

# Southwest Area Boundary Study Committee

Meeting # 6 Notes

December 9, 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  
Corinne Loudon – Halethorpe ES  
James Kitchel – Hillcrest ES  
Donna Knutson – Hillcrest ES  
Obi Linton – Johnnycake ES  
Gina Anderson – 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 Hinegartner – Woodbridge  
Keith Grayson – Woodbridge  
Beverly Coleman – Member at Large

### **Teacher/Staff Representativ**

Paula Doll – Catonsville ES  
Whitney Plunkett – Edmondson Heights ES  
Danielle Gemmell – Halethorpe ES  
Erika Herman – Hillcrest ES  
Nicola Styer – Lansdowne ES  
Patricia Wilding – Relay ES  
Kim Noppenberger – Westchester ES  
Lisa Musacchio – Westowne  
Andrea Gibble – Woodbridge ES

### **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  
Lisa Dingle – Relay ES  
Phil Byers – Westchester  
Scott Palmer – Westowne  
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

**Other Attendees from the Community**

Allison Dietz – Hillcrest – OCNA  
Cathy Engers  
Rachel Pacella  
Bryan Hammer  
Phil Campbell  
Eric Ebersole – Maryland House of Delegates  
Justine Stall  
Elizabeth Smith  
Christine Kent  
Mei-Lin Kamt  
Amy Robey  
Jenny Bowers  
Colleen Roberson  
Katie Knight  
Mark Pelosi  
Tracey Bowdwen  
Yvette Gould  
Quint Gregory  
Lisa Boone  
Chris Fitzpatrick  
Bill Meier  
Chris Bonner  
Mike Bowler  
Andrew Bonic  
Felicia Almaroof  
Natalia Paufile  
Sarah Fondelier  
Chris Willis  
Crystal Shelley

Meeting materials for the Southwest Area Boundary Study Committee were distributed to each member of the committee and staff. The materials included a meeting agenda and schedule, responses to questions raised at Meeting #5 and the Public Information Session, requests, corrections, and updates since Meeting #5, and a summary of the responses to the Public Information Session. The packet also included some new variations of the option that had been shared with the public at the public information session: 3.1, 3.1a, 3.2, and 3.2a.

The draft option materials included 8 ½ x 11” maps of Option 3 and its variations, as well as large table sized maps of the options for review in small groups. Disaggregated data for all options was provided in the form of charts reflecting Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment (FTE), FTE percentage of enrollment, number of students over/under capacity, percent minority enrollment, and percent of students receiving Free-Reduced Lunch. Additional charts provided data on the number of students affected by each option. Committee member emails from November 11 through December 4, 2015 were also included in the packet.

The major objectives for this meeting included:

- Review of new option variations that attempt to address feedback from the committee and the public,
- A group exercise to nominate preferred options for a sticker exercise, and
- A sticker exercise to narrow options for the final meeting.

#### Meeting Highlights

- At approximately 6:05 p.m., committee co-chair Monique Phillip greeted committee members and announced that, in order to provide time for the committee to review the extensive feedback that has been received from the public and to consider options accordingly, an additional committee meeting has been scheduled for December 16, 2015. She shared that additional scenarios and information related to the survey results and email comments that we have received. She also shared that continued growth in the area and future needs will require us to continue to advocate for this area.
- At 6:08, Mr. Cropper began his presentation by focusing on the agenda for the evening and informing the committee that new variations of options numbered 3.1, 3.1a, 3.2, and 3.2a will be introduced in response to feedback from the committee and the public. In addition, committee members will spend most of the meeting time reviewing the new modified options in small groups to rank the options from best to worst and nominate preferred options for the committee to discuss, based on their pros and cons. This will be followed by a sticker exercise in which voting committee members will place stickers on the maps reflecting their preferred options.
- Mr. Cropper reviewed responses to requests, questions and updates addressed since the Public Information Session. He also reviewed the results of the Public Information Session and the survey summary results.
- Mr. Cropper announced that about 200 individuals attended the Public Information Session and over 1,200 responded to the online survey. The results indicated that no one option of the four presented at the Public Information Session received overwhelming support; no option received more than 37% of somewhat or strongly favor responses. However, option

3 did have the most favorable responses and the least unfavorable responses. The least popular option was Option 2. Most concerns related to disruption of neighborhoods.

- Mr. Cropper indicated that, starting with Option 3, additional options (3.1, 3.1a, 3.2, and 3.2a) have been developed in an attempt to improve upon it. He then reminded the committee that this process will not resolve all of the overcrowding in this study area. The school district is aware of this and is working with the county to develop capital improvement projects that will address remaining overcrowding in the study area, specifically in the northern portion of the area. The variations on Option 3 presented at the meeting align with considerations provided by the committee and the public. The variations also minimize the number of students affected by the boundary change process, follow middle school boundaries to the greatest extent possible, and address goals such as walk-ability and future growth.
- At approximately 6:16, Mr. Cropper reviewed the adjustments to Option 3 presented at new options 3.1, 3.1a, 3.2, and 3.2a.
- A committee member asked about feedback from BCPS administration regarding a replacement or an addition to Johnnycake in order to provide relief to overcrowding in the future. The question was whether or not it is being planned or discussed.
- Mr. Russell Brown, Chief Accountability Officer, responded to the question by indicating that, BCPS built Lyons Mill Elementary School in the northwest, but understood that it was not the solution for the entire northwest. Similarly, the four projects under construction in the southwest are not the solution for the entire southwest area. BCPS is aware that the seats being provided now in the southwest are not adequate to meet the capacity needs of the entire region. The county has been wonderful in putting together future plans to relieve overcrowding throughout the system and to provide air conditioning throughout the system as well and there is an on-going plan to reduce overcrowding throughout the entire system. The area north of Route 40 and Route I-70, including Johnnycake and Chadwick is one that will require additional thought. Mr. Cropper indicated that the need will likely be addressed, but there is no target date at this time.
- Mr. Cropper then announced that time would be devoted to the review of the new options along with options 1-4 presented at the Public Information Session. Maps of the options, raw comments by school, and interactive maps on computers were made available to support this review of the options.
- A committee member suggested that it would be helpful for representative from each school to tell other members what would be the impact of the changes in their area.
- Mr. Cropper shared that this was a good suggestion for each of the small groups as they go through the exercise, followed by a discussion of the results as a whole group. Mr. Cropper shared that if the committee felt that this was not covered in the small groups, the follow-up discussion could provide an opportunity to address any other concerns.
- A committee members raised a concern that the study area is too large and complex and asked why, and urged that the study area be reduced to a smaller group of schools. Mr. Taylor shared that that BCPS recognized that all problems in the area would not be solved and that not all schools might be impacted, but all school adjacent to a school where a project would add seats was included because it is possible they could be impacted. He

shared that all members of the committee representing all schools have added value to this committee to help inform the decisions for the schools that are affected.

- Mr Cropper added that the ultimate goal is always to provide capacity relief for as many schools as possible, while adhering as much as possible to the other goals and criteria, such as transportation efficiency, and balancing diversity as much as possible. He added that some options may provide more relief to some schools than others and do a better job of meeting the secondary goals and objectives of the process better than others. He reminded the group that a diverse committee weighing varied options should consider which best provide the most capacity relief for the majority of schools, while also successfully reflecting as many of the other goals and criteria as possible using all data, and maps, and information provided.
- Another committee member echoed the concern that too many schools with too many variables and project timelines are being considered and that involving schools that truly do not have a true stake in the process is not fair to those that do.
- At approximately 6:37, Mr. Cropper reminded the group that some schools have relief in some scenarios and not in others. He told committee members to keep the goals and criteria of the process in mind, to look at things such as future projects, the number of students impacted, the likelihood of being impacted more than once as they consider these options in small groups and to keep working towards the best plan to meet the needs of this area.
- The group process continued from approximately 6:40 until about 7:30
- During the process as the result of a question from one group, Mr. Taylor shared that the project at Lansdowne was in the planning phase and had received planning funding from the county and that is anticipated to be supported by the state as more funding at the state level is available.
- Each group was asked to nominate those options that they felt were best. Maps of those options were brought to the front of the room for consideration by all of the groups. Groups supporting each nominated option were to report on the strengths and weaknesses. Two of the options (1 and 2) were not nominated by any group. Options 3, 3.1, 3.1a, 3.2, 3.2a, and 4 received some nominations.
- Each group that recommended an option reported back on the strengths and weaknesses by 7:58. Mr. Cropper thanked the committee members for their hard work so far and indicated that the sticker exercise would be postponed until the next meeting. Mr. Taylor announced that the feedback provided for each option will be documented and shared with the members of the committee via email and posted on the website. Mrs. Calder announced that the Office of Communications and the principals will make sure that word of the new final meeting scheduled for December 16, 2015, will be shared with school communities and the general public.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

Boundary Study Committee Meeting #7

Wednesday, December 14, 2015

Catonsville High School Cafeteria

6:00-7:30 p.m.

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