

Victory Villa Community Boundary Study Public Email Log: 03/17/17 to 03/24/17

Date: 3/17/2017, 1201, 1203 hrs

Name: Joan Hockenbrock

Comments: I do not agree with the transfer of the students that live in the Golden Tree Development to other schools. We bought our homes to be close to the school. It does not make sense for our students to be walkers and now have to be bussed. What a total waste of our tax money. This will not only be a waste for our children but the other students from other areas as well. If you are living close to a school, you should be able to go to that school. What else can the government waste our property taxes on? This is not the way to solve this overcrowding problem. Please reconsider.

Date: 3/17/2017, 1428, 1502 hrs

Name: Matthew Lili

Comments: Hello, I'm writing to you because I am concerned about how my neighborhood and my family will be affected by the proposed changes with the Victory Villa Boundary Survey. The proposed changes cause a seismic divide to the existing community that sends their children to Orem Elementary School. My wife and I purchased our home in the Goldentree community specifically because we loved Orem Elementary and wanted to insure our daughter could go there. I have many other neighbors that chose this area based on school choice. These changes will most likely result in children from a lower performing school being placed into Orem which has higher scores, causing teachers to take attention away from better performing students to focus on those that need more help. Startclass rates Orem at 7 stars, whereas Shady Spring is rated at 5 stars. The children being moved from Orem to Middlesex will also be moved into a lower learning environment. School zoning will affect the property values for our community. As someone who recently purchased a home, I can attest that the good rating of Orem weighed highly on our decision to move to this neighborhood. School quality is statistically one of the more important factors for home buying. The proposed changes divide the Orem community in half. Many families participate in the special activities that happen at the school. A lot of the children play on sports teams together in the area. Most of the plans take planning blocks 24-27 away from Orem. These blocks should ALWAYS be included for the base of the student body. I also have concerns about increased transportation costs and safety risks. Children who would currently go to Orem would have to travel over a mile further to go to Middlesex. Children from Shady Spring will have to travel over 3 miles further, cross several major intersection and peak traffic time, and cross railroad tracks. With the average school bus getting under 5mpg, addition fuel costs for BCPS will rise by several thousand dollars. Money that would better be used to educate children. In summary, I urge you to keep the Orem Elementary School in tact. It is a wonderful place for children to grow and learn, and it is truly the center of this community. Thanks very much for your time, Mathew Lilli

Date: 3/18/2017, 0051 hrs

Name: Kasey Lambert

Hi, My name is Kasey Lambert. I am writing to you as a concerned guardian of a 9 year old boy who is a third grader at Orem elementary and a mother to a three year old little girl who will start pre-k at Orem next year. I have been attending the BCPS Victory Villa Boundary study meetings since the fourth meeting and many things concern me. There were originally nine zoning maps and as of the last meeting they had narrowed it down to four remaining maps. Map A or previously map 3 removes 130 students from Orem (Compass Road and to the right) and sends them to Middlesex Orem keeps only 89 students from Golden Tree development and adds 113 students from Shady Springs. Map B previously option 5 removes 130 students from Orem (Compass Road and to the right) and sends them to Middlesex, Orem keeps only 89 students from Golden Tree development and adds 113 students from Shady Springs. Option C Previously called option 7 removes 64 students from Orem (Left Wing and to the right) and sends them to Middlesex Orem keeps 155 students from Golden Tree and Aero Acres and adds 129 students from Shady Springs. Option D also referred to as option 9 removes 64 students from Orem (Left Wing and to the right) and sends them to Middlesex Orem keeps 155 students from Golden Tree and Aero Acres and adds 129 students from Shady Springs. I am extremely concerned, in all of the options presented, my neighborhood is divided in half. Two of the maps dividing us from Compass road on and the other two maps dividing us from Left Wing drive on. In meeting number one the committee was told to maintain the continuity of neighborhoods and in all FOUR remaining maps they've neglected to do so. I also feel they have neglected to notice that even though on a map our neighborhood (Aero Acres) looks remarkably close to Middlesex elementary school when there is in fact a railroad track dividing the two. Making the bus route to school a more time consuming and dangerous route. The students that will be moved to Orem elementary from Shady Spring will then in turn be bussed across Route 40 which is a majorly busy intersection that has cars driving at extremely high speeds. I am concerned for our children's safety. They are endangering the lives of many children, only to overpopulate (which two options do) or reduce the population of Orem elementary by only 17 students (which two options do). Another point that concerns me, my child suffers from ADHD and his current therapist (who was provided through Orem Elementary) is employed by Villa Maria Catholic charities who does not service Middlesex elementary school. So my child is not only be forced to move from a school he knows and loves with teachers he's grown accustomed, he is also going to lose a therapist who has gained his trust and helped him in a great way. I strongly oppose all four of these rezoning options and feel that there are no viable options for Orem elementary, I hope you do as well.

Thank you for your time,

Kasey Lambert

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Date: 3/18/2017, 0051 hrs

Name: Kasey Lambert

Dear Planning Committee and Board of Ed. Members,

I am writing again in regard to the Victory Villa Boundary Study because an entire community is being ignored.

"At the conclusion of Meeting 5, the committee recommended the following options for presentation at the upcoming Public Information Session:"

Meeting Public Information Session

Option 3 Option A

Option 5 Option B

Option 7 Option C

Option 9 Option D

Not a single one of these options keeps the Orem's community intact. The school that was built to service this historic neighborhood will no longer serve its intended inhabitants. Why is it that you are hearing from so many concerned parents and community members, yet not a single option was given to keep our community intact. Two of the proposed new "favored" options leave our school over capacity by 85 students! Isn't this exactly what we are trying to fix in the first place? With two brand new schools being built and slated to open in the 2018-2019 school year why would 64 students be removed from their school at Orem's, to bring in double the amount from Shady Spring, which is much further away? Why are the 300+ new seats being created at Victory Villa not providing relief for Shady Spring? All the shift and shuffling of children can be minimized if someone would create an actual realistic option allowing for common sense.

The massive support for Orem's shows that the school is clearly doing a wonderful job and instead of allowing for continued success, being made a target due to the high special permission population. However the 24+ schools that Orem's is providing extra relief for are not being taken into consideration. The overcrowding at these schools would be an even higher rate and impact even more students if not for the accommodations at Orem's. 30% of a school's population being made up of parents CHOOSING to send their child to this school speaks volumes. Instead of allowing continued success and pride, these options rip apart a community to its core. Please revisit BCPS RULE 1280 section 3, letter A.

"Considerations that may guide the boundary study include, but are not be limited to: a. Maintaining the continuity of neighborhoods." We need an option that adheres to this rule. STOP SPLITTING OREM'S !

Thank you for your continued time and dedication to our children.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hines

Date: 3/20/2017, 1840 hrs

Name: Melissa Bowling

Hi I am Melissa Bowling,

I'm emailing in to the regards of the new zoning that may possibly be happening, and I will tell you I'm not happy about it at all. Your ripping a good community apart to please other school zones you say places are over crowded and such but the maps are showing pretty much you taking away and adding just as many back to the schools. How is that fair? & how will it make a difference? Bringing new children over into a community that isn't there's is going to cause controversy possibly trashing to our neighborhood. You want much needed facts as into why this is a bad idea & I'm going to tell you.

~Longer bus rides & getting home later I'm a working single mother & hate that I don't see my children enough as it is, I don't drive & with the schooling being further away how is that fair if something really bad happens? BCPS isn't looking at the fairly.

~Another thing property value, people buy there homes in a district area because of the school they will go to, Orem's is a good community & I don't want my children anywhere further than they have to be, people love Orem's its like we're one big family, everyone knows everyone.

~Next BCPS plans to send Orem's students to a 5 star school when there at a 7 star rating as of now if not more stars. How does that make any sense? Explain to me the reasoning in these ideals and who came up with this quest because whoever did, clearly has no sense in perfect planning.

~Also what about the children? How do you think they will feel with the change what about the children that have problems with change? Ones that are getting the help they need and a school there used to, & your going to rip that out from underneath of them.

-My job title I work for Friendship Child Care off of compass rd. Orem's is our biggest school we take to being the providers, what am I suppose to do just be jobless? Have our business go out of business because of bad planning that BCPS is providing?

This is just a few terms & I will be attending the meeting March 28th because me as a mother of two and i know where I want my children to go and stay, I'm not happy! And this change is not reasonable enough to kick us out of our own community. Please rethink all of this before realizing it was a dumb decision in the making.

Thank you in advance

Date: 3/21/2017, 1304 hrs

Name: Heather Jennings

I'm an educator whose children attended Vincent Farm. As my youngest is in 5th grade, the boundary will not affect us personally. I do wonder what will happen considering the school is also under study for an additional new school. Will kids that get moved for Victory Villa get moved the following year for the new building? If so, how would moving kids to a 3 school affect their achievement?

My neighborhood has been restricted from Shady Spring to Chapel Hill to Vincent Farm over time, but certainly the house hasn't moved!

I am bothered by those cries of "housing values" - it seems a screen for economic segregation and elitism. Good teaching is good teaching, and maybe spreading out the more involved parents will be good for all.

Heather Jennings

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Date: 3/23/2017, 1002 hrs

Name: Colleen Kelly

To whom it may concern:

I currently have two children attending Orem's Elementary on Special Permission, due to the location of their daycare. I have personally attended the meetings for the Victory Villa Boundary Study and none of the options presented at the meetings have been a good fit for the Orem's Community.

My children have attended this school since 2012-2013 school year. They have both made friends in their daycare and Orem's Elementary. My son who is in third grade has grown so much. The whole Orem's Community has worked with me through my child's behavioral and learning issues and he is finally on track to succeed, his grades are raising and he is happy.

If the Boundary Change is to happen, my children will be two of the hundred and some affected by this change. My husband and I will be forced to change their daycare and their school, possibly move to a different County to ensure that our children will be districted in schools that are safe. This will affect my children both mentally and physically. We have them enrolled in several programs in Baltimore County and are very involved in the school, it will affect their learning and behavior to be uprooted and moved in the middle of their elementary school career.

As a child, I went to Orem's as well as my older brother. We lived within the Orem's Community and my father still does till this day.

Throughout the years, Orem's has grown as a community and has taught the Children of Aero Acres, Goldentree, and a few special permission children who usually have had ties to the school from their past. Some of the teachers are still the same and teach the children of kids they taught from past years. People chose to buy in these communities just to send their kids to Orem's Elementary. I pay an overwhelming amount in daycare, in order for my children to go to this school and get the same education and community bond as I did as a child.

I am begging to keep Orem's the same. Please do not split our community, ship the kids out that already attend Orem's just to ship in several more who live across route 40. This will affect the kids from Shady Spring as well. How early will they have to get up in order to catch a bus to Orem's, what if they miss the bus, will they try to walk to school and get hit crossing major roads? How much will it cost Baltimore County to bus kids, who can walk to Orem's to Middlesex Elementary? How early will those children get up?

Please, please, keep Orem's the same. You are taking a community we have put blood, sweat, and tears into building and splitting up, as if what we have to say or have worked for means nothing.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

I hope Victory Villa Boundary Study and BCPS reconsider what they are proposing.

Thank you.

Colleen Kelly

IF YOU ARE A DEBTOR, OR AN ATTORNEY REPRESENTING A DEBTOR, THIS COMMUNICATION IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED HEREBY WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

However, if you are either a debtor in a pending bankruptcy case, or have obtained an order of discharge from a United States Bankruptcy Court, which discharge includes this debt, or an attorney representing such a debtor, and you (or your client), has not reaffirmed liability for this debt, this office is not attempting to obtain a judgment against you (or your client) nor are we alleging that you (or your client) have any personal liability for this debt. We may, however, take action against any property which may have been pledged as collateral for the debt, which action may include repossession and/or foreclosure of the property, if otherwise permitted by law and/or order of court.

Date: 3/23/2017, 1519 hrs

Name: Melissa Krisafi

To Whom It May Concern:

I have two children that attend Orem's through special permission. Their homeschool is Glenmar however, as their grandparents provide childcare before and after school, fortunately they received permission to attend Orem's. Orem's is the best school (rated considerably higher than the rest in our area) in the area we reside in and we are appreciative and proud to be a part of the Orem's community. In response to a letter submitted by Keely Serra on 3/13/2017, 1045 hours concerning the high percentage of Orem's students attending on special permission, I would respond, we are a part of the Orem's community and consider Orem's our home. Many of these children have special permission because of special education placement. Yes, some commenters are worried about the student population at Orem's being adversely affected by redistricting when it could replace up 130 students at Orem's. Unfortunately the stats from Shady Springs do not reflect Orem's high standards and may adversely affect the success of the Orem's students. Perhaps, bring in a smaller number of students from Shady Spring (approximately 34-60) and leaving the current Orem's student body in tact would allow for a positive affect on the incoming students.

One of the key objectives of this study is to reduce overcrowding in the region. Why then, did the committee remove option 2 at the last meeting? Option 2 did not go over the state rated capacity for half of the schools in the study with 3 of the 4 remaining schools only being over by 20 students or less. Current options C and D will take Orem's further over capacity then they currently are.

Many of the boundary study considerations are not being addressed with the 4 remaining options.

- 1) Maintaining continuity of neighborhoods-Orem's students are being cut in half sending neighborhood kids to different schools.
 - 2) Impact of transportation and pedestrian patterns on students-more students are travelling farther distance to get to school. They will have to get up and leave earlier in the morning and return home later in the day. This cuts into time for homework, extracurricular activities, and playtime. In addition, the routes that these buses will be taking are dangerous. Shady Spring students crossing route 40 to go to Orem's and Orem's students merging on to Eastern Ave near Kingston Rd or travelling on Stemmers Run Rd which is very busy with vehicles as well as pedestrians before and after school.
 - 3) Minimizing the number of times individual students are reassigned-if this is a concern, why include Vincent Farms students in this study at this time when they will be included in the pending study for the new school at Chapel Hill and Joppa?
 - 4) Efficient use of capacity in affected schools-some of the 4 remaining options under utilize while other schools would be more overcrowded.
- The Orem's community is a tight knit community. It would be a disservice to the children, teachers, administrators, staff, parents, and community members to break this school up. Please consider going back to the drawing board and finding another option that keeps Orem's in tact (and if need be, bring in additional children from other areas where necessary).

Thank you,

Melissa Krisafi