

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY**November 8, 2005**

The Board of Education of Howard County held a public hearing on the proposed attendance area adjustments on Tuesday, November 8, 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
Florence Jackson, Recording Secretary

Chairman Courtney Watson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m., and Mr. Lasser led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Watson thanked community members for their input in the attendance area adjustment process and gave assurance that all testimony would be read by the Board.

Mr. Mukesh Garg, Dunloggin MS Parent

- Suggested moving students from Patapsco MS to Ellicott Mills MS, which is underenrolled.
- Feels there is behind the scene planning for abstaining students from Polygon 103 from attending Centennial HS.

Mr. Dave Weymer, Representing Polygons 170, 178-181

- Stated that Manor Woods ES is not overcrowded.
- The Turf Valley expansion assumptions are incorrect and in need of revision. The Board will be able to make an informed decision when the revised report becomes available.
- Urges the Board not to move Polygons 170 and 178-181.

Ms. Jennifer Burgy, Polygon 170 Resident

- Noted that in this proposed redistricting plan, 28 students would be moved from Folly Quarter MS to Mount View MS.
- Suggested phasing in the move by having students coming out of Manor Woods ES attend Mount View MS.

- Add Polygons 178 and 170 to the feed moving from Folly Quarter MS to Mount View MS.
- Do not move anyone. The current feed from Manor Woods ES is adequate.

Mr. James Howard, Polygon 108 Resident

- Asks that the Board support the Alternate Plan for Middle School Redistricting which moves Polygon 97 out of Patapsco MS instead of Polygon 108.
- This plan leaves Polygon 104 at Dunloggin MS – disrupting fewer students.

Ms. Katie DeBlasis, Representing Polygons 118, 120, 123 and 192

- Under this proposal children in these polygons would be redistricted from Fulton ES to Pointers Run ES.
- Neighborhoods in these polygons are mature and have older student populations.
- This proposal does not correct this feed. It is the only feed under 15% created by this plan that is left uncorrected.
- Urges delay of redistricting Fulton ES until the feed from Pointers Run ES to Lime Kiln MS meets the 15% standard.

Ms. Lori Brennan, Brantwood Resident

- Supports the proposed plan to move Polygon 170 from Folly Quarter MS to Mount View MS.
- Staying at Folly Quarter continues two poor feeds that fall below the 15% guideline.
- Moving Polygon 170 to Burleigh Manor MS does not make sense geographically.

Ms. Sherri Tatum, Fulton Resident

- Supports the position not to adopt the staff's recommendation as it pertains to Fulton ES.
- Suggests giving more time to monitor Fulton ES projected enrollment.

Mr. Dedrick Owens, Representing Polygons 118, 120, 130, 192

- Stressed that the Board handle redistricting solutions equitably across the county.
- Supports delaying redistricting at Fulton ES.

Mr. Jeffrey Samelson, Clarksville Resident

- Does not feel that the data presented by the Attendance Area Committee warrants redistricting Fulton ES.
- The decision to redistrict maybe necessary in the future.

Ms. Jennifer Hays, West Friendship Resident

- Does not support the Attendance Area Committee's recommendation to redistrict Polygons 218 and 222 from West Friendship ES to Triadelphia Ridge ES.
- Asked the Board to focus on keeping communities together.

Ms. Tina Peck, Polygon 103 Resident

- Does not support the recommended or alternate plans to move Dunloggin MS to Ellicott Mills MS.
- Polygon 103 is closer to Dunloggin MS and should remain there.
- Students are being unnecessarily moved to make room for incoming students.

Ms. Virginia Olson, Ellicott City Resident

- Opposed to redistricting of Polygons 170, 178, 179, 180, 181.
- Her child has been in four schools in five years due to redistricting.
- Opposed to move from Marriotts Ridge to River Hill because they just were redistricted out of River Hill last year.
- Says Board promised not to redistrict high schools this year.

Ms. Laura Houck, Representing Triadelphia Ridge ES PTA

- Does not support the proposed plan which would move 60% of the student body.
- Recommends moving students directly to the new Western ES from all adjacent overcrowded neighborhoods.
- Expressed concern over fluctuating staffing levels which would result from the proposed adjustments.

Mr. Robert Fuhrer, Polygon 103 Resident

- Does not support moving Dunloggin MS to Ellicott Mills MS.
- Would like to see a phase-in approach at the middle school level similar to that of high school by letting eighth graders stay at their current middle school.

Ms. Lisa Roop, Brantwood Resident

- Leaving Polygon 170 at Folly Quarter MS results in feeds falling below the target of 15%.
- Moving Polygon 170 to Burleigh Manor MS feeds at or near the 15% target, but does not fit in terms of geographic location.
- Supports moving Polygon 170 to Mount View MS as it resolves the double small feed and is a better geographic fit over other scenarios.

Ms. Jackie Berdy, Polygon 179 Resident

- Neighborhood objects to the proposed plan that would move students out of Manor Woods ES which they directly border.
- The feed of 7.8% from Folly Quarter MS to Marriotts Ridge HS continues to be a poor feed.

Ms. Terry Paul, Polygon 179 Resident

- Their community borders Manor Woods property to the west and south.
- Polygons 170 and 179 are very similar with their proximity to Manor Woods.
- Opposes the current plan which would split their community.

Ms. Carol Kressen, Polygon 179 Resident

- Polygon is very small both geographically and in number of children.
- The school Polygon 179 would be redistricted to, Triadelphia Ridge ES, is at higher capacity utilization than Manor Woods ES.
- Variables in the future may preclude the need for redistricting.

Mr. Matt Harvill, Polygon 179 Resident

- Suggests treating Polygons 170 and 179 the same in all aspects of school planning.
- This plan reduces the number of students who must be redistricted at a future point.
- Keeping Polygons 170 and 179 together keeps capacity utilization at all schools within the 90%-110% range.

Ms. Diana Johnson, Polygon 164 Resident

- Feels that too much emphasis is placed on capacity utilization, and feed size should take a higher precedence.
- Sees problems with the current redistricting plan recommended by the superintendent.
- Not enough is known about the Turf Valley development to make decisions at this point.

Ms. Paula Grant, Polygon 164 Resident

- Suggests if Polygon 170 must be moved, move it to Burleigh Manor MS instead of Polygons 164 and 167.
- Another suggestion is to leave Polygon 170 at Folly Quarter MS and move the Terra Maria polygon to Folly Quarter MS.
- If Polygons 164 and 167 move to Burleigh Manor MS, then also send Polygon 170 and create a large feed from Burleigh Manor MS to Marriotts Ridge HS.

Ms. Cheryl Bowley, Polygon 118 Resident

- Requests that the 118 students, currently at Fulton ES and proposed to move to Pointers Run ES, remain at Fulton ES until the Maple Lawn Farm area is developed.

Recess: The meeting was recessed by the Chairman at 8:30 p.m. and reconvened at 8:37 p.m.

Mr. Stephen Cohen, Ellicott City Resident

- Suggests leaving Polygon 108 at Patapsco MS.
- Requests decisions be made to keep students in familiar surroundings.

Mr. Hilery Simpson, Polygon 170 Resident

- Strongly supports the proposed plan to move Polygon 170 from Folly Quarter MS to Mount View MS to increase middle and high school feeds.

Ms. Laura Cochran, Polygon 170 Resident

- Brantwood neighborhood supports the proposal to move Polygon 170 to Mount View MS.
- The poor feeds will be corrected under this current proposal.

Mr. Steven Isberg, Polygon 164 Resident

- Polygon 170 advocates indicated that there is a 13% feed into the HS. They will go to a 70% feed if they go to Mount View MS. Polygon 164 goes from a 70% down to a 15%. This plan takes one group of students and replaces it with another.
- Alternative is to take the students in Polygon 170 and put them into Burleigh Manor MS.
- If there is a problem in Polygon 170, fix it but do not make it Polygon 164's problem.

Ms. Diane Butler, President, St. John's Community Association

- The proposal cuts up the Dunloggin neighborhood.
- The proposal calls for moving 104 students on the other side of Wal Mart into Dunloggin MS then moving 104 students out of Dunloggin MS into Ellicott Mills MS
- Suggests moving the 104 students near Wal Mart directly to Ellicott Mills MS.

Ms. Kelly Hanlon, Polygon 170 Resident

- Wants to stay at Folly Quarter MS, but understands long-term plan needs to be considered.

Mrs. Watson stated that the Board will be discussing the points mentioned at the next two work sessions. She noted that this is very difficult on everyone, and the Board hopes to work together with the community to have the best solutions.

Adjournment: The public hearing was adjourned by the Chairman at 8:50 p.m.