

Victory Villa Community Boundary Study Public Email Log: 02/27/17 to 03/03/17

Date: 2/28/2017, 1351 hrs

Name: Colleen Kelly

To Whom it may concern:

I am a resident of Baltimore County and currently have 2 children enrolled into Orem's Elementary. I also went to Orem's Elementary as a child. Over the years the neighborhood, staff, and parents have made this school successful. The Orem's Community is in Jeopardy of being torn apart. I have struggled to afford to keep my kids in a well organized and caring school to ensure that they are being well educated and are around kids of parents who also want the same things and have the same values. This is why we have spent the money to live in an area with a good school.

The re-boundary of these schools will uproot our children in the middle of their elementary career and place them in a school that they have no ties to. They will lose the teachers they have grown to love, friendships, and familiarity.

I have personally attended the meetings of the re-boundary study and have noticed one thing. Only parents from Orem's Elementary and Vincent Farm Elementary seem to be attending these meetings to fight for our children to stay in there "Home" school and I say "Home" school, because this is somewhere they attend every day, school is there 2nd "home". They feel "safe" there and I feel "safe" with them there.

I have developed a personal relationship with each of my child's teachers. I email them on a regular basis to check on the progress of my child's behavior. Parenting is not easy and I am fighting to raise children who are functioning members of society and not people who work the system to their benefit and live off others good fortune.

The re-boundary study is focusing on "Diversity" and "title one" benefits. The study does not seem to care about the repercussions of the re-boundary of these schools and the effects it will have on the children you are trying to uproot and move. You are trying to move kids from schools in good neighborhoods, where people have spent hundreds and thousands of dollars to purchase houses which they make their homes, into schools in neighborhoods riddled with section "8" homes, where families are moving from house to house as their benefits change and they do not make these houses their homes, it is just a place to live for the time being.

I am writing this letter; because I want Orem's to stay the same. Orem's Elementary was built for the children of Golden Tree and Aero Acres and has educated the children of this community since 1960. This is my plea for you to do something for the good of the people of our community and leave our school alone. Let Orem's Elementary Continue to be great and excel, don't split our Community we have spent decades to build.

Thank you for your time.

Colleen Kelly

Mother of a Kindergarten and 3rd Grade Student at Orem's Elementary.

Colleen Kelly

Pre-sale

600 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 208

Towson, MD 21204

410-296-2550 ext 3053

Efax: 443-740-9116

Date: 3/02/2017, 0907 hrs

Name: Melissa Bowling

Hi I'm Melissa Bowling a Orem's community resident that's lived here over 27 years I've went to Orem's as a child & I have nothing but good things to say about that school regarding the staff & the people who have become close friends, everyone who goes to Orem's has a reason, people move to this area because of what a wonderful, pleasant place that it is. & now BCPS plans to make other plans... how is that fair to the people who are suppose to be here? People choose to be here because of the staff & the environment. This is a place I trust my child going. A place where if I call or email someone always answers. You plan for me to send my child to a 5 star school when Orem's is a 7 star school & the teachers have worked so well with my child. The first day of school was rough & my child has finally gotten used to everything & you expect me to throw that away and throw him in another school he has no clue about nor the teachers or environment? My child isn't the best with changing of things and it's not fair, you people are NOT the ones who have to deal with the hard times like this, & clearly it's not something you or whoever is doing this is worried about, it truly is a bunch of CRAP & I DO NOT or will I ever stand for it. There are so many what IFS and concerns & I will let it be known come MARCH 15th

Date: 3/02/2017, 2317 hrs

Name: Bonnie Sinsky

My name is Bonnie Sinsky. My daughter is a student at Orem's Elementary School. She is one of the students that could potentially be relocated to a different school due to the Victory Villa Boundary Study. I just wanted to let you know that I feel like this is not a good idea. The Orem's Elementary school community has always included Aero Acres and we do not want to go to another school. Many people in my family have gone to Orem's Elementary and I want my daughter to have the same opportunity. I feel like Orem's is the school that my daughter should go to because she loves her school. My daughter has an IEP and she feels comfortable with the staff at Orem's and I don't think that should be taken away from her. She has grown so much since beginning school at Orem's and I know she would be heartbroken to have to switch schools. The reason that we moved to Aero Acres was so that my daughter could attend Orem's Elementary. Please do not take this opportunity away from my daughter, like I mentioned before my daughter would be heartbroken to leave her school. Thank you for your time, Bonnie Sinsky

Victory Villa Community Boundary Study Public Email Log: 02/27/17 to 03/03/17

Date: 3/03/2017, 1058 hrs

Name: Jennifer Hines

Dear Boundary Committee and Baltimore County Board of Education Members,

I am a parent of 2 Baltimore County students, one Kindergartner at Orem's Elementary, and one 8th grader at Stemmers Run Middle School. After hours of careful review of all options presented regarding the Victory Villa Replacement School and Community Boundary Change, I am in sheer disappointment and left very perplexed as to the reasoning for the changes my youngest son and hundreds of other children will be subjected to. All options considered seem solely driven to increase diversity. BCPS already does a terrific job of encouraging and teaching diversity, without uprooting students, families and communities.

All options presented specific to Orem's Elementary do virtually nothing to change the capacity and utilization. Our school currently services 333 students. All proposed options change the capacity from only 5-30 students, and vary utilization percentages from 5-11%. The drastic changes in boundaries, which cut the historic Aero Acres community in half, among many other ramifications achieve nothing positive for the school or community.

Currently the families and students of Orem's Elementary and Stemmers Run Middle have a vested interest in the school due to their geographic location. Every option presented to Orem's affects at minimum 64 students, while the majority (4/6) options affect 130 students- senselessly.

Overall these changes affect the entire study area at a minimum of 681 students, upward of 871.

Our current feeder school, Stemmers Run Middle services 100% of Orem's students. 4 of the 6 options presented divide this statistic more than half sending anywhere from 51-56% of our students to Golden Ring Middle. The hard working middle class families that reside and buy homes in the Golden Tree and Aero Acres communities will flee to nearby developing communities on the Route 43 corridor that have already taxed services, which ironically fueled the need for this boundary study.

Another key issue I find seriously flawed with this change is the requirement to add more students requiring bussing to the already overburdened Office of Transportation. Every option presented adds minimally 17 students, maximum of 113. This facet seems seriously neglectful when taking into consideration that one of the top 3 considerations is the impact of transportation and pedestrian patterns on students. All options involve moving anywhere from 34 to 105 students from across Pulaski Highway/ Route 40, a six lane highway with a speed limit of 50 mph which is the scene of many major accidents on a regular basis. These students will be bussed to Orem's Elementary, while extracting 64-130 established students and sending them to Middlesex Elementary. Even our elementary aged children cannot make rhyme or reason of such a nonsense move. They cannot understand why their classmate who lives across the street from them may have to move to another school.

"Maintaining the continuity of neighborhoods" is supposed to be a key consideration according to BCPS RULE 1280. This is clearly being omitted in regard to the Orem's Elementary community. I urge the committee and board members to seriously consider the implications of tearing apart a neighborhood which holds great pride in its schools and values the matriculation of future family members enough to make home purchases based solely on the current boundaries.

The serious overcrowding issue meant to address Vincent Farms and Shady Spring Elementary has far too many repercussions on hundreds of other students and families which bear no responsibility for the issue at hand. Schools such as Oliver Beach Elementary, which currently has 69% utilization has not even been considered in these options. All planned residential development occurs nowhere in the Orem's or Middlesex community. Disrupting and relocating so many students is careless and a disservice to the proud members of these communities. I genuinely hope more consideration is taken regarding future outcomes as a result of these negative options. Thank you for your time and commitment to our children.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hines