

## **Victory Villa Community Boundary Study Public Email Log: Emails Received After Boundary Study Committee Recommendation (4/20/2017)**

The following emails were received after the Boundary Study Committee forwarded its recommendation on 4/20/2017.

**Date:** 4/26/2017, 0907 hrs

Name: Casey Cox

Dear Board of Education Members, Mr. Kevin Kamenetz and Ms. Cathy Bevins,

My name is Casey Cox. In 2006 before getting married later that year, my husband and I purchased our first home, a townhouse in Miramar Landing located in Middle River, MD. We were young and excited to purchase a house and a brand new build at that. We bought when the market was high and two short years later we lost almost 100K in equity in our home. Disappointed and heartbroken are just two words to describe us during those years. Being the responsible adults that we were raised to be, we stuck with our townhouse in hopes the market would change. In 2012, we had our 2nd child and had outgrown our townhouse. With not having the option to sell, we chose to rent it. We needed a single family house with more room to house our growing family. We looked all over the eastern side of Baltimore County with schools in mind as our 1st child was approaching kindergarten. We looked in Harford County as they have excellent schools but decided the drive was a little far for us as my husband is a police officer working at the Key Bridge and I work downtown in Baltimore City as a nurse. A new development called Grantleigh Station was finishing up and had only 2 homes left. It was only 1.8 miles down the road from our townhouse and it moved our children's elementary school to Vincent Farm Elementary School rated an 8/10 on the GreatSchools.org website. This was excellent we thought. We were not thrilled with the choice of middle school and high school but we thought we would deal with that down the road. But for now, Vincent Farm would be the draw to purchase this particular home just down the road from our soon to be rental.

Our daughter started kindergarten in 2015 and has excelled in school. Her winter testing scores just came home placing her in the 85-90 percentile of other children her age. We are very proud of our 1st grader. She loves school, her teachers and friends. I have become involved in the PTA hoping to better the experience for all the children at Vincent Farm Elementary School.

Unfortunately, without prior knowledge, a letter came home that our area would be going through a reboundary process in the near future with the change happening in 2018/19 school year-as she enters 3rd grade and as my son starts kindergarten. Had we known our children could potentially be displaced from Vincent Farm Elem School, we would have NEVER bought the home we currently live in. Since the boundary process/committee started, I have kept track of the meeting agendas, minutes, videos, maps and everything else shared on the "Victory Villa Boundary Study" website on Baltimore Co Public School website. We attended the public meeting at Middle River Middle School only to realize it was not an open forum to discuss concerns about the drafted maps.

The boundary committee has posted they are presenting map option D-1 to the Board of Education moving our community from Vincent Farm Elementary School, rated 8/10 to Martin Blvd. Elem, rated 4/10. I will not allow my child to be removed from Vincent Farm Elementary to a lower rated elementary school. It's not fair to her or our community of children and parents who all said elementary school was a deciding factor on purchasing a home in Grantleigh Station. I am a concerned parent and a tax payer in Baltimore County. While I can understand a lateral move from the same rated elementary school to another or a lower to higher rating but to move from an 8/10 to a 4/10. That's unfair to the student and the hard working-tax paying parents who try to make the best decisions for their children and moving to where we did was one of those decisions. I do hope you can take my letter into consideration during your discussion and vote. I understand the area is overcrowded and some shifts need to be made to alleviate the over-crowdedness but perhaps someone should address the continuous building that is going on in our area causing these issues. If the world would be as concerned about our children and their education like the world is concerned about making a dollar, we'd be in a much better place than we are now.

I really would hate to move homes again but if we have to make that choice then we will do it for the sake of our children's education.

Casey Cox 410-303-2991