please select one.)* [Note: if "other" respondent was prompted to write in a response]

Elementary Options Primary Concern Summary								
Prominent Theme	ES Option A		ES Option B		ES Option C		ES Option D	
Demographics concern	19	28.4%	3	15.8%	6	9.0%	5	26.3%
Enrollment concern	20	29.9%	11	57.9%	11	16.4%	14	73.7%
Neighborhood concern	9	13.4%	3	15.8%	6	9.0%	3	15.8%
Other	12	17.9%		0.0%		0.0%	1	5.3%
Transportation concern	7	10.4%	2	10.5%	2	3.0%	2	10.5%
Total	67	100.0%	19	100.0%	25	37.3%	25	131.6%

If "Other":

Option A response:

Option A Other Concerns
Do not want to be transferred to Winands (Non Blue Ribbon School). Please also note that Option A impacts the most kids which is a bad thing.
Education downgrade
Facilities concern
It has a low rating
number of students impacted by this move
performance levels
REZONE FROM WOODHOLME TO WINDANDS
too many students affected
Winands is terrible
Wish to keep my child in the same school

Option B response: None

Option C response: None

Option D response:

Option D Other Concerns
Volume distributions for the currently over populated schools will remain high with this option

Questions 2, 5, 8, 11: What are your thoughts/ observations as they are related to Northwest Area boundary change Option A, B, C, D - [Note: responses are aggregated for ease of reporting.]

Option A - 79 comments	
Themes	Aggregate responses
Impacts too many students, too many kids redistricted	13
Quality of building, instruction inferior at Winand ES	12
Neutral, not impacted, or no opinion	11
Generally in favor of redistricting, concerned about overcrowding (not specific to option)	10
Generally in favor	6
Generally opposed	6
Balances the most schools enrollment, is most equitable	6
Confusion regarding options and survey overall, did not know about boundary change	3
Creates problem for walkers (safety), creates increased need for buses	3
Proximity - closer to new school but zoned to another	2
Leaves one or more boundaries too large	2
Leaves new school under capacity	2
Better walking zones	1
Question regarding the scope of the project	1
Splits community that shares community resources	1
TOTAL	79

Option B - 48 comments	
Themes	Aggregate responses
Not enough relief for crowded schools, leaves school under capacity	10
Neutral, not impacted, or no opinion	9
Generally in favor	7
Generally in favor of redistricting, concerned about overcrowding (not specific to option)	4
Generally opposed	4
Impacts fewer students than other options	3
Impacts most crowded schools, seems to balance impact with relief	2
Confusion regarding options and survey overall, did not know about boundary change	2
Leaves new school too crowded, no room for growth	2
Impacts too many students	1
Better instructionally	1
Better for traffic safety	1
Creates better sized boundaries	1
Supports community continuity	1
TOTAL	48

Option C - 39 comments	
Themes	Aggregate responses
Neutral, not impacted, or no opinion	9
Generally in favor	7
Not enough relief for crowded schools, leaves school under capacity	5
Impacts most crowded schools, seems to balance impact with relief	4
Generally opposed	4
Confusion regarding options and survey overall, did not know about boundary change	2
Leaves new school too crowded, no room for growth	2
Impacts fewer students than other options	2
Negative impact on traffic and student transportation	1
Does not support community continuity	1
Leaves disparity in the size of boundaries	1
Supports community continuity	1
TOTAL	39

Option D - 40 comments	
Themes	Aggregate responses
Not enough relief for crowded schools, leaves schools under capacity	10
Generally in favor	10
Neutral, not impacted, or no opinion	8
Impacts fewer students than other options	6
Generally opposed	2
Confusion regarding options and survey overall, did not know about boundary change	2
Supports community continuity	1
Generally in favor of redistricting, concerned about overcrowding (not specific to option)	1
TOTAL	40