

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

November 16, 2006

The Board of Education of Howard County held a public work session on Attendance Area Adjustments on Thursday, November 16, 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

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

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:04 p.m.

### Running Brook ES

Staff stated that Running Brook ES has the core capacity and classroom space to accommodate students from Bryant Woods ES, as proposed in the Superintendent's plan. Relocatables will not be depended on to provide the program.

### High School – Transportation Costs Related to the Folly Quarter MS to Marriotts Ridge HS Feed – Option to Open Enroll at River Hill HS

Last year students who live in Polygons 180 and 181 were given the option to open enroll in River Hill HS rather than attend Marriotts Ridge HS as part of a small 2.8 percent feed from Folly Quarter MS to Marriotts Ridge HS. Board members agreed that transportation to River Hill HS should continue to be provided for those students for the 2007/2008 school year.

### Elementary Redistricting

Board members and staff discussed various options for filling Veterans ES, which included the following:

- Fill Veterans ES with Polygons 74, 98, and 100.
- Leave Polygon 161 at Hollifield Station ES.
- Leave Polygons 160 and 162 at Waverly ES.

Approved – January 11, 2007

This scenario would leave Waterloo ES severely underutilized, Hollifield Station would be overcapacity, and Waverly would require a 100-seat addition in the future. This scenario would require the investment of an on-site septic system at Manor Woods ES and/or connection of the modular unit at Triadelphia Ridge ES.

Staff noted the difficulties with accurate projections at elementary levels in areas where many students reside in apartment complexes, due to the transitional nature of those units.

Staff also spoke about various options that were considered in order to backfill Waterloo ES if Polygons 74, 98, and 100 were redistricted to Veterans ES. Moving Polygon 76 into Waterloo would only increase capacity to a little more than 60 percent. Another idea would be to send a polygon from Phelps Luck, which would bring Waterloo to just barely 90 percent, but would also bring Phelps Luck just below 70 percent.

Mrs. Watson expressed concern about not having the data regarding all the options for backfilling Waterloo ES if students were redistricted to Veterans ES. She indicated that she could not convey to the community that this could not be done unless she had the data to support the rationale.

Dr. Cousin emphasized the weakness of choosing a plan that moves so many students out of Waterloo. The choices would then be to operate the school at 50 percent of its capacity, which is not tenable, or to backfill the school by moving additional students. This would also involve schools and communities that have not been alerted to these redistricting options. For these reasons, the recommended staff plan is the most viable option available, which is the reason for staff returning to the Board with the original recommendation.

Ms. Sigaty pointed out that although the geography appears to look better for moving Waterloo students to Veterans ES because of their proximity to the new school, those students would still require transportation due to safety issues.

Mr. David Drown, Director of Transportation, explained that he had looked at options that would move Polygons 74, 98, and 100 from Waterloo ES to Veterans ES and found those options untenable because overcrowding exists at Northfield, Hollifield Station, St. John's Lane, and Worthington elementary schools and that is where relief is needed.

Mrs. Watson emphasized her opinion of not being convinced that staff has developed the best possible plan but acknowledged that time constraints prevent additional research. She stated that the Hollifield Station community has presented a good argument for not redistricting students out of the school. There are options to split polygons, but none of the options will work unless the underutilization at Waterloo ES can be solved.

Mr. Kaufman noted that there were two very well thought out plans that attempted to backfill Waterloo ES but both have considerable weaknesses in terms of capacity, in

terms of numbers of students moved, and/or impacts on FARM (free and reduced meals) and MSA (Maryland School Assessments).

Mr. Ray Lischner, AAA Committee Member, spoke about various ways in which he tried to work out solutions for keeping students at Hollifield Station and moving students from Waterloo to Veterans. Options involved moving students from Deep Run and Bellows Spring elementary schools and also created several bad feeds which would require additional middle school redistricting.

Mr. Kaufman pointed out that the reason Veterans ES was built was to primarily relieve capacity at Hollifield Station, St. John's Lane, Worthington, and Northfield elementary schools and not to relieve Waterloo, which is already below 90-percent capacity.

Mrs. Mikulis noted that the Board has received many emails from the community that convey varied opinions, and there is not a unified sentiment in the Montgomery Road communities as far as keeping polygons together, moving them separately, or leaving them at Waterloo ES.

Speaking as an individual, Mr. Kaufman indicated that even if other plans were developed, Board members would still have to weigh geographic fit versus other negatives regarding Waterloo, including potential feed and capacity issues where several schools would be under 90-or even 80-percent capacity. He pointed out that a significant amount of time has gone into looking at various options, and issues have been found in all attempts.

Mr. Kaufman asked Board members to provide reasons for support or nonsupport of the proposed plans, including suggestions for changes.

### **Superintendent's Recommendations:**

#### New Northeastern Elementary (Veterans ES)

Polygon 103

105 students

Receive from Northfield ES those students in Grades K-5 (and future students) who reside on Tollhouse Road and all streets with sole egress to Tollhouse Road; reside on Main Street, Ellicott City (Frederick Road) from Rt. 29 to Ellicott Mills Drive, and streets with sole egress to this section of Main Street. NOTE: This includes Klein Avenue.

Polygons 104, 105, 106, 191, 308

453 students

Receive from St. John's Lane ES those students in Grades K-5 (and future students) who reside in the area bounded by US 29 on the west, Rt. 40 on the north, Baltimore County line on the east, and Main Street, Ellicott City (Frederick Road) from the Baltimore County line to Rt. 29 on the south. This includes all students who reside on or have sole egress to Rt. 40. NOTE: Executive Center Drive and Ridge Road North and all streets that egress these streets are included.

Polygons 101, 102, 217, 275 193 students

Receive from Worthington ES those students in Grades K-5 (and future students) who reside on or have sole access to Main Street, Ellicott City (Frederick Road) from Ellicott Mills Drive to the Baltimore County line; reside on the north side of Montgomery Road from Old Columbia Pike to Stone Crest Drive, including Stone Crest Drive and streets with egress to this side of Montgomery Road; reside on Old Columbia Pike from Main Street, Ellicott City (Frederick Road) to Montgomery Road, and all streets with egress to this section of Old Columbia Pike.

*Discussion:*

Ms. Sigaty expressed support for this recommendation. Mrs. Mikulis acknowledged the difficulties for communities not attending their closest school, but she agreed that this plan best accomplishes the goal of providing relief to the intended schools.

Mr. Kaufman expressed agreement and noted that redistricting is one of the hardest parts of a Board member's job because of the need to make choices between a series of difficult options. He explained that when a school is built in a densely populated part of the county, there is no possible way to meet every criteria in Policy 1675. He indicated that geographic fit suffers with this plan, but at the expense of capacity, which is why the new school was needed.

Mrs. Watson did not support the proposed plan to fill Veterans ES because she did not feel that all options were presented and that some questionable assumptions were used in the beginning of the process. She indicated her preference to have staff revisit the options and report back to the Board.

Ms. Gordon stated that of all the possible options, this is probably the most workable one. She agreed that it is not a perfect solution and that some of the necessary changes will be painful and unpopular.

Centennial Lane: Polygon 97 35 students

Receive from St. John's ES those students in Grades K-5 (and future students) who reside on North Chatham Road from Rt. 40 to the entrance of Resurrection School, including the North Chatham Apartments, Chatham Square, and Village Green Shopping Center, or have sole egress to North Chatham Road.

This proposal corrects a 2.3 percent feed from the elementary to the middle school level. The following options are available:

- Approve the recommendation.
- Leave Polygon 97 at St. John's Lane ES and keep the 2.3 percent feed.
- Send Polygon 97 to Northfield ES, which would result in a capacity of over 110 percent, but would also correct the 2.3 percent feed issue.

An addition is planned for Centennial Lane ES. In 2007, the school will be at 111-percent capacity. When the addition comes on line, capacity will be in the 90-percent range. Currently there are portable classrooms to accommodate capacity issues at Centennial Lane ES.

*Discussion:*

Mrs. Watson did not agree with the recommendation because she felt that space would be needed at Centennial Lane ES with the potential development at Doughoregan Manor and issues related to overcrowding at Manor Woods ES due to Turf Valley development. She indicated the need to move students from the west into the north.

Mr. Kaufman noted that overcrowding does not occur at Centennial Lane for another six or seven years, and it is not possible to predict the impact of development from Doughoregan Manor.

Ms. Sigaty indicated her preference to move Polygon 97 into Northfield ES, based on the out years for Centennial Lane. She noted that the basis for approving the future addition to Centennial Lane was due to the difficulty of moving students in and out of the district because of the geography associated with the school.

Staff noted the need to also consider the recommendation of moving Polygons 149 and 302 from Northfield ES to Thunder Hill ES. It would be possible to send Polygon 97 to Centennial Lane ES and then leave Polygons 149 and 302 at Northfield, but that would be at the cost of underutilizing Thunder Hill and leaving Northfield slightly over capacity. If Polygon 97 is moved to Northfield, then Polygons 149 and 302 must be moved to Thunder Hill. If students are not moved into Centennial Lane, capacity will be below 90 Percent.

Mr. Kaufman indicated his preference to not move Polygons 149 and 302 to Thunder Hill if it could be prevented.

Mr. Kaufman noted that it may be necessary to revisit some issues in this area in 2010 due to planned additions to schools and development in Turf Valley. He noted that from that perspective, Northfield might be the better school in which to place Polygon 97.

Mr. Kaufman agreed with Mrs. Watson that it makes better sense to move Polygon 97 into Northfield ES due to geographic fit and unknowns associated with Doureghan Manor.

Ms. Gordon indicated her preference to move Polygon 97 to Centennial Lane ES. And to move only one group rather than two.

Mrs. Watson supported the option of moving Polygon 97 to Northfield and then moving Polygons 149 and 302 from Northfield to Thunder Hill.

Ms. Sigaty also supported the move of Polygon 97 to Northfield and Polygons 149 and 302 to Thunder Hill.

Running Brook: Polygon 204 and partial Polygon 133 66 students  
Receive from Bryant Woods ES those students in Grades K-5 (and future students) who reside on College Square or reside on or have sole egress to Banneker Road.

*Discussion:*

All Board members agreed to the Superintendent's recommendation and noted that staff gave assurance that space is available at Running Brook for these students.

St. John's Lane: Polygon 161 153 students  
Receive from Hollifield Station ES those students in Grades K-5 (and future students) who reside on Old Frederick Road (Rt. 99) from Mt. Hebron Drive to McKenzie Road. This includes streets with egress to Old Frederick from Tiller Drive to McKenzie Road. This does not include streets with egress on Old Frederick Road from Tiller Drive to Mt. Hebron Drive. NOTE: Maple Rock Road, Jonathan Road, Staman Drive, and streets that egress these streets are not included.

*Discussion:*

Mr. Kaufman agreed with the recommendation to provide relief to Hollifield Station ES, which was one of the reasons for building Veterans ES. Other Board members agreed with the recommendation, with the exception of Mrs. Watson.

Waverly ES Polygons 160, 162 147 students  
Receive from Waverly ES those students in Grades K-5 (and future students) who reside on Old Frederick Road from Old Mill Road to McKenzie Road and all streets with sole egress to this section of Old Frederick Road; reside on or have egress to Old Mill Road/Gudel Drive or Diversified Lane. NOTE: This includes the east side of Bethany Lane from I-70 to Old Frederick Road (Rt. 99).

*Discussion:*

Board members agreed with the Superintendent's recommendation, with the exception of Mrs. Watson.

Thunder Hill: Polygons 149, 302 33 students  
Receive from Northfield ES those students in Grades K-5 (and future students) who reside on the west side of Columbia Road from Leyden Way to Gray Rock Drive or have sole egress to this section of Columbia Road.

*Discussion:*

Mr. Kaufman noted that this move is necessary because it ties in with other moves agreed upon in the recommendation.

Elementary School Plan B

Board members discussed a proposal submitted by a community member which involved moving Polygons 160 and 162 out of Manor Woods and into St. John's Lane. This could also result in the need to move other students to Triadelphia Ridge ES. The benefit of the plan is primarily geographic, but it creates other small feed issues. It improves a 2.5 percent feed to 11.2 percent, but would reduce a 24 percent feed to a 13 percent feed from Manor Woods to Burleigh Manor MS. In addition, capacity utilization at Manor Woods would fall below 90 percent.

Board members opposed Elementary School Plan B.

**Middle School Redistricting 2007/2008**

Mayfield Woods: Polygons 82, 298 118 students

Receive from Elkridge Landing MS those students in Grades 6-8 (and future students) who reside in the area bounded by Meadowridge Road on the west, US 1 on the south, MD 100 on the east and north; including all streets with egress to Meadowridge Road.

*Discussion:*

This recommendation improves capacity utilization at Mayfield Woods MS and avoids the need to build at addition at Elkridge Landing MS. Notification of this recommendation was provided the the communities involved.

Board members agreed with the Superintendent's recommendation.

Folly Quarter: Polygons 212, 213, 215 99 students

Receive from Glenwood MS those students in Grades 6-8 (and future students) who reside on or have sole access to the segment of Rt. 97 between Roxbury Road and Burntwoods Road, including those who reside on or have egress to Burntwoods Road or MacClintock Drive; reside on or have sole access to Shady Lane between Burntwoods Road and Sharp Road; reside on or have sole access to Hobbs Road between Burntwoods Road and McKendree Road; or reside on or have sole access to McKendree Road from Rover Mill to Rt. 97.

*Discussion:*

Mr. Kaufman expressed concern about future issues regarding the fate of the new western middle school. He indicated the need to defer this move until better information

is available on building a new middle school. If a new middle school is not built, the students will be moved into Folly Quarter MS.

Dr. Cousin stated that better information will be available in two years. There are no current plans for redistricting proposals prior to 2010.

Mrs. Watson expressed concern with moving students from Glenwood MS to Folly Quarter because of the potential of having to reverse the move in several years. She also pointed out that the County Executive and County Council have emphasized the need to utilize available space. Leaving Folly Quarter at 86 percent capacity may result in the ability to cut from the budget a new \$30 million school. Mrs. Watson preferred to take a “wait and see” approach.

Dr. Cousin pointed out that the intent of this proposal is to gain balance between the two schools. The Board’s decision is to either do that or do nothing. By doing nothing, Folly Quarter will be operating outside of the parameters of the policy, although that is not problematic. He noted that the Board would have to revisit this issue at some time in the future because the imbalance worsens over time.

Board members agreed to eliminate this proposal from the current redistricting plan, which leaves flexibility for several adjacent districts.

#### Greenbridge Area

Board members agreed to discuss this issue at the next Board meeting and noted that this issue would relate to the addition being built at Glenelg HS.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 9:43 p.m.