

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

November 3, 2005

The Board of Education of Howard County held a public work session regarding Attendance Area Adjustments for the 2006/2007 school year on Thursday, November 3, 2005, at 7:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the Department of Education, located at 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, Maryland. The following were present:

Courtney Watson, Chairman
Patricia S. Gordon, Vice Chairman
Joshua Kaufman
Diane Mikulis
Mary Kay Sigaty
Jeff Lasser, Student Member

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent, Secretary/Treasurer
Sandra Erickson, Chief Academic and Administrative Officer
Raymond Brown, Chief Operating Officer
Patti Caplan, Director, Public Relations
Arlene Conway, Recording Secretary

Chairman Courtney Watson called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m., and Mr. Lasser led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Watson explained that attendance area adjustments are required when opening new schools, for balancing enrollments at existing schools, and are caused by growth in Howard County and growth in the population of children in Howard County. Decisions on growth are outside the jurisdiction of the Board of Education and fall under the County Council and County Executive.

Elementary Recommendation for the New Western ES

Seats will be filled with students from Clarksville ES (222) and Triadelphia Ridge ES (433), both of which are over capacity. Polygons were selected because of close geographical location to the new school. Students will also be moved from Fulton ES to Pointers Run ES due to projected development in that area. Polygons were selected because of closer proximity to Pointers Run than Fulton. This creates a new feed from Pointers Run to Lime Kiln MS of 12.2 percent. In order to accommodate students from Fulton at Pointers Run, students will be moved from Pointers Run to available seats at Clarksville ES.

Moving students from Bushy Park ES to the new western elementary school was considered but rejected because a replacement school is scheduled for Bushy Park in 2007 to address overcrowding at Bushy Park. It is anticipated that students will be

redistricted from Lisbon ES to the new replacement Bushy Park in 2010. Moving students from Fulton to Clarksville was also not recommended because of the poor geographical fit.

Clarksville MS is currently over capacity and cannot accommodate a 12-percent feed from Pointers Run ES.

West Friendship ES

This school is projected to be at 126-percent capacity in 2006 so 102 students will be sent to Triadelphia Ridge ES. There were only two polygons geographically possible for redistricting from West Friendship to Triadelphia Ridge.

Manor Woods ES

Mr. Drown explained the difficulties associated with moving students out of Manor Woods. Manor Woods will be at capacity in 2006, with significant development occurring in the area. The proposal moves students from Manor Woods to Triadelphia Ridge. The weakness of this plan is that it results in the creation of a 7.8-percent feed from middle (Folly Quarter) to high school (Marriotts Ridge), because Polygon 170 must remain at Manor Woods due to its geographical location within the school's service area. It is anticipated that this feed will increase to 26 percent when a new middle school opens in 2011. Mr. Kaufman pointed out that the actual location of the proposed middle school is unknown and indicated that caution must be used in projections for possible future attendance areas.

If no students are moved from Manor Woods at this time, the school is projected to be over capacity by 162 students in 2008. Staff indicated that it would be best to move students now in order to utilize available seats at Triadelphia Ridge and avoid redistricting these schools again until 2016 or beyond. Mr. Kaufman agreed on the importance of utilizing new and existing seats. If feasibility studies show that additions at Waverly, Manor Woods, and Triadelphia Ridge are not possible, a replacement school for West Friendship will be necessary. Data from feasibility studies should be available by the end of this calendar year.

Mr. Kaufman asked that data be provided for the next work session regarding Polygons 119, 194, and 118 attending the new western elementary school, which includes students feeding from Fulton ES on to River Hill HS.

Centennial Lane ES Feeder Fix

The Recommended Plan would move students from Centennial Lane ES to Thunder Hill ES and from Burleigh Manor MS to Dunloggin MS. This will correct an insufficient feed from Burleigh Manor MS to Wilde Lake HS. This redistricting will also accommodate projected development in this area.

Patapsco MS

The recommended plan moves students from Patapsco MS to Dunloggin MS. The weakness in this plan is that it creates a poor feed from Hollifield Station ES to Dunloggin MS. The plan also moves students from Dunloggin MS to available seats at Ellicott Mills MS.

The strength of this plan is that it results in no additional redistricting at Patapsco for the foreseeable future.

Alternate Middle School Plan

An alternate plan has been developed to address the poor feed from Hollifield Station ES to Dunloggin MS. This would involve moving Polygon 97 from Patapsco to Burleigh Manor and from Mt. Hebron HS to Centennial HS to correctly adjust the feeds. This would result in Patapsco remaining at capacity until 2012. Students would also be moved from Mount View MS into available seats at Burleigh Manor, which improves the feed from Burleigh Manor to Marriotts Ridge HS.

Mr. Kaufman noted that one advantage of the alternate plan is that fewer students are victims of the domino effect in which students have to move from Dunloggin in order to provide relief for Patapsco. Mr. Drown pointed out that this plan also moves fewer students, has a better geographical fit, and does not create a poor feed, although redistricting will probably be necessary again in 2012.

Another possibility that was considered involved moving students from the Valley Meade community into Burleigh Manor MS and from Mt. Hebron HS to Centennial HS. This would involve moving walkers from Mt. Hebron and transporting them to Centennial. Mr. Drown stated that moving students from the Turf Valley area was also considered and noted the difficulties associated with changing boundaries in this area.

Mr. Kaufman asked about the possibility of moving students directly from Patapsco to Ellicott Mills to avoid the domino effect for Dunloggin students. It was suggested that consideration be given to the tradeoffs of moving fewer students and creating an island versus moving fewer students that otherwise would not have to move. Mrs. Mikulis pointed out that the small middle school feed from Hollifield Station ES would still exist in this scenario. Mrs. Watson asked staff to prepare maps for this option.

Additional Middle School Recommendations

Further adjustments at the middle school level in the Recommended Plan involve moving students from Mount View MS to fill available space at Burleigh Manor and moving students from Folly Quarter to Mount View MS. The rationale for this move is that students are moved out of the west and can take advantage of seats available at Burleigh Manor. Burleigh Manor is closer to them than Mount View, and the move

improves the feed from Burleigh Manor to Marriotts Ridge HS. The weakness is that an already existing small high school feed is further reduced.

Mr. Kaufman noted that the Board decided against moving some students in order to fix feeds for other students last year.

Mr. Drown reviewed the data sheets included in the Attendance Area Adjustment document and noted improvements that will be made in the future. He also noted that the Recommended Plan would result in an \$8,740 savings in transportation costs.

Mr. Kaufman asked staff for data and implications associated with all students feeding from Fulton ES on to Reservoir HS.

Mrs. Watson asked that staff verify the actual number of students involved in the small feed that is being created from Pointers Run ES to Lime Kiln MS. She also asked for information regarding any other options that could address the 7.8-percent feed to Marriotts Ridge HS from Folly Quarter MS that is being created in the recommendation. Mr. Drown noted that one option would involve moving students back to River Hill who were redistricted to Marriotts Ridge last year.

Board members asked staff to ensure that the text and map numbers agree in the Attendance Area Adjustment document.

On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Watson commended Dr. Cousin, Mr. Drown, and the committee for their efforts and noted the improvements in the Attendance Area Adjustment document.

Mrs. Watson also acknowledged parents in the audience and encouraged their input. She spoke about the implications and ramifications on families associated with redistricting based on first-hand experience as a parent and Board member and emphasized that decisions must be made on a global basis.

Attendance Area Adjustment Schedule

November 8	7:00 p.m.	Public Hearing
November 15	7:00 p.m.	Public Work Session II
November 17	7:00 p.m.*	Public Work Session III
November 22	7:30 p.m.	Approval of Attendance Area Adjustments

*Time was subsequently changed to 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 8:55 p.m.