

Southwest Area Boundary Study Committee

Meeting # 1 Notes
September 16, 2015

Committee and School System Attendees

PTA/Parent Representatives

Nazish Khan – Arbutus ES
Krista Wallman – Arbutus ES
Kelvin Carney – Catonsville ES
Samantha Lewandowski – Catonsville ES
Larry Martin – Edmondson Heights ES
Romaine Smoot – Edmondson Heights ES
Corinne Loudon – Halethorpe ES
Paul Zaw Khai – Halethorpe ES
James Kitchel – Hillcrest ES
Donna Knutson – Hillcrest ES
Obi Linton – Johnnycake ES
Jeff Sanford – Johnnycake ES
Gina Anderson – Lansdowne ES
Molly Commacho – Lansdowne ES
Jane Allen – Relay ES
Shaunta Chapple – Relay ES
Tadd Russo – Westchester ES
Allison White – Westchester ES
Christopher Burk – Westowne ES
Kecia Johnson – Westowne ES
Christine Hinegardner – Woodbridge ES
Keith Grayson – Woodbridge ES
Beverly Coleman – Member at large

Teacher/Staff Representatives

Lori O'Donnell – Arbutus ES
Paula Doll – Catonsville ES
Whitney Plunkett – Edmondson Heights ES
Danielle Gemmell – Halethorpe ES
Erika Herman – Hillcrest ES
Cara Detwiler – Johnnycake ES
Nicola Styer – Lansdowne ES
Patricia Wilding – Relay ES
Kim Noppenberger – Westchester ES
Lisa Musacchio – Westowne ES
Andrea Gibble – Woodbridge ES

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Principal Representatives

Brent Grabill – Arbutus ES
Linda Miller – Catonsville ES
Juliet McDivitt – Edmondson Heights ES
Jill Carter – Halethorpe ES
Doug Elmendorf – Hillcrest ES
Bre-Anne Fortkamp – Johnnycake ES
Stephen Price – Lansdowne ES
Lisa Dingle – Relay ES
Scott Palmer – Westowne ES
Lori Phelps – Woodbridge ES

System Representatives

Matt Cropper – Cropper GIS, Consultant to BCPS
Heidi Miller – Co-Chair
Monique Wheatley-Phillip – Co-Chair
Kara Calder – Executive Director, Strategic Planning and Research
Paul Taylor – Coordinator of Strategic Planning
Chris Brocato – Planning Analyst
Pam Carter – Planning Consultant
Candace Logan-Washington – Organizational Effectiveness
Lynn Morningstar – Transportation

Other Attendees from the Community

Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam
Delegate Eric Ebersole
Delegate Charles Snyder
Cathy Engers – Office of Councilman Quirk
Pete Kriscumds – Office of Councilman Quirk
Heather Norris – The Catonsville Times
Denise Kelley – Hillcrest ES
Karen Nicolaus – Catonsville HS
Tracey Bowden – Catonsville ES
Amber Ireland – Relay ES
Quinn Thomas – Catonsville HS
Curtis Thomas
Kenneth Brown

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Materials provided to members of the Southwest Area Boundary Study Committee were included in binders provided to each member of the committee and staff. The materials included copies of the boundary study timeline, a copy of Board of Education policy 1280 – Boundary Changes, a master list of committee members, and a meeting agenda. Also included in the binder was the Southwest Area Boundary Study – Committee Meeting 1 – Process and Tools packet.

Meeting Highlights

- At 6:00 p.m. assistant superintendents Heidi Miller and Monique Wheatley Phillip greeted committee members and observers and introduced consultant Matt Cropper, who walked committee members through the packet and shared tonight’s three goals:
 1. To provide an overview of the project and the utilization of the Background Report;
 2. To perform a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis exercise related to the boundary study; and
 3. To break into small groups to review the planning blocks to be used during the boundary change process.
- Mr. Cropper then presented the major goals of this boundary change process:
 1. To address the overcrowding at nine elementary schools in the southwest region of the county;
 2. To develop boundary change scenarios that will equitably distribute students within available school space in a manner that ensures that students will be redistricted only once; and
 3. To develop scenarios that maintain neighborhood continuity, maintain or increase diversity, make efficient use of available school capacity, maximize walkability, and minimize transportation time and distance to the greatest extent possible.
- At approximately 6:20, Mr. Cropper reminded attendees that interested citizens can see the meetings on the Board of Education website and view interactive maps to help them follow the process. He also discussed communication logistics, referencing how to access the Southwest Area Boundary Process to keep up with what goes on at each meeting and to view the materials presented to the committee. Folks were encouraged to provide input and feedback by emailing Cropper GIS and/or BCPS Strategic planning staff.

Cropper GIS/MatthewCropper: mcropper@croppergis.com (614-451-1242)
Chris Brocato: cbrocato@bcps.org 410-887-4216
- The web page with information about the southwest area redistricting process is located under the “What’s Happening” section of the BCPS website (www.bcps.org). Interested and inquiring parties should refer to this site for answers about the redistricting process, schedule, and links to data and maps.
- At 6:40, Mr. Cropper explained the SWOT analysis process as a way of determining things that the committee should consider as it studies boundaries that will help to inform the creation of boundary options to address overcrowding. The committee then divided into

six groups and engaged on the SWOT analysis before each group reported back to the committee as a whole. At approximately 7:00. The SWOT analysis charts developed by each group were collected for future reference.

- At 7:10, Mr. Cropper explained the concept of “planning blocks” and then provided each table of committee members with a map of southwest area planning blocks. Folks were encouraged to point out any blocks that might need to be changed to more accurately reflect specific neighborhoods, developments, etc. They were urged to circle and label or annotate any areas on which they had questions or concerns. Following this exercise, there were a few requests that areas that were not really residential be displayed so that people could differentiate those planning blocks within industrial areas, parks, cemeteries, and UMBC from those reflecting neighborhoods.
- The meeting ended shortly after 7:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Boundary Study Committee Meeting # 2

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Catonsville High School Cafeteria

6:00-7:30 p.m.

(light dinner for committee members served at 5:30 p.m.)