

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

November 14, 2006

The Board of Education of Howard County held public Work Session II regarding Attendance Area Adjustments for the 2007/2008 school year on Tuesday, November 14, 2006, 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:

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.

Mr. Kaufman asked if there were any specific issues Board members wished to discuss. Mrs. Watson asked for discussion on the BRAC plan also known as Elementary A. Ms. Sigaty asked for clarification of the capacity issue at Glenwood MS and Bushy Park ES.

Elementary A (Base Realignment and Closure) BRAC Plan

The strategy is to fill Veterans ES from the south. The following areas are being considered for redistricting:

- Plan involves a large number of moves in the west.
- It removes polygons that were recommended.
- Objective is to move polygons 74, 98, and 100 to Veterans ES.
- Fewer polygons would be coming into Veterans from the north.
- Staff plan is designed to use the school to relieve capacity utilization issues in the Northern Region at St. Johns Lane ES, Hollifield Station ES, Waverly ES, and Northfield ES as well as Worthington ES in the Northeast Region.
- This plan makes room at Veterans ES for polygons 74, 98, and 100 and relieves capacity utilization in the Northern Region with redistricting to where the capacity exists in the west.
- Strength of the plan is geography in the immediate area around Veterans ES.
- The weaknesses are:

- Waterloo under utilized.
- Poorer geography results in other areas.
- Redistricting students more than once at the elementary level.
- Small feeds created.
- Many more students redistricted.

Discussion

Board members noted the following areas for discussion:

- Waterloo is low in capacity, but it could accept more students in the future.
 - Systemic renovation is planned.
- Feeds are an issue and were discussed as relates to:
 - Dunloggin MS.
 - Elkridge Landing MS.
 - Mt. View MS.
 - Dayton Oaks ES.
- Geographic fit.
 - Is an advantage for the communities around Veterans ES.
 - Is a disadvantage with the West Friendship ES polygon that is going to Bushy Park.
- Asked staff to look at growth and projections in the future.
 - Capacity in the west may have changed due to the real estate market.
 - It is easier to put additions on in the east as opposed to the west due to restrictions with water and sewer issues.
- Veterans is designed for a 100-seat addition.
- Seats are available in Columbia and the southeast.
- Seats are not available in the north and a part of the east.
- This plan moves Wheatfield into a higher density school.
- 600 students are moved in this plan.
- This plan has merit, but would like a fresh look at it and consider seats in the west.
- Hollifield Station is requesting that not as many students need to be moved as their kindergarten projections were under this year.
 - Staff projections show there will be more children next year.
 - Error rate could be in that housing starts were not as fast as previous.
 - One reason for Veterans being built was to give relief to Hollifield Station.
 - If fewer students were moved out of Hollifield Station, would that change the recommendation.
 - Polygons would need to be split and would create unusual breaks.
- Waterloo ES is at 80% capacity now.
 - If 300 students move out it would be at 40% capacity.
 - Bellows Spring ES can send students.
 - Waterloo could be available for Elkridge, but there is the question of geography.

- Staff was asked to study data and verify need for additions at Elkridge and Waverly.
- West Friendship has a significant difference in comparing the Superintendent's plan and the BRAC plan.
 - West Friendship goes above 120% by 2012.

Glenwood MS-Folly Quarter MS

- Glenwood is being considered for redistricting due to capacity under utilization at Folly Quarter MS.
 - Glenwood presents the best opportunity.
 - It is premature to redistrict out of the other middle schools
 - Another issue is related to geography.
- If a new middle school is not built, would staff change recommendation.
 - Staff checked a scenario without the New Western MS in 2013 and confirmed that the proposed redistricting would not need to be "undone."
- Folly Quarter is newer and has larger core facilities and would be appropriate to accept more students.
- Questions remain on the development in the west.
- The numbers do not indicate significant growth by the year 2017.
- If Glenwood does not change, how is Folly Quarter filled.
 - Lime Kiln and Mt. View are options.
 - It is in the long-range plan to redistrict Lime Kiln to Folly Quarter.
- There are seven relocatables at Glenwood, and every one is being used.
 - Based on the recommended plan, all the relocatables most likely would be removed.
 - Feed is currently 12% but will change to above 15% from Bushy Park ES to Folly Quarter MS.

Glenwood MS-Bushy Park ES/Sewer Discharge Permit

- Capacity at Glenwood is governed by ground water discharge permit.
 - Ground water discharge permit sets criteria of 11,000+ gallons a day.
 - As long as the school does not violate the terms of the permit, there is no violation.
 - The enrollment number is limited to 1512 for combined Glenwood MS and Bushy Park ES.
 - Staff will give information with respect to what the discharge permit limits us to on the actual Glenwood flow rates and compare them to Dayton Oaks.

Feeder Discussion

- Folly Quarter feed increases from 21% to 32% to Glenelg HS.
- Bushy Park feed increases from 12.7% to 26.2% to Folly Quarter.
- Strength is with the improvement of the feed from elementary to middle schools.

New Western Middle School

- By 2011 or 2012 indications should be clear about the need for a new school.
- Staff was asked about the risk of the recommended plan being undone and staff confirmed that the risk is very low.
- Rationale for the recommendation was to relieve Glenwood.
- Raising utilization at Folly Quarter will provide relief.
- Would recommendation change if there was no new western middle school.
- Mt. View will eventually rise between 126% to 129%.
- Redistricting has been based on the assumption of a new middle school in the Turf Valley vicinity.

Staff will bring answers to the Board at the next work session to the following questions:

- Take out the new western middle school but apply the staff plan.
- Come up with changes to fit the new plan
- Would recommendation for this year change without the new middle school.
- Is there a risk of redistricting back to Glenwood.
- Consider leaving Folly Quarter as it is and what the implications are for that program at those levels.
- Polygons 180 and 181 have open enrollment with transportation phasing out.
 - Find out the transportation costs.
- Capacity at Running Brook in regard to some of the classes being smaller than in the educational specifications.

Adjournment: The chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.