

Victory Villa Community Boundary Study Public Email Log: 03/03/17 to 03/08/17

Date: 3/03/2017, 1851 hrs

Name: Thomas W.

Hello, I just wanted to ask before the meeting. I see many different maps for the boundaries. Will it be narrowed down by the March 15th meeting? Or has it been narrowed down now? Please provide any information that you can. We are on the very edge of the boundary for Vincent farm and would love to stay at the school.

Best regards,

Thomas W.

Sent from my iPhone

Date: 3/03/2017, 1953 hrs

Name: Jessica Herring-Moore

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of 2, soon to be 3 children that attend Orem's Elementary School. I have reviewed all 6 options that have been presented at the Victory Villa Elementary School Boundary study meetings. None of the options are a good fit for Orem's. 4 out of 6 different options completely cut the Orem's Community in half. The other 2 options push out Aero Acres. All 6 of the options pull in Shady Springs Elementary. How are any of these changes going to benefit Orem's?

I am very concerned on how ALL of these changes will affect my children. My children attend a daycare in the area, which is why they are able to attend Orem's Elementary. They have been going to the same daycare every day for many years. We can't change it now. My children only know one daycare provider and changing daycare and schools will cause grief and turmoil in their lives at a very young influential age. Children need consistency throughout childhood. Consistency gives children a sense of security and helps them self-discipline.

When all these changes happen it will be my oldest sons last year in elementary school. When children start a new school this can cause nervousness, apprehension, and fear, which can lead to a poor academic outcome. This will happen to my son and other children two years in a row as the following year they will attend a new middle school.

Changing schools for some children can be a social and emotional experience. Families of Orem's Elementary have spent many hours, money, and personal time contributing to this school to make it a fun learning environment for our children.

Many people buy homes in this community because of the school that is districted for this area - Orem's Elementary. Same reason why I found a daycare in this area. I knew that Orem's was a great school before my children went there. Right now I know my children are safe and happy with the school they attend. You can't guarantee that will be the case if any of the redistricting options go through for Orem's.

Also, why aren't schools like Chase Elementary or Oliver Beach Elementary being involved with this study? These schools have low enrollment and couldn't some of these boundary studies shift to those schools? Chase Elementary school has a total capacity of 393 and only 348 are enrolled. Oliver Beach has a total capacity of 265 and only 194 are enrolled.

Thank you for listening to my concerns, Jessica Moore

Date: 3/04/2017, 2129 hrs

Name: Vonda L. Zamenski

Hi! I finished my letter and did not know where to send it. Hope this helps. Thanks, Denise

Denise Zacharski
10 Beefwood Court
Baltimore, MD 21221
410-682-2732

February 28, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

As a member of the community, grandmother of a future Orem's Elementary student and an Educator with BCPS, I have seen the six Boundary options and am opposed to them.

There are numerous issues and alternative solutions to this problem:

1. I propose having a Zero based policy for Shady Spring Elementary School so administration and staff can be revitalized which will give a new start to the school. BCPS has done Zero based staffing in the past, i.e. Lansdowne Middle School.
2. Make Shady Spring Elementary School a magnet school like Northwestern Middle School (Old Court Middle). Old Court has a new clientele and their test scores have increased.
3. Orem's Elementary has a total of four buses, if a crossing guard was placed at Fuselage and Compass, two buses would be alleviated saving BCPS thousands of dollars. There would only be 76 students who would require a bus.
4. If the boundaries were extended to Shady Springs, four additional buses would be added to Orem's (500-600 miles per year) and these buses are outsourced to Harris Bus Company which would cost BCPS further expenses.
5. If we need to choose an Option, I propose Option 1 and have students start in Pre-K and Kindergarten. Shady Springs students would not be successful moving to Orem's in the latter grades as they will be uprooted from their friends, teachers and will have different structure and discipline procedures. This option extends the current line but keeps Orem's intact while keeping it a true community school.
6. Since overcrowding is an issue with all of the proposed Elementary schools except Hawthorne Elementary (-72), Shady Springs (+179), Middlesex (+27), Victory Villa (+100), Orem's (+43), Vincent Farms (+204), Glenmar (+117) and Martin Boulevard (+18), I propose 72 students from Shady Springs go to Hawthorne Elementary and 50 students go to McCormick (+15) Elementary School. Victory Villa Elementary School will have a capacity of 735 students (277 additional spaces) and students from Vincent Farms and Glenmar can attend Victory Villa.
7. Orem's Elementary is currently at capacity but not grossly under populated or overcrowded. This community does not need to be disrupted.

The above suggestions should help with the overcrowding, keep the transportation costs to a minimum and keep the community schools intact. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely, Denise Zacharski

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Date: 3/05/2017, 2141 hrs

Name: Natalie Van Buskirk

Hello. My name is Natalie Van Buskirk and I am a parent of a 3rd grader, 1st grader and preschooler at Orem Elementary School. As the Victory Villa Elementary School Community Boundary Study unravels and the options are presented to the community members, there are several items that strongly concern me as a mother of three, Orem Elementary School PTA President and Goldentree community member. It's disheartening that our three children who are fully acclimated and comfortable at their homeschool may now lose the community they have grown to love and adore because of the possible boundary study options presented!

Looking at the notes and possible options presented to the committee members, I feel that there is still no strong option for Orem Elementary School. One consideration that is supposed to help guide this boundary study is "maintaining the continuity of neighborhoods." How in the world is the continuity of the Orem Elementary School neighborhood (Golden Tree and Aero Acre) being maintained with any of the options presented? All options have us losing half our current student body. All options shown removes anywhere between 64-130 children from our school and brings in 59-113 children from Shady Springs. This would keep only 89 or 155 current students to attend their home school. This is unacceptable. In the notes from meeting #3, 4 out of 5 committee groups showed new boundary map options where Orem Elementary School was pieced TOGETHER. Why was this not put into consideration when coming up with new Options, Option #5 and Option #6? I understand that we must keep all children in mind, but I cannot foresee how any of these current options are helping the Orem community.

My husband and I moved to this location 13 years ago, knowing that our children would be attending a wonderful school within walking distance of our house on Sandhill Road. We are fortunate enough to be able to walk to school each day, but there are many students who don't have this luxury. Looking at these options and the impact of transportation and pedestrian patterns, options #2-5, is going to increase the amount of riders and the distance traveled to Orem. These options suggest bringing in 93-113 students from past Route 40, a four lane, busy highway. What happens when a child is running late and misses the bus? With some of these options, you will be bussing out 64-130 children to Middlesex, which is further away from their HOME school, Orem, increasing the amount of gas needed and putting additional mileage on the buses.

Orem Elementary School has a rating of 7/10 and is home to an impeccable teaching staff. It deeply saddens me to know that half of the children attending Orem could be moved to a school with lower ratings (Middlesex 5/10). How will this affect the children's learning potential? Isn't BCPS goal to encourage our children's learning experience? To allow each child to be the best they can be?

My husband and I have been active parents at Orem Elementary School for 5 years now and we have witnessed the positive impacts when parents and teachers are involved in a child's learning career. It is proven that children have stronger educational experiences if they are involved and surrounded by a spirited community. Orem has such an amazing community feeling with many parents, teachers and staff who are alum themselves. We all work hard to maintain a consistently warm and inviting community atmosphere. With many of the options presented, Orem could lose half of their current community which would be replaced by families miles away. Will these parents and guardians be willing to attend the evening school spirit events? Will they want to be at a school further away from their home volunteering? As PTA President, we have an amazing group of parental support and volunteers that we would be losing if they were to go to Middlesex Elementary School. Again, what is the positive ramification for us?

Most importantly, consistency is key for our children!!! One of the most important tools in effective schools is consistency. Research and practice have proved that school leaders and teachers must be consistent every day in carrying out their duties if they want to improve student performance and conduct. This is a necessary element in the creation of successful schools. Students value consistency and they expect it! Inconsistency causes confusion and leads to indecisiveness and injustice. It destroys trust, community spirit and a positive school climate! I worry that the students at Orem Elementary School will lose the consistency that the teachers, staff and administration have worked so hard to create with an influx of new students attending the school. And what happens to the children who will be forced to leave their home school and attend Middlesex? Children should be able to stay with what they know...their teachers, the facility and their friends!

We hope that you take all of our thoughts into consideration as we try to keep our community together and our children learning and thriving at Orem Elementary School.

Thank you so much.

Best, Natalie Van Buskirk

Date: 3/07/2017, 0835 hrs

Name: Kasey Lambert

My name is Kasey Lambert I have Grown up in Aero Acres my entire life (Right Wing Drive). I have one child (9yo) currently attending Orem Elementary and another child (3yo) that will start at Orem in the 2018-2019 school year .Every option on the six current zoning maps cuts my neighborhood out and forces my children to attend Middlesex elementary. I would like to give you a little back story on my family so you can put yourself in my shoes and understand why this Boundary change (that will cut our whole neighborhood in half) is so detrimental to us. My oldest Bryan who is attending Orem Elementary schools third grade class was adopted at birth .His birth mother was a drug addict who used throughout her entire pregnancy. Bryan now suffers from ADHD due to drug use during utero . Bryan has trouble making friends and trusting people. Bryan currently has one friend who is in his class . He also attends a behavior therapist and a behavior counselor which orem elementary school school nurse has helped provide. Mrs Healy (School Nurse) and Dr. Melzer (Behavior Therapist) and his therapist at Villa Maria have worked closely to monitor Bryan's behavior and help to ensure he is on the proper medication to maintain his grades at school . This move isn't just a school change for Bryan . This move effects and changes his whole life . Bryan will have to leave behind the only friend hes ever had . He will lose his doctor & therapist (who do not service children from middlesex elementary) which has taken him years to trust and open up too. and he will lose teachers and staff who have gotten to know Bryan and adapted his learning to accomtom his needs. Bryan's ADHD some mornings is so bad that it takes him three times as long as it takes my daughter to get dressed. Meaning some mornings we are late to school . My car is currently broken down and my fear is with Middlesex elementary school being so far away (across the railroad tracks) that I will not be able to get Bryan to school if he has a bad morning, Orem elementary school is in walking distance for us, Middlesex however is not. We chose to reside in this neighborhood basing our choices knowing that our children would attend a great neighborhood school. This change forces our kids to go from a 5 star school to a 4 star school (based off of Greatschools.org). I am begging that you take all of this into consideration before making a decision that is going to flip my little boys whole world upside down .

Thank you for your time, Kasey Lambert

Victory Villa Community Boundary Study Public Email Log: 03/03/17 to 03/08/17

Date: 3/07/2017, 1325 hrs

Name: Wayne Marley

Hello my name is Wayne Marley I attended Orem as a child made some great friends. I moved back to the area about 10 years ago across the street from a great friend from Orem her twin sister lived four doors down and their parent lived next door to me. It was great to be back home again. We would spend time every night walking the streets that we grew up on talking to everyone as we walked. And for me it was funny that on every street we found an old friend from Orem that moved on with their lives and yet when they started having children they too moved back to the area because this always home for them to. And because they wanted their children to attend Orem as children like they had. When meeting people on our walks each night I meet a family with 6 children down the road and we became friends over time things had changed for that family addiction had taken over their lives and they could no longer take care of their children CPS stepped in and removed the children at that point the area that you are trying to split up stepped up and all 6 of the children were taken in by our community family I say all this not to bring shame to the family but to show this is not just a community we are family that steps in when someone is in need..I have one of the children in my care due to the trauma of addiction and removed from his family he receives therapy service at his home school Orem. Along with the added support of the staff and Nurse at the school..attending Orem has given him stability and a chance to see his siblings everyday. For you this is about numbers and money. For me and the child in my care this is about stability..love and being split from his family and friends. Trauma is real take the time and do your research into mental healthcare and trauma because this change for Orem is going to cause trauma not only to a school zone. But to a community that people have moved back to because we are family. A large family that loves our community and our school.