

On September 16, 2014 the southwest area boundary study committee performed a SWOT analysis for the project. The committee split up into 6 small working groups, and brainstormed SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) as it relates to the necessary boundary change process for the southwest area. The following summarizes the various committee members' input.

The SWOT was conducted around the following question:

What should the committee consider as it studies boundaries to account for changes to the southwest area elementary schools?

Discussion results are summarized below.

STRENGTHS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Construction process will add more needed seats to the region ○ Communities and schools are geographically close together ○ Facilities are state of the art ○ Investing in schools could raise property value ○ More families moving to the area ○ Diversity of the region ○ Community undergoing change ○ Strong neighborhood identities ○ Good local area services (Parks & Rec, UMBC, CCCB, Libraries, Senior Centers) ○ Shopping ○ Growing businesses in the community ○ Accessibility to public transportation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strong Community Associations and Support ○ Solid base of home owners ○ Parental involvement ○ Balance ○ Schools could gain Title I funding ○ Increased outdoor space ○ Increased attention for students with special needs ○ Roadway network system ○ Community awareness ○ Reduce class sizes ○ Local business partnerships ○ F.A.R.M. (Free and Reduced Meal) diversity ○ Proximity to metro areas ○ Feeder patterns |
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WEAKNESSES

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The constant changing of enrollment numbers and building utilizations ○ Unhappy families as a result of the process ○ Communities coping with change if they are affected ○ Community undergoing change ○ Lack of homeownership in various areas ○ Desirable location within the Baltimore region ○ Traffic ○ Perceived reputation of inequity ○ Construction ○ Lack of space ○ Lack of regional parks ○ Crime ○ Overcrowding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accessibility ○ Lack of parental involvement ○ Some schools lack diversity ○ Aging facilities ○ Limited access to transportation ○ Faculty at schools not necessarily proficient in cultural needs of students ○ Increased transiency of region ○ Loss of Title I funding ○ Larger class sizes ○ Roadway network system ○ F.A.R.M. ○ Proximity to metro areas (fraudulent enrollments) |
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OPPORTUNITIES

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Better blending of communities○ Realigning communities that are not connected○ Improvements to the school facilities○ Community undergoing change○ Continuing to improve buildings and boundaries using best practices○ Increasing homeownership○ Further diversity○ Being assigned to school that is close/proximate to home○ Ease overcrowding○ Change reputations○ Opportunity to balance existing inequities○ Community resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Business and Community growth / strength○ Increased need for regional parks○ Increase number of walkers to school○ Gaining staff○ Classroom availability for special areas○ Increased community and safety with fewer 'learning cottages'○ Reduce class size○ Provide more efficient transportation routes from communities to schools○ Partnerships with local colleges/universities○ Efficient feeder patterns |
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THREATS

- Students moving across major roads
- Potential increases in transportation times for families/students
- Potential loss of families if the school they are assigned to is unfavorable
- Parent involvement
- Teacher reallocation
- Shared domicile/fraudulent enrollment
- Potential issues with future feeder pattern alignment
- Change!
- Potentially breaking up communities
- Potential future imbalances
- Angry parents
- Future overcrowding
- FARMS (Free and Reduced Meals) funding
- Future development
- Lower enrollment = fewer AP classes, guidance counselors, resource staff
- Lose cultural and socioeconomic diversity
- Potential isolation of communities as they move
- Zip Code 21229 is both a county and city zip code