

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

November 2, 2006

The Board of Education of Howard County held a public work session regarding Attendance Area Adjustments for the 2007/2008 school year on Thursday, November 2, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., at the Applications and Research Lab, Room B-37, located at 10920 Route 108, Ellicott City, Maryland. The following were present:

Joshua Kaufman, Chairman  
Diane Mikulis, Vice Chairman  
Patricia Gordon  
Mary Kay Sigaty  
Courtney Watson  
Wossen Ayele, Student Member

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent, Secretary/Treasurer  
Sandra Erickson, Deputy Superintendent  
Raymond Brown, Chief Operating Officer  
Patti Caplan, Director, Public Relations  
Florence Jackson, Recording Secretary

Chairman Joshua Kaufman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and Mrs. Mikulis led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Approval of Agenda**

*Action:* Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the Board 5-0.

Chairman Kaufman noted that this is the first Work Session in the Attendance Area Adjustment process. He said the Superintendent's Plan, which was presented at the last meeting, will be reviewed. At this session the elementary school level will be the focus followed by Glenwood MS at the next session.

Mr. Joel Gallihue, Manager, School Planning, explained that staff plans with the polygons, proposed moves, and the elementary attendance areas are shown in the Attendance Area Adjustments document. The comparison and contrast of the plans can be made. Also posted on the web is the actual Attendance Area Adjustments document. Information is also provided on school capacity utilization and FARM (Free and Reduced Meals).

In review of the Superintendent's recommendations, students from Northfield, St. John's Lane, and Worthington elementary schools would attend the New Northeastern Elementary School. This plan gives relief to Hollifield Station ES by moving approximately 153 students to St. John's Lane ES. St. John's Lane would also receive

147 students from Waverly ES. St. John's Lane ES would then send 35 students to Centennial Lane ES, which is receiving a 125-seat addition. Additionally, 33 students from Northfield ES would be sent to Thunder Hill ES, and 66 students would be sent from Bryant Woods ES to Running Brook ES.

### **Discussion**

- Thrust of redistricting is to use a substantial portion of St. Johns Lane ES to fill the new Northeastern ES.
- Additional moves need to be made for the backfilling of St. Johns Lane ES.
- Moving 35 students from St. Johns Lane ES to Centennial Lane ES
  - This polygon was part of redistricting last year.
  - This move creates an island.

Question arose asking if there were any other polygons that can be moved to the new school. Mr. Gallihue explained that would mean crossing Route 29 to fill from the west side of Route 29 into the new school. All of the polygons east of Route 29 that go to Northfield are already proposed to be moved to the new school.

Mr. Drown said that the 125-seat addition at Centennial Lane ES was needed and the 35 students from St. Johns Lane ES will only fill a portion of the seats. Capacity utilization would be under 90% with the addition and without moving these 35 students.

Northfield and Centennial Lane fit within the 90% to 110% target that staff strives to comply with. If this polygon gets redistricted into Northfield, it would be a good geographic fit, but it would take Northfield and Centennial Lane out of the 90%- 110%, and the disadvantage is that it creates an island.

Mr. Gallihue said the original plan presented in the feasibility study had one other move that was not directly related to the filling of the new Northeast ES and staff decided against recommending the move of Polygon 33 to Waterloo which is currently at Bellows Spring. Staff is recommending delay until 2010 due to the systemic renovation Waterloo is subject to in the coming years. The other advantage is that this polygon was originally at Deep Run which was redistricted in 2002 to fill Bellows Spring so there would be the rising fifth graders who would be redistricted again if we were to do this now.

### **Bryant Woods – Running Brook**

- The move from Bryant Woods ES to Running Brook ES involves portions of polygons 133 and 204.
- This is a balancing of capacity from one school to another.
- It doesn't relate to the new school opening.
- It is immediately adjacent to the boundary for Running Brook ES.

The changed capacity at Running Brook was a result of an inventory of the classroom space and systemic renovations. Classroom space was redistributed and four additional classrooms were created. These classrooms are slightly smaller and this was the request of the planning committee when the renovation was discussed.

### **New Northeast ES**

- In the 2002 redistricting
  - Polygon 100 was at Worthington before it was sent to Waterloo.
  - Polygons 98 and 74 were at Ilchester before they were sent to Waterloo.
  - To comply with Policy 1675 there is a problem with redistricting more than once at the organizational level.
  - More than 90 students would be redistricted, and 74 of them would be rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders who were redistricted in 2002.

Mrs. Watson added that in 2002 the decision was made to move the Wheatfield area out of Worthington and the Brampton area out of Ilchester. Both areas were moved to Waterloo. Mr. Drown said that the community requested, if they were going to be redistricted again, they be redistricted in mass and not be broken apart. Mrs. Watson asked what the feed is from Waterloo to Ellicott Mills under the superintendent's plan. Staff responded that the feed is 30.2%. Mr. Kaufman noted that this is not in the Superintendent's recommendation or the Community Plan to split those polygons. Mrs. Watson added that it is always an option. Mr. Gallihue said that the problem with splitting the polygons is that there would have to be a comprehensive redistricting because Wheatfield is a substantial neighborhood.

Board members and staff also discussed the following:

- Middle school feeds to high school.
- Consideration given to the long-range implications.
- Where polygons fit within the Howard HS boundary lines.
- Implications of opening a new school along the Route 1 corridor in 10 to 15 years.
- Was consideration given to filling schools in the west?
- Redistricting in the west will occur in 2010.
- Manor Woods ES needs relief and Waverly is being positioned to receive these students.
- Staff asked to analyze necessity of addition to Waverly.
- Triadelphia Ridge ES has available seats, and this is another option.
- Link the redistricting process to the capital budget.

Dr. Cousin said capacity has been built into the system. At the same time enrollments are cyclical in that they increase and decrease. Schools should not be built for the optimum nor should they be built for the valleys. That is why the policy says between 90% to 110% capacity. This builds flexibility into the system on decisions the Board will make in the future.

Mr. Kaufman stated that at the last redistricting the Board offered open enrollment at River Hill HS for students in polygons 180 and 181, since they are only a 2.8% feed from Folly Quarter MS to Marriotts Ridge HS. Transportation is to be phased out after two years, which is now approaching. He asked how many families are taking that option and how much it would cost to continue the transportation. One option for this small feed may be to continue to provide transportation.

Ms. Sigaty requested clarification on the Bushy Park - Glenwood septic system for the next work session.

Adjournment: The Chairman adjourned the work session at 9:00 p.m.