

Victory Villa Community Boundary Study Public Email Log: 03/08/17 to 03/13/17

Date: 3/08/2017, 1238 hrs

Name: Jeffrey Stidham

Hello, My son currently attends Vincent Farm Elementary. Of course our home flip flops from Vincent Farm to the new Victory Villa depending on the map. Was there an option that seems to be most likely at this point. I understand it's not completed, but I would like to know where it's at right now.

Thanks,

Jeffrey Stidham

(410) 808 – 2835

Date: 3/09/2017, 0130 hrs

Name: Heather Lewis

Hi, my name is Heather Lewis. I am writing to you today, along with many others, to express my concern over the recent zoning changes. My daughter, Ava, is currently enrolled in her second school year at Orem; in the first grade! Ava was falling behind in Kindergarten and this year as well. She meets with a reading specialist every day and has a team at Orem helping to improve Ava's scores and bring her levels up to where they should be. I have met with the IEP team to closely monitor Ava's progress! Ava has come a long way! Her mornings used to consist of tantrums and flat out refusal to go to school. She has issues with certain materials and fabrics and the way things feel. Sometimes something as simple as the line on her sock can throw off her whole day and really impact her ability to learn. Each staff member that has come in contact with Ava has made it a point to take Ava's special needs into consideration and have allowed Ava to build trust in them for doing so. Ava needs more attention than an average student and she seems to respond really well to her reading assistant and the rest of the Orem staff. Ava will also be evaluated for ADD and the school has been right there with us throughout the entire process to help Ava get the most out of her education. Ava now wakes up ready for her day makes more effort and has much more confidence in herself to complete her tasks at home and at school. While she is still behind and testing below the recommended averages, we have seen some improvement. I am very concerned that the move to Middlesex elementary will disrupt everything that I know she has worked so hard for. Some mornings are still harder than others for Ava and when we don't make the bus a few minute ride to school before I have to be at work is easy enough, Middlesex won't be! I'm concerned about the travel to Middlesex. I am concerned about earlier bus stop times and longer bus rides. I'm concerned with the fact that the new school for Ava will also be more crowded than her school is now and that any progress we have made will go away and cause my daughter to regress. I am concerned that she will go back into her shell and not be so quick to do her best with a whole new staff and specialists. I feel that Ava is very fragile at times and something as significant as moving her school will be very detrimental to her future academically. I was also present when dropping Ava off at Orem when it was announced on the morning announcements that some of the students would no longer be attending in the 2018-19 school year. Ava came home very very upset over this announcement!! I moved my family at the beginning of Ava's kindergarten year so that she could attend Orem and to have that ripped away from her seems unfair and unjust! I feel the impact of this change will last a long time for not only my child but all of the students those who make "the cut" and those who don't! I have looked into the scores and ratings for Middlesex and I am very upset that when a family makes a choice to move to a certain school zone, for their child's education, that can be taken away with or without our support! There is not one map that leaves my daughter in her school! If this were truly a population issue than why isn't Orem left alone. This new move will add more children to Orem than they are teaching currently. Why not leave Orem as it is and ship the overcrowded students from Shady Springs and send them over to Middlesex it's not much farther for those children. If something isn't broke why are we trying to "fix" it?! We, as a community, feel very strongly about our kids, our school and our community! This will be a major disruption. This will have an impact on everyone, not just those with children. When school ratings drop house values do as well, most of our community own their homes. People with kids who will remain at Orem will now be overcrowded and understaffed to handle the increase in children. Nothing about this move makes sense. Our children should be number one and yet no one is asking how they feel! I know how my daughter feels she is sad! Her whole life right now is school and home this is disrupting a major part of her life and no one seems to be able to explain why it's absolutely necessary! I am very disappointed by the fact that, even though expressed, no one has addressed these concerns by coming up with a map that keeps our community intact; even if it did include adding some outside students to our school! I feel that we can reach a happy medium between what we as a community want and what this rezoning is trying to accomplish. It would have been nice to feel as if some effort was made to keep our school together! I hope that things can come together over the next few weeks and that we can all work together to do what's best for our children! Thank you for your time!

-Heather Lewis

Date: 3/10/2017, 1320 hrs

Name: Michele Zamenski

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing this letter to you in regards to the boundary study of Orem Elementary. I feel it is completely irrational and irresponsible to divide a close community by sending kids from Aero Acres to another school farther away.

The walk from Dihedral Drive to Orem Elementary is a little over 2 miles. To think that kids that live that close to Orem will be bussed to another school is ridiculous. Kids that are neighbors will no longer go to school together. My mother in law went to Orem, I went to Orem, my husband went to Orem and my oldest child went to Orem. Orem is a very good school with dedicated teachers, staff and great support from the community. If we divide our school we will lose a great deal of support.

There is no logical reason to relocate kids from the Shady Spring area and make them have a longer commute to get to Orem. That is not fair to the kids. Why should they have a longer bus ride to get to school? What about parents in the Shady Spring neighborhood that may not have transportation, how will they be able to attend school events and programs? Also, isn't Red House Run Elementary slated to have construction to expand their building? Wouldn't it make more sense to redistrict Shady Spring and Red House Run when that construction is complete so those kids are staying close to their home school?

With the proposed options, the boundary study is taking Orem Elementary who is already overcrowded, moving kids who live within 3 miles of the school and bringing in kids farther away and pushing Orem farther over their maximum capacity. How does that make sense? How is that going to benefit the students, teachers and staff? Residents bought houses in Golden Tree and Aero Acres because they knew their kids would attend Orem, how is it fair to them? There have been rumors that Orem is being targeted with this redistricting because they are not "diverse enough." Why should kids that live that close to Orem be relocated because their school is "not diverse enough?" Why should the community that supports Orem be divided?

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In conclusion, many of these questions that I have presented need to be addressed to the public, especially to the Orem community, to explain why these changes are being made. The options that have been presented are not acceptable to the Orem community. Orem is a great school with great teachers, staff and students. Not only is it not fair to the students at Orem but it is also not fair to the students from Shady Spring that will have longer bus rides to school. Please re-evaluate the boundary options and find a plan that will keep all of Golden Tree and Aero Acres together at Orem Elementary. Both communities have spent years over generations building, improving and supporting Orem Elementary.

Thank you,
Michele Zamenski

Date: 3/10/2017, 1341 hrs

Name: Bob Driscoll

Good Morning, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Baltimore County Public School System, I am contacting you this morning to express my deep concern and strong opposition to the intended movement of our children in the Orem School Community. The Community of Aero Acres was built for the purpose of housing workers of the Martin Aircraft Plant to support the war effort. Orem School was built to educate the children of those workers. We do not take our "Historic Significance" lightly. To move these children would be a huge injustice to them, they would be pulled away from their friends, teachers, and principle, only to be thrown into an atmosphere of not knowing anyone around them, and a big disruption to the daily plans of the parents who must adjust their schedules to their daily routine. The Aero Acres Community comprises of 350 homes all of which are in the Orem School Community, We reflect the diversity of our school. In closing, Thank you for hearing our voice, Bob Driscoll President Aero Acres Civic Improvement Association

Date: 3/10/2017, 1812 hrs

Name: Jamie Whitt

I have been doing some research and listening in to all the meetings as a PROUD PARENT OF OREMS ELEMENTARY.

I do not think it's fair to change our kids around, why take kids from a school where they are getting great grades, doing well with the current teachers and enjoy their current school to move them to another.

My son attends the speech program at Orem, before he was in school he went to a pediatric therapist, since attending Orem he has made MAJOR improvement with talking and interacting with others.

I personally purchased a home over the summer in the OREMS district so my child could continue at a GREAT SCHOOL with GREAT TEACHERS that have helped him with speech and other learning procedures he needed extra attention too.

YOU are not thinking of the wellbeing of the children while conducting this "social experiment". Why experiment on our children, their schools where they have made many friends and are learning great. BCPS you need to do what is right for the children and taking them out of a learning environment they are comfortable with is COMPLETELY WRONG! Children learn the best where they are comfortable, growing with a school is what's BEST, NOT changing their lives and school. Our children are not "experiments" they are HUMAN BEINGS. You can not take kids of a lesser rating school and place them in an excellent rating school, this will turn their worlds upside down.

WE pay money to live where we live and to send our children to these current HOME SCHOOLS. Not only will this change affect our children but our housing values will drop drastically.

Please consider our concerns and rethink this boundary change.

Thanks,
Sent from my iPhone

Date: 3/12/2017, 1639 hours

Name: Erin Mims

Good afternoon,

I'm writing to you, to express my concerns for the Orem elementary boundary study. My family has been apart of Orem elementary for over 40 years. My sister, cousins, aunts, uncle's and even all 3 of my children have attended this school. We love Orem and splitting this school apart is just wrong. I'm sure by now you have received several emails, calls etc... Of concerned parents. I can't tell you enough how absolutely devastated my child will be to have to attend a new school next year when all she knows is Orem. I'm very concerned not only for my child's well being but her education as well.

My husband and I bought a house in areo acres a year ago so that we could keep our youngest child at this school. Not only will this move effect my child but our community as well. The purposed school "Middlesex" is less than mediocre for my child's education. I take pride in our Elementary school. Orem is our school. Please, please look at the facts of what this will do to our community and our children. Please reconsider this action. A truly concerned parent, Erin Mims

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Date: 3/13/2017, 1020 hours

Name: Denise Zacharski

Please see the attached letter. If you have any questions, you can contact me at 410-682-2732 or email me

Thank You,

Denise Zacharski

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

Date: 3/13/2017, 1045 hours

Name: Keely Serra

phoneNumber: 410-574-3515

Comments: <http://www.bcps.org/construction/victoryvilla/SpecialPermissionAnalysis030717.pdf>. This table shows the % of students attending each of the elementary schools that are attending by special permission (in other words, do not live within the school they are attending boundaries). 29.13 % of the student population at Orem's is special permission or do not live in the community. This is a very significant percentage and is by far the highest percentage of all of the schools, the next closest is Martin Blvd. with 12.73% It might be helpful to share the breakdown of the schools that those students would have attended. Many of the commenters are worried about the student population at Orem's being adversely affected by redistricting when, in fact, Orem's has already been significantly impacted by students from "outside: the community and the students, teachers and culture of the school seems to be doing just fine!

Date: 3/13/2017, 1120 hours

Name: Cheryl Kraemer

I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE BOUNDARYS FOR OREM'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WILL BE CHANGING I AM NOT HAPPY AND DO NOT WISH FOR THIS TO HAPPEN IN MY COMMUNITY. THERE IS NO GOOD REASON THAT OUR CHILDREN HAVE TO BE BUSED TO A SCHOOL OUT OF THEIR HOME COMMUNITY. THEY SHOULD NOT BE FORCED TO GO TO MIDDLESEX ELE. AND HAVE SHADY SPRING ELE. FONTANA VILLAGE IN ROSEDALE COME INTO OUR GOLDEN TREE COMMUNITY. IT WILL PUT A HARDSHIP ON OUR CHILDREN AND PARENTS. I WILL NOT AGREE TO THIS AT ALL. THIS JUST DONT MAKE SENSE. OUR PARENTS WOULDNT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN WHEN I WAS GROWING UP IN NORTH POINT VILLAGE AND WENT TO BATTLE GROVE AND WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN.