

SW Area Boundary Study
Public Email Log
November 24, 2015 to December 4, 2015

Prepared by the Baltimore County Public Schools

Office of Strategic Planning, December 4, 2015

Southwest Area Boundary Study Public Email Log 11/24/15 to 12/4/15

11/24/15, 1725 hrs

sessteph@hotmail.com

Dear Boundry Committee,

My children have been attending Johnnycake Elementary School since my son started Kindergarten in 2011. I'm genuinely being pleased with every aspect of the school. I really really know all of the teachers, the principal, and other staff members. My children absolutely love going to school here. They have made quite a few friends and I love how caring and loving the teachers and the staff are with my kids. I would really really be upset if my children had to go to another school, especially for 5th and 3rd grade. I really wish and hope my children are able to stay at Johnny Elementary. I agree that none of the options will serve our school and the children favorably. I don't want my children, any of their friends, or any of the staff at Johnnycake Elementary affected by the options. Please keep the children and the staff where they are at Johnnycake Elementary. I feel like my children are loved, very well taken care of, and safe at this school. Thank you Mrs. Agostini

11/24/15, 1908 hrs

Jesus Rodriguez <rodriguezjesus2003@yahoo.com>

We would like to keep all of our students than attend our school at Johnnycake

11/24/15, 2115 hrs

shawnae upton naeupt@yahoo.com

Hello! My name is Shawnae Upton and I am the parent of Jordyn McCullers who attends Johnnycake Elementary School. I am expressing my concerns about students possibly having to leave Johnnycake and attend another school. I am not in support of this change for numerous reasons. My daughter has been attending Johnnycake since Kindergarten and she absolutely loves it! And so do I! She comes home to tell me all sorts of positive things about the school, her teachers, the activities and also her friends. She tells me she has friends who are Muslim, Caucasian, African American, Hispanic and among other nationalities. Johnnycake is such a diverse school and I love that it teaches her, along with my guidance, how to never treat anyone different due to their ethnic background. This is very important for children today and to remove her from Johnnycake would be devastating. She has formed bonds with numerous teachers and different faculty members. The teachers and faculty members are always so polite, courteous and willing to help with no hesitation.

Another reason and I am not in support of this change is because Johnnycake is only about 5 minutes driving distance from our home address. The school is in a very convenient location for her. Her daycare provider lives in walking distance from the school on Prestwood Road. Due to this convenient location of the school, I am able to drop her off in the morning to day care before school starts, the daycare provider takes her to school for me and picks her up until I am able to get off from work. Moving her out of Johnnycake would tremendously impact her learning experience, my work schedule and will result in me looking for adequate childcare. This imposes a major burden. Over the years my daughter and I fell in love with Johnnycake Elementary and I planned for her to stay until the 5th grade and graduate.

Once again, I am not in support of students being uprooted and shipped to another school. None of the options will serve Johnnycake favorably and I believe the school should stay just how it is because it isn't effecting my daughter's learning experience at all. It is actually helping her excel tremendously. Taking the staff members away will provide Johnnycake with less faculty members to support the students, families, support programs, activities and volunteer opportunities for students. This would leave students in an unfortunate predicament of attending a school that may not have the supports they need to be successful in school. WE WOULD LIKE TO STAY PUT!!!! Thank you.

Shawnae Upton A concerned parent

11/25/15, 2045 hrs

Jocelyn Johnson jocelynjohnson5@gmail.com

Hi, I Have have family members and friends that attend Johnnycake. Please leave Johnnycake out of the redistricting. We would like to keep all of our students that attend our school. Thank you. Jocelyn Johnson

11/25/15, 2136 hrs

Daniel Hopkins danielhopkins3@gmail.com

Dear Members of the Boundary Committee, I am writing with regard to the BCPS Southwest area elementary school boundary issue. First, I would like to thank you all for the time and effort you have put into this issue and into the community. We are so very grateful for all your support. My spouse and I live in Catonsville, and are very proud to have two wonderful grandchildren that live in Newburg Heights (PB 513) and attend Hillcrest Elementary. We have great concern regarding the boundary issue, and feel very strongly that any option that eliminates Newburg Heights from Hillcrest is unacceptable. We kindly ask that you please consider our thoughts below and use the information to help support our son and daughter-in-law's community in a way that is responsible and constructive, by voting for Option 3.

We have reviewed the rules and considerations that BCPS has given the committee, and will demonstrate that keeping Newburg Heights at Hillcrest via Option 3 greatly supports these rules and guidelines with regard to the following points:

1. Maintain the continuity of neighborhoods
 - Newburg Heights is created by the natural boundaries of the CCBC campus, Rolling Road and Patapsco State Park. Any options that removes Newburg Heights from Hillcrest would divide the community along arbitrary neighborhood roads. This would divide and destroy the community that has been built in Newburg Heights, which we feel is completely unacceptable. Newburg Heights (PB 513) must stay with Hillcrest to maintain the community that parents, including our son and daughter-in-law, have invested in.
2. Maintaining or increasing the diversity among schools to reflect the diversity of the region and the school system
 - The numbers presented in the committee report clearly show that options that had Newburg Heights remaining at Hillcrest effectively maintained or improved the diversity at Hillcrest. The goal laid out by the BCPS was not to dramatically change the landscape and diversity of our schools, but to maintain them. Dividing these communities over numbers would be destructive and irresponsible, and is completely unacceptable.
3. The impact of transportation and pedestrian patterns of students
 - Hillcrest is the only elementary school that is easily walkable for Newburg Heights children. It can be reached through neighborhood roads without having to cross any major street until you get to the school entrance. Moving to Catonsville Elementary would force students walking to school to cross major roads and intersections, which would leave children very vulnerable. Newburg Heights must stay at Hillcrest to provide safe and cost effective transportation for students.
4. Minimizing the number of times any one student is reassigned

Source: Boundary Study Email Box (bdystudy@bcps.org) unless otherwise noted

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- Newburg Heights has built a reputation as a family-oriented neighborhood. According to the committee report, the number of children that would be affected by a move is quite substantial when compared to other neighborhoods. Moving Newburg Heights (PB 513) from Hillcrest would be completely counter to the goal of minimizing the number of times students would be reassigned.

5. Efficient use of capacity in all affected schools

- From the numbers in the committee report, option 3 satisfies the capacity concerns at Hillcrest for the short and long term. Again, no need to move Newburg Heights out of Hillcrest.

6. Long term enrollment and capacity trends and future capital plans

- From the long term enrollment numbers presented on the BCPS website, option 3 would satisfy these needs. No need to move Newburg Heights out of Hillcrest.

7. Location of feeder school boundaries and continuity of feeder patterns

- Currently Newburg Heights is zoned for Hillcrest Elementary and Catonsville Middle School. If Newburg Heights were moved to another elementary school, the school community would be split among the children who would then be sent to Catonsville Middle School or Arbutus Middle School, which would be highly destructive of children's relationships, neighborhoods, and communities. Newburg Heights must stay at Hillcrest elementary in order to maintain the feeder school pattern as well as maintain the feeder school community that parents have worked so hard to develop.

In closing, we would like to thank you again for your time and effort towards this matter, and especially for hearing our concerns. We feel very strongly that keeping Newburg Heights at Hillcrest will greatly support the community, as well as the goals outlined by the BCPS system. Please support the families by keeping PB 513 at Hillcrest Elementary by voting for option 3.

Thank you very much. Very sincerely, Daniel Hopkins and Jacqueline Clarys 118 Fairfield Drive Catonsville, MD 21228
home ph: 410-519-6855 mobile: 443-618-9726

11/26/15, 0711 hrs

Natasha Francois francoisnatasha@gmail.com

Hello all, My nephew attends Johnnycake ES. None of the options will serve our school favorably. We would like to stay put. We would like to keep all of our students that attend our school at Johnnycake Thanks,

11/27/15, 1510 hrs

Cynthia Holmes cholmes@comcast.net

First, to all of the volunteers on the boundary committee, thank you for giving your time and effort to the Southwest area! I am sure it has been time consuming and challenging, and your willingness to serve is truly appreciated.

I am writing to strongly urge the boundary committee and the BCPS Board of Education to REVISIT the boundary maps prior to a final decision with the following information in mind, and to RESTORE both PB 543 and PB 510 to the Hillcrest elementary zone. The four remaining boundary options all offer an unacceptable solution for these neighborhoods.

Having attended the most recent public meeting at Catonsville High School November 18th, I was astonished to find regarding PB 543 (Patapsco Woods in Catonsville) that NONE of the remaining boundary options take into consideration the following facts and are instead EXACTLY CONTRARY to the guidance of Rule 1280 (Boundary Changes):

III.B.4 - Use of Natural Boundaries - PB 543 is SURROUNDED ON THREE SIDES by Patapsco State Park and Catonsville Community College. An acceptable solution should use the existing natural boundaries.

III.B.5 - Satellite Zones - There is a lack of access to PB 543 without entering the Hillcrest zone (via Hilton Ave). The one and only road in or out of our neighborhood is Hilton Avenue. The remaining boundary options effectively create a new "SATELLITE" neighborhood for PB 543, as well as PB 510 families, isolating the children from their community.

Our home is located in PB 543 where we have lived for more than 20 years. Although we no longer have children in elementary school, we are concerned that PB 543 is currently shown as being rezoned from Hillcrest to Catonsville Elementary in all four remaining boundary options. It is illogical to rezone a neighborhood that is surrounded on three sides by the natural boundaries of the state park and the community college property in a manner that cuts it off from the ONLY neighborhoods that are ADJACENT to our community! This will have a detrimental effect on both the transportation and social cohort for the 20-30 elementary school children who typically attend Hillcrest from this neighborhood.

With no children remaining in elementary, you might think that we have no "skin in the game," but I speak from experience regarding the issue of social cohort and transportation. Due to some incomprehensible zoning logic, Patapsco Woods in PB 543 is also cut off from its neighbors directly across the street on Hilton Avenue. These across-the-street neighbors are zoned for Catonsville Middle school, while we are zoned for Arbutus Middle School. We must drive via the ONLY egress from our neighborhood, Hilton Avenue, past four bus stops for Catonsville Middle – one of which is located directly at the end of our own dead end street – to depart for school. The children waiting for the bus there are the same ones who attended elementary school with ours, and they are from the families we bump into while out for a walk, at the local playground, and whose houses we trick or treat at, and so on. Seems crazy, right?

Let me illustrate how this relates to the current rezoning issues. One of my children was granted an exception to the current zoning and attended Catonsville Middle. This child moved on to Catonsville High School together with the friends that attended both Hillcrest and CMS and was well supported by a social cohort, making a smooth transition from elementary to middle to high school. My younger child was NOT granted an exception and attends a middle school well outside of our neighborhood and the adjacent community. As is natural, the friendships this child developed in elementary were hard to maintain while daily attending a different middle school. Almost all of those early relationships with nearby, but separately-zoned, neighbors have given way to new friendships in the middle school to which my child is now bussed. It is difficult to have any sort of social engagement with current school friends outside of school hours due to the distance of their homes from our neighborhood and the necessary parental transportation required to support any after-school gathering or activity. I share these examples to highlight that while it is quite challenging enough for a teenager to enter high school with familiar friends, it is unnecessarily challenging and stressful to do so with no strong peer relationships owing to a zoning quirk. This is EXACTLY the issue that the remaining four boundary options will create for the elementary children in PB 543 because NOT ONE of these four plans takes into account the fact that they effectively make PB 543 a satellite neighborhood, separating the children from our community. A more natural boundary to use for dividing the neighborhoods between Hillcrest and Catonsville Elementary would be South Rolling Road. It is a busy street that most parents would not let their elementary-aged children cross alone: in my experience it was nerve-wracking enough to have a young teenager crossing that busy road to begin high school!

A closer and more considered look at the current maps by the committee, board members, and outside GIS consultant to understand the issues will clearly show that PB 543 is especially isolated due to the natural boundaries of the adjacent state park and community college properties.

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There is NO connection to any other neighborhood except via Hilton Avenue. PB 543 and 510 should absolutely remain in the Hillcrest zone to maintain the continuity of neighborhoods and reduce the impact of transportation and pedestrian patterns of students. Again, I strongly urge the committee and the BCPS Board of Education to REVISIT the boundary maps with these facts in mind and RESTORE both PB 543 and PB 510 to the Hillcrest zone. The four remaining options all offer an illogical and therefore unacceptable solution. Thank you, Cynthia Holmes Radner Patapsco Woods, Catonsville

11/28/15, 2218 hrs

Hampt, Sara E. shampt@bcps.org

To Whom it May Concern:

Actions speak louder than words. And though BCPS claims to support each student equally, the options presented in this boundary study speak volumes otherwise. I understand parent's frustrations with moving to a certain area because they want their child to go to a certain school and then the possibility that changes made may make changes they are unhappy with. As a parent, I understand wanting the best for your child.

However, as a teacher in one of the schools that parents have berated I also know that what many parents are saying is unfounded. Many parents don't want their children coming to Johnnycake because of our high title I population and a mistaken belief that our teachers are sub-par. Having worked in 4 different schools I can tell you that there are great teachers and poor teachers in any school. But I find that in Johnnycake, poor teachers are few and far between. So to bow to the pressures of parents who have never set foot in our school or seen our teachers in action is inexcusable.

In all of the options, Johnnycake, Lansdowne, and Halethorpe lose. Why is it acceptable for any of these schools to be left over crowded? Especially in the case of Lansdowne, who would be left over capacity by more than 100. Why can these schools not receive additions or new buildings? Are these children not deserving of classrooms instead of trailers, closets, and teachers that teach from a cart?

In the case of Johnnycake you also need to keep in mind that we host an ever-growing CALS program that brings students from outside our boundaries. One of these classrooms will have 12 students in it shortly. These should really be classes of 8 or 9. Yet that is not considered when calculating how many classrooms we need. So again I ask - why is it that these students deserve less than those in any of the other schools?

Sara Hampt, Vocal Music Teacher Baltimore County Public Schools Johnnycake Elementary 410-887-0823 Fax ext. 1048

"There are only two ways to live your life: one is as though nothing is a miracle; the other is as though everything is a miracle." ~Albert Einstein

11/29/15, 0141 hrs

Lisbeth Jorgensen lz.jorgensen@gmail.com

Dear members of the committee and BCPS officials,

I am deeply saddened by the process I have seen. It is very nearly laughable to bring 4 maps to the public feedback session that are identical for all of the schools north of route 40 (Johnnycake, Edmondson Heights, and Woodbridge), especially when at least one the southern end of the map is in the same boat (Relay). That does not say, "please give me your feedback." It says, "this is what we're doing regardless of what your portion of the community needs, deal with it." And that is most definitely NOT what this committee was called together to do.

I sat at one of the November meetings and listened to the consultant remind the committee members that they were tasked with considering the needs of the entire area and more than one committee member flat out refused to do their job clearly stating aloud to the assembled committee and public that they were there to look out for their school and their kids and the rest of the southwest area was not their concern. That is blindingly inappropriate.

I have a few issues with the planning block system, they seem to divide the area in such a manner that there really are only trivial changes possible. A specific example: It would be more transparent to exclude the large areas of non-residential development (Lowe's/Sams/Safeway on the north, several industrial areas on the south) from the planning blocks completely since they have zero residents. It would make it much easier to evaluate whether the borders of a school's area were contiguous in a meaningful sense. Additionally, the blocks north of 40 (I'm less familiar with the other areas) seem very large and unwieldy making it so that there is very little change that can be introduced. This is unlikely to change before this process is finalized, perhaps a system that allows more discrete consideration of blocks and neighborhoods could be developed to give future efforts the flexibility that seems necessary to bring about actual changes.

I'm not sure how to fix the process, but sadly, this iteration of it is truly broken. Perhaps route 40 truly is an uncrossable divide of class and race, but I don't actually believe that's the case. The maps brought to the public by the committee leave many residents of the southwest region divided and frustrated at the lack of consideration of our concerns. Thank you, Lisbeth Jorgensen

11/29/15, 1310 hrs

Lauren Fuentes laurenk Fuentes@gmail.com

Dear Southwest Area Boundary Committee,

I am writing to voice my objection to Option 2 for the southwest area redistricting. I strongly believe that it is in the best interest of the community for PB 514 to remain at Hillcrest Elementary School. PB 514 currently walks to Hillcrest. This feature is an integral part of our community and reduces traffic and cost. There are no safe or cost-effective routes for our children to walk to Catonsville Elementary School. The proposed boundary for the new CES includes streets lacking sidewalks or curbs. In addition, PB 514 is zoned for Catonsville Middle School. Hillcrest is a feeder school for Catonsville Middle School. If Option 2 passes, our children would not be attending middle school with children they went to elementary school with. I believe these are important factors that should be considered when making a final recommendation for redistricting. I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts with the committee. Thank you, Lauren Fuentes

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11/29/15, 1805 hrs

Tracy Soltész kesrya@gmail.com

I am writing to indicate my strong objection to moving PB 514 from Hillcrest Elementary to Catonsville Elementary in Option 2 of the current Baltimore County Elementary School SW Boundary Study Area Map.

My husband Eric Silva and I live with our two young children at 1101 Frederick Road across from the Catonsville Library.

My elder son will be entering kindergarten at Hillcrest Elementary next academic year (Fall 2016). Our family specifically moved to PB 514 three years ago with the intention that both our children would attend Hillcrest Elementary and Catonsville Middle Schools - the two schools in the closest physical proximity to our home.

In fact, the majority of PB 514 is quite literally across the street (Frederick Road) from Hillcrest Elementary. I can actually see Hillcrest Elementary when standing on my front lawn, so it would make absolutely no sense and would constitute a hardship to my children and family to redistrict them out of a school that is within eyesight of our home to one in which they would be required to ride a bus in order to attend. This not only increases burden on our family, but increases safety concerns for a young child to need to ride and navigate a bus system.

What is ludicrous is the fact that Option 2 would require that many of the children who literally live across the street from Hillcrest now must take a bus, while the children that would be added into Hillcrest at our expense live so far away that they too would now need to take a bus to Hillcrest. This is a hardship on ALL our families; this is bad for the environment; this drains public resources involved in the cost of providing busing services; this increases traffic in our area; and this is unhealthy for children - requiring them to wake earlier to prepare for school while discouraging a healthy activity - walking. There is no logical reason or benefit to moving PB 514 into another school district.

Because the PB 514 area has attended Hillcrest Elementary since its founding in 1968, our family has been financially supporting Hillcrest Elementary through donations of funds, supply drives, and designating it as our preferred school for matching funds from corporations that donate to schools since moving to our current home. We gave this financial support because we never imagined, since moving back to our hometown of Catonsville three years ago, that our children would attend any other school - again because it seemed obvious that their school would be the one within eye sight of our home.

PB 514 is zoned for Catonsville Middle - also the closest middle school to our home - yet the majority of Catonsville Elementary school children attended Arbutus Middle. If PB 514 was redistricted, it would mean that my children would attend middle school with children they have never met and formed bonds. As a medical provider with a large pediatric practice, I can attest that removing children from their peers every few years unnecessarily contributes to increased anxiety and poorer performance in school settings.

Please reject Option 2 which redistricts PB 514 out of the Hillcrest Elementary School area, and SUPPORT Options 1, 3, or 4.

Sincerely, Tracy Soltész and Eric Silva 1101 Frederick Road Catonsville, MD 21228**

Tracy Soltész, L.Ac., M.Ac., C.ZB. Kunlun Mountain Acupuncture, Inc. 1730 West Street, Suite 107 Annapolis, MD 21401

<http://kunlunmntn.com> 410-224-2328

11/29/15, 1921 hrs

kathleen.bauman@juno.com

Please allow our community to retain the quality of life afforded by children walking to school in a safe manner, as we have enjoyed since settling here. Traffic is bad enough without adding unnecessary vehicles to the mix and adding to cost, not to mention vehicle emissions.

Kathy Bauman

11/30/15, 0003 and 0126 hrs

Monyette Pitts pittsmyp@gmail.com

Dear Committee Members, Equity. Over that last few years it has been impossible to ignore BCPS' push to promote equity. Dr. Dance has been extremely vocal in his call to embed equity and fairness "in all areas of academic, social, and cultural programs." In fact, just days ago (11/22/15) Dr. Dance offered an op-ed in the Baltimore Sun acknowledging that "stakeholders questioned differences in student access to academic rigor, resources including technology and modern facilities." In light of this goal the current results of the SW Area construction and boundary study process are particularly disappointing.

I was dismayed to attend the latest SW Area Boundary and learn of the boundary committee's current recommended - and identical - option(s) for Johnnycake. On each proposed plan a portion of Johnnycake students are slated to be removed from our school. However, the loss of these students would not offer any real or lasting benefit to the overall school. After redistricting Johnnycake will remain overcapacity with students still learning in trailers, book rooms, closets, and hallways. Furthermore, it seems unconscionable that due to unaltered feeder patterns these same students will later be pawned back across Route 40 for middle and high school based on a residential address that sent them in one direction for elementary school and in the opposite direction for middle and high school. How are dislocated students expected to build more lasting or permanent relationships within their new school community? I can only hope they fare as well as classmates entering secondary school with a stronger support network of neighborhood ties, a close-knit social group, or even Johnnycake and Southwest Academy's Elementary/Middle Bridge Mentor Program.

In addition, while previous public outcry has eliminated the possibility that the children of "Catonsville" (residing to the south of Route 40) would be required to cross what many have called a "dangerous 6-8 lane highway", "Woodlawn" students (to the north) are now being asked to do exactly that. If crossing Route 40 and Rolling Road is too dangerous for one student, it should be too dangerous for every student. This double standard is disturbing.

Finally, I wonder if the planning committee has taken into consideration the fact that Johnnycake currently hosts a regional CALS program. We are very proud to welcome and educate students with Autism Spectrum Disorder from across the SW area. This is an amazing program full of dedicated and inspiring teachers and staff. However, it can not be ignored that any well-implemented CALS program must require a far greater allotment of space and staff than neighboring schools that do not host such programs.

Unfortunately, the boundary committee has offered no viable options that provide authentic relief for the current overcrowding at Johnnycake Elementary School. Schools above Route 40, and Johnnycake in particular, deserve capital improvement. The only fair option for Johnnycake has not been offered. Please leave all existing Johnnycake students in our boundary and consider an upcoming renovation, addition, or new building to house this wonderfully welcoming, diverse and inclusive school. I close as I began. Please consider equity. Johnnycake students deserve equity.

Southwest Area Boundary Study Public Email Log 11/24/15 to 12/4/15

11/30/15, 0641 hrs

Heather Agler aglerroth@gmail.com

Relay Elementary in the current four proposals 1-4 is the same giving our school only one proposed option. Unfortunately that option is flawed for three reasons:

1. It creates three disparate islands of community within the school that are not geographically connected at all. – No other school boundaries have this type of disjointed boundary. It does not make sense to add blocks 406, 407, and 527.
2. The current proposal brings our school to 96% capacity (661 out of 689). It leaves us room for only 28 students. Making it likely that we would go over capacity before the schools opens in just under 2 years.
3. There would be transportation issues when adding blocks 406, 407, and 527 (area east of Route 1). The added 3rd island (blocks 406, 407, and 527) is currently visually connected by artificially adding the industrial block 418. The closest connection between the closest houses and this school (Halethorpe Ave. to Clark Blvd.) by Route 1 is about 0.8 miles. However, this is a dangerous intersection. A bus should not be making a left hand turn from Clark Blvd. onto Route 1. This would make the bus take a route through Halethorpe making the trip over 1.5 miles and passing through two different school districts (Arbutus and Halethorpe Elementary).
The map in the attachment clearly shows that the current proposal creates three island that are visually connected by dead zones where there are no students and there are no students expected (UMBC campus and the industrial area east of Route 1). The upper left island (blocks 51, 386, 430, and 431) was partially zoned for Relay already. That occurred 20 years ago and it was never quite clear why. However, those students have become an integral part of our community. This boundary study process was the perfect opportunity to connect the main part of Relay and this community. Instead the proposals propose to give us another island that again does not make sense.
The current proposal puts us at 96% capacity (661 out of 689). It leaves us room for only 28 students. Making it likely that we would go over capacity before the new school opens in just under 2 years. Additionally, with the addition of blocks 430 and 431 (Westland Apartments and surrounding area), Relay will have the need for a pre-K program at the school. From talking to people at Arbutus the majority of their pre-K students come from this area. That will also take us very close to capacity without assuming any growth. Relay got rid of its pre-K program two years ago due to overcrowding.
Finally, adding blocks 406, 407, and 527 to Relay does not make sense from both a community perspective and from a transportation/safety perspective. I believe that thought behind including them was both to relieve overcrowding at Halethorpe and because the thought was they were connected by Route 1. Route 1 is a very busy road and in the connected area is full of businesses and is industrial. The closest connection to the school is through Clark Blvd. However this intersection is dangerous. A bus should not be turning left from Clark to Route 1. I would not allow my children on a bus that was making that turn. It is a safety issue. Without this connection, buses from the area would most likely use Selma Ave. or Ridge Ave. This would be a distance of over 1.5 miles and they would be passing through two other school districts (Arbutus Elementary and Halethorpe Elementary) before getting to Relay.
The current proposal for Relay does not make sense. At the beginning of this process there were two proposals that did make sense for Relay from the September 29, 2015 meeting. They were Options 1 and 3 shown in the attachment.

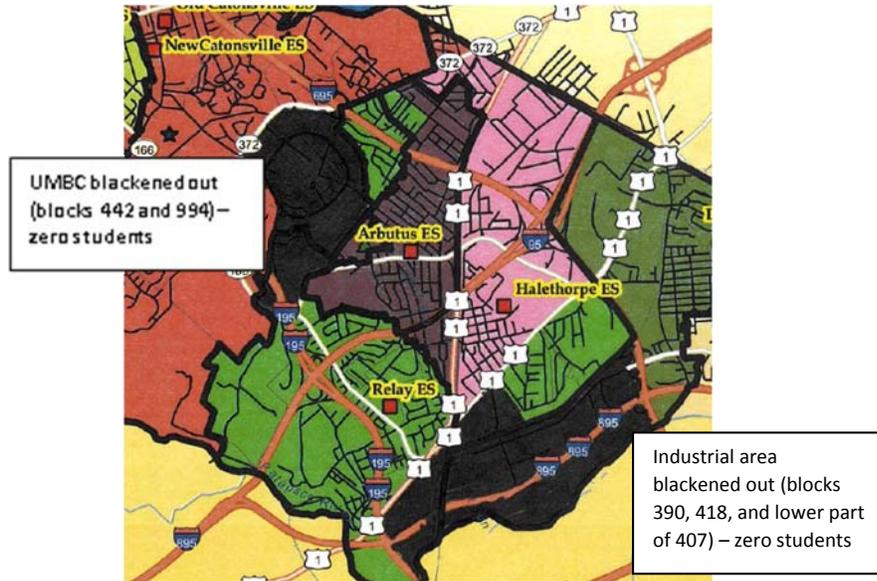
If the issue is to give more relief to Halethorpe then two other options might be viable.

1. Take the current boundary and add blocks 430 and 431 (near Westland Blvd.), blocks 442, 443, 536, and 542 (UMBC and surrounding area to connect the Westland area to Relay), and blocks 402 and 403.
 2. If more students from Halethorpe are needed then you could also include all or part of planning block 404. This block is much closer and makes more sense than the planning blocks east of Route 1.
- These options make more sense than the current option that is proposed. Thank you, Heather Agler Roth

Relay Elementary in the current four proposals 1-4 is the same giving our school only one proposed option. Unfortunately that option is flawed for three reasons:

1. It creates three disparate islands of community within the school that are not geographically connected at all. – No other school boundaries have this type of disjointed boundary.
2. The current proposal brings our school to 96% capacity (661 out of 689). It leaves us room for only 28 students. Making it likely that we would go over capacity before the schools opens in just under 2 years. – Please note that attendance may be artificially down this year due to some issues between the parents and the current school administration this past summer.
3. There would be transportation issues when adding blocks 406, 407, and 527 (area east of Route 1). The added 3rd island (blocks 406, 407, and 527) is currently visually connected by artificially adding the industrial block 418. The closest connection between the closest houses and this school (Halethorpe Ave. to Clark Blvd.) by Route 1 is about 0.8 miles. However, this is a dangerous intersection. A bus should not be making a left hand turn from Clark Blvd. onto Route 1. This would make the bus take a route through Halethorpe making the trip over 1.5 miles and passing through two different school districts (Arbutus and Halethorpe Elementary).

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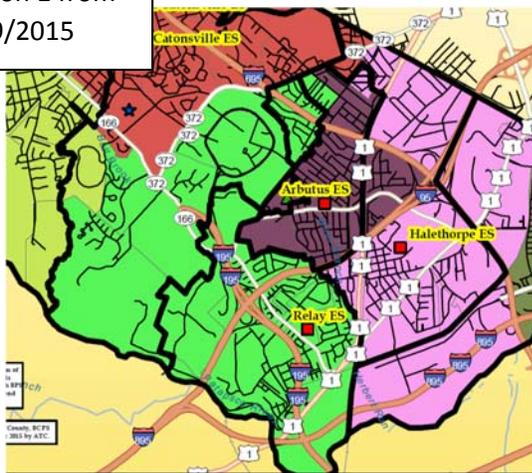
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The current proposal puts us at 96% capacity (661 out of 689). It leaves us room for only 28 students. Making it likely that we would go over capacity before the new school opens in just under 2 years. It should be noted that many of us believe that the attendance is artificially down this year due to some issues between the parents and the current school administration. The school is healing from that rift and I fully expect the attendance numbers to go back to where they were before those issues came to light.

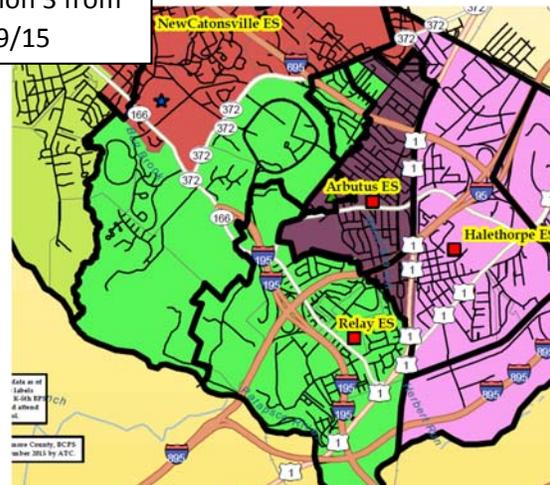
Finally, adding blocks 406, 407, and 527 to Relay does not make sense from both a community perspective and from a transportation/safety perspective. I believe that thought behind including them was both to relieve overcrowding at Halethorpe and because the thought was they were connected by Route 1. Route 1 is a very busy road and in the connected area is full of businesses and is industrial. The closest connection to the school is through Clark Blvd. However this intersection is dangerous. A bus should not be turning left from Clark to Route 1. I would not allow my children on a bus that was making that turn. It is a safety issue. Without this connection, buses from the area would most likely use Selma Ave. or Ridge Ave. This would be a distance of over 1.5 miles and they would be passing through two other school districts (Arbutus Elementary and Halethorpe Elementary) before getting to Relay.

The current proposal for Relay does not make sense. At the beginning of this process there were two proposals that did make sense for Relay from the September 29, 2015 meeting. They were Options 1 and 3 shown below.

Option 1 from 9/29/2015



Option 3 from 9/29/15



Southwest Area Boundary Study Public Email Log 11/24/15 to 12/4/15

If the issue is to give more relief to Halethorpe then two other options might be viable.

1. Take the current boundary and add blocks 430 and 431 (near Westland Blvd.), blocks 442, 443, 536, and 542 (UMBC and surrounding area to connect the Westland area to Relay), and blocks 402 and 403.

2. If more students from Halethorpe are needed then you could also include all or part of planning block 404. This block is much closer and makes more sense than the planning blocks east of Route 1.

These options make more sense than the current option that is proposed.

Thank you, Heather Agler Roth

11/30/15, 0801 hrs

Meg Macgill meggy74@yahoo.com

Dear Boundary Study Committee,

I am a mother of two children at Relay Elementary. I am concerned about the boundary proposal options for the Southwest, specifically concerning the Relay area. All options 1-4 have Relay Elementary now bringing in students across Route 1. This is a quite disjointed boundary which no other school district has.

In addition, the current proposals of options 1-4 would bring our school capacity to 96% leaving no room for natural growth amidst our current community. We are already growing in numbers within and would not want to burst at the seams the moment the new school has opened.

As far as transportation, it seems like an unlikely scenario to have school buses crossing Route 1 during busy hours to pick up or drop off children that live there while crossing through two already established elementary school zones (Arbutus and Halethorpe).

Thank you for your time in reading this email and I hope further study would be warranted. Meg Macgill

11/30/15, 0809 hrs

Bauman, Bill BBauman@gpstrategies.com

As a resident of the Summit Park area of Catonsville, I'm sending this note to support Option 3 regarding the new Elementary School boundaries being considered. I also find Options 1 and 4 acceptable but am strongly opposed to Option 2 because I find it to be disruptive to the community. Bill Bauman

11/30/15, 0858 hrs

Dennis Wilderson denniswilderson@gmail.com

To Whom it May Concern, I am writing to you regarding the 4 boundary proposals currently under consideration. In these proposals Relay is the same in all 4 giving our school only one proposed option. Unfortunately that option is flawed for three reasons:

1. It creates three disparate islands of community within the school that are not geographically connected at all. – No other school boundaries have this type of disjointed boundary. It does not make sense to add blocks 406, 407, and 527.

2. The current proposal brings our school to 96% capacity (661 out of 689). It leaves us room for only 28 students. Making it likely that we would go over capacity before the schools opens in just under 2 years. - I also think our numbers are artificially down this year due to the issues between the administration at our school and the parents.

3. There would be transportation issues when adding blocks 406, 407, and 527 (area east of Route 1). The added 3rd island (blocks 406, 407, and 527) is currently visually connected by artificially adding the industrial block 418. The closest connection between the closest houses and this school (Halethorpe Ave. to Clark Blvd.) by Route 1 is about 0.8 miles. However, this is a dangerous intersection. A bus should not be making a left hand turn from Clark Blvd. onto Route 1. This would make the bus take a route through Halethorpe making the trip over 1.5 miles and passing through two different school districts (Arbutus and Halethorpe Elementary).

The best option for Relay would be to do nothing until after the new schools are built in the area and then consider new boundaries. If not we will be doing this again in 3 years. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Regards, Denny Wilderson, Jr. 443-865-4422

11/30/15, 1131 hrs

Jay Matthews <meetjohn316@yahoo.com>

Dear Boundary Committee,

I want to first thank you for allowing us a voice in this matter. My name is John L. Matthews, the father of Gabriella P. Matthews, a pre-school student at Johnnycake Elementary school. My daughter joined this school in our community at the beginning of this year and it has been a AMAZING blessing thus far. We don't want any boundary changes to our school because I don't want my child to go anywhere else. Those in our community share our concern. We are asking that we look further into other alternatives for number's concern. Johnny Cake is a great school in a great community and we want our child to go here.

John L. Matthews Concerned Parent/PTA Member 1217 McAdoo Ave. Gwynn Oak, Md. 21207 410-409-6510

11/30/15, 1145 hrs

Jay Matthews meetjohn316@yahoo.com

I attempted to take the survey; however, I noticed that the survey doesn't explain any of the choices. The survey also doesn't show neighborhoods, so we don't know which option to select. This survey is extremely ambiguous. Please help me understand why this the only options are four maps, in which you can't see the neighborhoods. John L. Matthews PTA Member/Concerned Parent

11/30/15, 1155 hrs

kimberly freeman <kimberlyfreeman1998@yahoo.com>

Boundary committee, My name is Kimberly Matthews parent of a Johnnycake Elementary School student. I am very concerned with the boundary changes. It appears to push those of a more ethnic community towards Edmonson Heights. This very concerning.

Kimberly Matthews PTA Member Gwynn Oak Community

Southwest Area Boundary Study Public Email Log 11/24/15 to 12/4/15

11/30/15, 1201 hrs

Matthew Roberson <matthew.r.roberson@gmail.com>

To the BCPS Board of Education and the Redistricting Committee:

I have completed the rezoning survey, but also want to write in support of keeping planning blocks 543 & 510 in the Hillcrest Elementary school zone, along with more than 100 other families signing the petition linked here:

<https://www.change.org/p/bcps-board-of-education-bdstudy-bcps-org-keep-south-hilton-neighborhoods-at-hillcrest-pb-543-and-510-south-of-mccurley-ave>

I do not support the four options selected by the rezoning committee. These options do not take into account the following facts and are contrary to the guidance of Rule 1280 (Boundary Changes):

III.B.4 - Use of Natural Boundaries - PB 543 and 510 are surrounded on three sides by Patapsco State Park and Catonsville Community College. An acceptable solution should use the existing natural boundaries.

III.B.5 - Satellite Zones - There is a lack of access to PB 543 and 510 without entering the Hillcrest zone (via Hilton Ave). The only road in or out of our neighborhood is Hilton Avenue. The committee is effectively creating a new "satellite zone" for PB 543 and 510 families, isolating the children from their community.

Further, our Catonsville neighborhood has been intact for more than 30 years and Hilton Avenue is a major link for the friendships and daily community interaction. The 4 proposed plans cut off South Hilton from the rest of the community, isolating this group of children from their social peers and schoolmates.

The children walk, run and bike up and down Hilton Avenue everyday. They feel safe and know the neighbors in the houses along Hilton Avenue, because they go to school with them. There is a sense of community, and it would be wrong to separate the neighborhoods.

Please keep planning blocks 543 & 510 part of the Hilton Avenue neighborhood by keeping these blocks in the Hillcrest Elementary school zone.

Thank you. Sincerely, Matt Roberson

11/30/15, 1249 hrs

Trish Miller <trish.miller@marylandexcels.org>

As I continue to look through all of the information, I am so frustrated with the lack of reviewing public input as well as school input in this process. While my children will not be affected in this process, my community and neighborhood I love will be affected.

I'm still trying to grasp how in 1 meeting you present 6 new options and do a simple sticker vote with committee members whose schools are not affected to go from 11 to 4 public options. I'm confused at why schools who are not losing children are voting on other schools that are affected. I'm disappointed that public input is only through the form of email or trying to run these volunteer committee members over at a meeting.

Anyone can look at this and realize you are looking at 3 different zones. Sure, there may be a little overlap, but for the most part, you have a north or 40 zone, a central and a south. Why are we looking at this as a whole. Our needs are different.

For some reason, one of the schools that needed the most help isn't getting it (Johnnycake). Did the county think they could just move students all over the place without concern?

The south construction is going to be in process with the allotment for Landsdowne and Relay in a few years. Why are you putting families through this process more than once?

I go back to some of your goals:

1. disrupt as few students as possible.....Why are the selected options disrupting large amounts of students unnecessarily? There were options that disrupted almost half the amount. You are moving 250 from one school, but moving 100 back in ? 350+ students to adjust 1 school?

2.increase or maintain diversity: In all 4 options, Westchester numbers are reduced significantly while other area schools rise dramatically, all while moving families just to move them. Diversity numbers are going to look different north of 40. Let's do our best to have reasonable numbers in the central area and help the schools north and south as they wish.

3. Feeder schools. This is a good goal if the feeder patterns are good to begin with, but in some cases you are taking neighborhoods apart (as they were already done for middle school making 2 wrongs vs correcting a problem). BCPS created the problem for middle school. Don't do it for elementary school too. You are creating satellite's and islands with some of these neighborhood break ups. Do not create islands (like BCPS did for middle school) and don't try to fix it by sending just those islands to the elementary feeder. It's not fixing the problem. It's creating a bigger one. ie: PB 351 in option 3. Image attached below with lines of just some of the commercial area around PB 351.

4. Keeping neighborhood continuity. This should be doing your best to keep neighborhood continuity when the neighborhood really is a neighborhood (some dating back a century). There are neighborhoods that are currently separated and seem fine with that as they are primarily made up of rental housing. They are content to stay in their current schools, just like most people would prefer. You have other PB's who want nothing more than to just stay with their neighborhood because the PB is surrounded on the other sides by commercial property and county property. Unfortunately, Hillcrest seems to be the brunt of the neighborhood separation and some of the response seems to be "kids will adjust". Dunmore is on the list to move to Westowne in 2 options, but they are moving as a neighborhood. The neighborhoods down Hilltop road are all zoned to Westchester from Hillcrest in every option but they are moved as a neighborhood. I have not heard too many complaints for either of those areas because you have kept neighborhood continuity for those neighborhoods. We are asking for the same. You have PB's split by Rolling road with families backing to multiple planning blocks of kids they will not attend school with unless you went back to C. PB 515 and 511.

Keep in mind, the areas affected the most bring in some of the highest home values in the area. If neighborhoods are broken up with children living next to one another and one street over going to different schools, people could choose to send their children to private schools or move elsewhere. People buy in central Catonsville because of the neighborhood continuity and if you take it away, it's not just going to affect the schools, but the community as a whole. The goal is supposed to have many great schools and communities.

Please consider listening to community and school input and looking at the 11 schools in small groups and individually. I could look at the options personally and say "these 2 or 3 would work for me" Is that what you want? People looking at the options for just themselves or looking at a bigger picture because if I look at a bigger picture for Central Catonsville, none of the presented 4 options work as they do not address any of the above mentioned goals. Your survey did nothing but allow people to address personal wishes at most. Let's step back and really have public and school input so we can make a community decision vs a personal one.

Thank you, Trish Miller

Program Coordinator for Maryland EXCELS

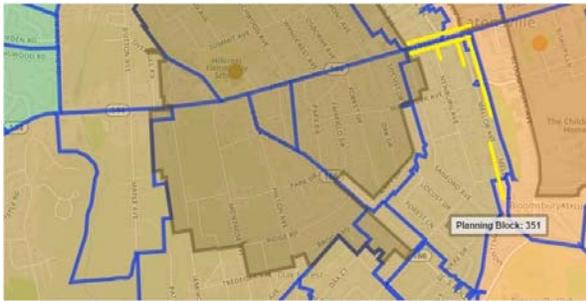
Source: Boundary Study Email Box (bdystudy@bcps.org) unless otherwise noted

Prepared by the Baltimore County Public Schools

Office of Strategic Planning, Updated December 4, 2015

Southwest Area Boundary Study Public Email Log 11/24/15 to 12/4/15

Center for Technology in Education
Johns Hopkins University School of Education
410-262-8540
Office Hours: Monday 1-3p.m. Thursday 9-11a.m. and by appointment



11/30/15, 1555 hrs

dbedlivy@aol.com

I object to the four planning options presented by the Southwest Area Redistricting Committee because they do not take into account the factors set forth in Rule 1280 when looking at many of the planning blocks, namely PB 510.

RULE 1280

4. Use of natural boundaries, such as railroads, creeks, major highways, election districts, existing school boundaries, and location of feeder schools;

-PB510 is surrounded to the south and west by state park land, and is also cut off from the rest of the Catonsville Elementary School boundaries through Hillcrest Elementary school boundaries and CCBC land. In two of the proposed plans, PB 510 is the only planning block with houses on Hilton Avenue that is being taken out of the Hillcrest Elementary school boundary, cutting these children off from their street and community.

5. Elimination of existing satellite zones (areas districted to a school that are outside of its boundary);

-PB 510 would become a satellite zone if included in the Catonsville Elementary school boundary. The children in this PB will have to travel through their neighborhood that is now districted to a different school, cross over a major thoroughfare, and along another busy street to reach the elementary school they have been redistricted to. This more than doubles the travel distance the children have now, and eliminates the children's ability to travel safely to their school by foot or bike. Right now the children walk and bike up and down Hilton Avenue using the designated bike lane that spans the whole length of Hilton Avenue to get to school. This distance is just over a mile and is a safe journey with the only road to cross being Frederick Road, which is manned by a crossing guard. There is no safe way for the children of South Hilton to travel by foot or bike to the school they will be redistricted to.

6. Maintaining feeder school patterns from elementary to middle and middle to high school to keep students from the same communities together;

-PB 510 is districted for Catonsville Middle school. Moving this PB to Catonsville disrupts the feeder school patterns for the children of PB 510. These children will be separated from their community for elementary school. The children of PB 510 will now have to travel well over a mile in some cases to get to a classmate in their new school.

Hilton Avenue is a major artery connecting the houses along it, as well as the neighboring streets. In PB 510 there are 11 houses on Hilton Avenue. These houses are not part of a sub-development. Cutting off such a small number of houses from the community essentially leaves them alone on an island of 11. For the continuity of the neighborhood, please consider keeping Hilton Avenue all in the same planning block.

Sincerely, Dawn Bedlivy 1004A Hilton Avenue Catonsville, MD 21228

12/01/15, 1801 hrs

Melissa McGuire melissa@melissamcguirelaw.com

Dear Boundary Committee, My husband and I moved to 101 Fairfield Drive in PB514 in November 2014, from Howard County, Maryland. A major consideration for us in moving to this neighborhood from Howard County, with its exemplary public schools, was that this neighborhood is zoned to Hillcrest Elementary School, where my brother and siblings attended, as well as Catonsville Middle School and Catonsville Senior High School. I am a graduate of both Catonsville Middle School and Catonsville Senior High. I want my three year old daughter to have the same options that I had as a child.

It is shocking and disappointing that so soon after our move and my relocation back home to Catonsville and Baltimore County, that Baltimore County has proposed to rezone our neighborhood to Catonsville Elementary School. If our neighborhood is rezoned to Catonsville, many children in our neighborhood will be forced to travel further than Hillcrest to get to school. Several of the roads do not have safe sidewalks. I will not let my child walk that distance and I would drive her to school. This is terrible for the community and Baltimore County and, frankly, is a step backwards. Please reject ANY option that would move PB514 from Hillcrest Elementary School. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Melissa Menkel McGuire CHS '87

12/01/15, 2111 hrs

Mike Reese reesemike@gmail.com

Committee Members,

I am writing to ask committee members to vote for options that keep PB 514 at Hillcrest Elementary (options 1, 3, & 4). We are the only planning block that might be redistricted away from a school located in sight of our houses. Children on my block walk to Hillcrest, but would be bussed to the new Catonsville Elementary. We also want our children to attend an elementary school that feeds the same middle school they will attend. In addition, I ask that committee members disregard requests to link planning blocks 514 and 351 together. These requests have been made by members outside PB 514 without consulting with us. While I would be happy to see PB 351 remain at Hillcrest, I do not support their argument that we should move with them to the new Catonsville Elementary if they are redistricted there (see Public Email Log).

Kind regards, Mike Reese

Source: Boundary Study Email Box (bdystudy@bcps.org) unless otherwise noted

Prepared by the Baltimore County Public Schools

Office of Strategic Planning, Updated December 4, 2015

Southwest Area Boundary Study Public Email Log 11/24/15 to 12/4/15

12/2/15, 1656 hrs

Stephen Bartolini <stephen.bartolini@gmail.com>

Please support redistricting options that keep planning block 514 at Hillcrest Elementary School, our community elementary school since Hillcrest's founding in 1968.

- PB 514 is in the current walking zone for Hillcrest Elementary School. As current walkers to Hillcrest, we do not require use of the already overcrowded traffic and transportation infrastructure of the county and local area.
- In the current Option 2, PB 514 appears to be the only planning block of current walkers that are removed from their current elementary school.
- A portion of the homes in PB 514 fall out of the proposed walking zone to the new Catonsville Elementary School (CES), including my own. Hillcrest Elementary School is visible from many of these homes, including my own. If PB 514 is moved to CES, these students would go from walkers to Hillcrest to being bussed to CES, in full view of Hillcrest.
- Keeping PB 514 at Hillcrest supports middle school feeder consistency, as Hillcrest is a current feeder school for Catonsville Middle and PB 514 is zoned for Catonsville Middle.
- The proposed walking boundary for the new Catonsville Elementary School (CES) is not logical, feasible or safe for the children living in PB 514:
 - Magruder Avenue is the only direct walkway to CES from PB 514 and is unsafe for walkers of any age, let alone elementary school students. Magruder has incomplete sidewalks and curbs, specifically on the portions within PB 514, and is very narrow. With cars parked on both shoulders and no sidewalks, children would be forced to walk in the street to get to school.
 - Given an unsafe direct walkway to CES, students would be forced to walk a long circuitous route, likely through the commercial blocks on Frederick Road, to CES, moving many of the students in PB 514 outside the one mile walking limit.
 - Even if the proposed (and unsafe) walking boundary is maintained after the county performs its full evaluation, it is likely the parents of PB 514 would be forced to drive their children to school. This would increase the traffic burden on Bloomsbury Ave and the new CES, a traffic burden that is already quite heavy before the new elementary school even opens.
- As a resident of PB 514, I appreciate you continuing to evaluate PB 514 independently from other planning blocks. Hillcrest Elementary School is adjacent to PB 514 and has been a part of our community for over 45 years. Please continue to support options that keep our children at Hillcrest Elementary. Thank you, Steve and Mandy Bartolini

12/2/15, 1835 hrs

Dorothy Noble dotnoble@verizon.net

Please consider the attached from the Old Catonsville Neighborhood Association (350 homes) before the next SW Redistricting Meeting.

Dear BCPS,

Please consider the following before the next SW Redistricting Meeting:

The Old Catonsville Neighborhood Association (OCNA) is comprised of more than 350 families, and is bordered by Frederick Road, Melvin Ave, Edmondson, and the Streetcar Path. Hillcrest falls within our neighborhood borders, and is the school for our community children. The future of Hillcrest not only affects the educational opportunities for our children, but also the quality of life in our community. As such we have the following concerns:

1. Walkability should be a primary consideration for our Hillcrest students and our OCNA community. At a minimum, planning blocks within the BCPS walking zone and one mile radius should be maximized, especially in relation to those communities that require transportation. Hillcrest is an aging school with a poorly configured parking lot, bus loop and carpool lane, and is not equipped to handle the amount of bus and car traffic that is our present day reality. Without a strategic approach favoring walkability, the traffic and safety issues that have long impacted our community and students at Hillcrest will not be alleviated.
 2. We seek a more equitable distribution of the FARMS population with our neighboring schools. Hillcrest is disproportionately affected with an increase as high as 42% in one option compared to our neighboring school Westchester, which will see decreases from 25% to 20% in all options. Additionally, Catonsville Elementary will decline or slightly increase from their current 34%. We believe these disparities may prevent the children in OCNA from receiving equal educational opportunities compared to our neighboring schools.
- We respectfully request adjustment of the options under consideration for the Southwest Area Elementary Boundary Change Process, as none of the current options address our concerns adequately. Plan 1 would be an acceptable starting point with the following modifications:
- Planning Block 525 should return to Westchester Elementary, with Planning Block 462 remaining at Hillcrest. This would bring the FARMS numbers more in line with our neighboring schools and disrupt fewer children. Combining these planning blocks works in opposition to a number of the redistricting objectives set forth by BCPS. It decreases diversity at Westchester to an unacceptable level, causes an inequitable distribution of students to Hillcrest, and potentially replaces walkable students with a planning block that will clearly need transportation.
 - With Planning Block 525's return to Westchester, a now excluded planning block could be returned to the Hillcrest boundary. This would support community continuity where there has been adverse impact or questionable planning block designations and upheaval in our larger community.

OCNA, the larger Hillcrest community, staff and PTA have worked in successful partnership to make Hillcrest the consistently high performing school it is today. Losing a large portion of our community in this process will be difficult and a challenge not shared by our neighboring schools. OCNA looks forward to a modified option that provides minimal disruption to Hillcrest students and a positive impact on our community. Thank you The Old Catonsville Neighborhood Association

Southwest Area Boundary Study Public Email Log 11/24/15 to 12/4/15

12/3/15, 2338 hrs

Rachel Balis rsbalis@yahoo.com

Mr. Borocato,

I object to the four planning options presented by the Southwest Area Redistricting Committee because they do not take into account the factors set forth in Rule 1280 when looking at many of the planning blocks, namely 510.

RULE 1280

4. Use of natural boundaries, such as railroads, creeks, major highways, election districts, existing school boundaries, and location of feeder schools;

-PB510 is surrounded to the south and west by state park land, and is also cut off from the rest of the Catonsville Elementary School boundaries though Hillcrest Elementary school boundaries and CCBC land. PB 510 is one of only two planning blocks that are being taken out of the Hillcrest Elementary school boundary at the end of Hilton Avenue, separating these children from their community.

5. Elimination of existing satellite zones (areas districted to a school that are outside of its boundary);

-PB 510 would become a satellite zone if included in the Catonsville Elementary school boundary. The children in this PB will have to travel through their neighborhood, and up the same road they live on, that is now districted to a different school, cross over major a thoroughfare, South Rolling Road, and along another busy street to reach the elementary school they have been redistricted to. This more than doubles the travel distance the children have now, and eliminates the children's ability to travel safely to their school by foot or bike. The children from PB 510 will now be passing children in the same neighborhood they live in going to a different school.

6. Maintaining feeder school patterns from elementary to middle and middle to high school to keep students from the same communities together;

- PB 510 is districted for Catonsville Middle school. Moving this PB to Catonsville Elementary disrupts the feeder school patterns for the children of PB 510. These children will be separated from their community for elementary school. In many cases, the children from PB 510 will not have another student outside their planning block that they go to school with for the entirety of their Baltimore County school career within a 1.5 mile radius. Thank you, Rachel Balis