

Brocato, Christopher J.

From: James Kitchel
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 9:58 AM
To:

Subject: PBs 513 and 8 - Newburg Heights and the 500 block of Hilton

1. Thank-you for all your emails. I am replying to all that I have seen on these topics, as well as to others whom you cc'd.
2. The Hillcrest portion of the Boundary Committee is certainly willing to explore the ramifications of adding PB 513 and a portion of PB 8 back into the Hillcrest boundary. At first glance, the numbers would seem to support those changes, while still keeping Hillcrest under its state-rated capacity.
3. I would like to point out a couple of things, however. First, and most obvious, is that - as much as we all love Hillcrest - some of our neighborhoods do have to go to other fine Catonsville area schools. Hillcrest cannot stay overcrowded indefinitely. Second, every neighborhood that wants to stay is raising the same issues - walkability, social cohesion, history, property values and so forth. I say this not to denigrate the concerns you have raised - they are valid. They are not, however, unique to your area. So the ultimate determination of which neighborhoods stay will be driven by capacity numbers and some very fine differences among the same categories, as well as the other publicized Boundary Committee considerations such as overall capacity, diversity, transportation, etc.
4. If the consultants have not had the chance to adjust the options based on your earlier emails, we will discuss this with them this evening.

Thanks. Jim.