

2009 Attendance Area Adjustment Committee
Meeting #1
July 14, 2009

Summary

The first meeting of the 2009 Attendance Area Adjustment Committee (AAAC) began at 7:00 PM. Joel Gallihue Manager, School Planning, opened the meeting. He noted that the meeting would be recorded. There was a round of introductions.

Staff members in attendance:

Theresa Alban, Chief Operating Officer
Ken Roey, Executive Director of Facilities Planning and Management
Joel Gallihue, Manager of School Planning
Jennifer Bubenko, Planning Specialist

Committee members in attendance:

Kemi Adetunji	Jill McLeigh
Verron "Ron" Brade	Rita Morsberger
Marie desJardins	Mary Jo Neil
Jonathan England	Jon E. Offley III
Lynne Ensor	Theodore D. Wimberly, Sr.
Jennifer LaStova	

Committee members not in attendance:

Ayeola Fortune

Administrative

The Feasibility Study has been posted on the school system's website. The website address is www.hcpss.org. The summary minutes and PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the internet.

Handouts

Committee members received a that included Policy 6010, the Feasibility Study, the Supplement to the Feasibility Study, a polygon map, elementary school boundary map, middle school boundary map, and high school boundary map. Mr. Gallihue shared a copy of Mr. Michael Pfau's letter to the committee regarding school year 2010–2011 redistricting.

Presentation

Mr. Gallihue thanked the committee members for volunteering their time to HCPSS. He presented a PowerPoint presentation to the committee. Mr. Gallihue indicated that staff has recommended redistricting for the 2010–2011 school year.

The presentation included the AAAC schedule, explanation of Policy 6010, methods of communication, enrollment projections, capital budget process, redistricting process, the 2009 Feasibility Study, staff recommendation for 2010–2011 redistricting.

Mr. Gallihue explained that projections are based on historical trends and that enrollment assumptions are based on a five year window of data. A method called Cohort Survival is used. The first years of the projection are based on actual births and later years are based on projected births. Mr. Gallihue explained that software utilized by the Office of School Planning to test “What If” redistricting scenarios.

During the presentation, which is also being posted to the website, there were a number of questions. The answers are summarized below:

It was clarified that demographics are a factor for consideration, but not a reason to redistrict.

BOE policy supports operation of schools between 90% and 110% capacity utilization but it is reasonable to consider that 110% at a new school building that meets current educational specifications represents a different experience than 110% at an older smaller school.

In a circumstance where there is an unanticipated change in enrollment mid year relocatable classrooms or staff may be reallocated depending upon need and contract flexibility.

Regional meetings will be at Hammond HS on September 29th and Centennial HS on September 30th.

Projections – Although the overall number has only a small change, there are several schools that are more dramatically changed (BSES, EES)

The projections are based on averages over a series of years. The recent economic contraction has not fully influenced the projection. Howard County regulates growth with the APFO and the production of new residential units is pretty stable. Some developments (Turf Valley, Maple Lawn) already have allocations, but may be delayed because of the economy.

There was no AAAC last year and we are not tied to the scenarios or projections presented in the 2008 Feasibility study.

In the past there were other open enrollment options. In some cases if a school had capacity, a student could open enroll. About ten years ago the BOE studied open enrollment and decided to eliminate it where possible. Greenbridge and Woodmark are the only remaining areas. Rita Morsberger offered to email her recollections on the Woodmark Triangle exception which is being forwarded to the committee.

Feed percentages characterize how middle and high school enrollment is made up from students rising up from the level below. A low feed is below 15%, per policy, and indicates a school contributing a low proportion of students.

Marie desJardins would like to share information about her redistricting visualization software with the group.

Proposed Redistricting

Mr. Gallihue briefly outlined the two proposals for redistricting at the high and middle school level in 2010–2011.

The first area that is under consideration is the “Greenbridge Area” in which students are able to open enrolls at Glenelg HS, even though the area is assigned to River Hill HS. The open enrollment option was opened due to the extended renovation that took place at Gelnelg HS. The proposal is to redistrict the students back to Glenelg HS and remove the open enrollment option. The community seems to have interests in returning to Glenelg HS. The do not currently have transportation. Now that the new capacity is available, staff would like to utilize the capacity and leave River Hill in a position to absorb students from Reservoir HS and potentially Wilde Lake HS (downtown Columbia growth) as needed in the future.

The second area that is under consideration is the “Woodmark Triangle” are in which students are able to open enroll at River Hill HS even though the are is assigned to Marriotts Ridge HS. The open enrollment option was opened due to a small feed from the Folly Quarter MS to Marriotts Ridge HS. The proposal is to redistrict students who are already assigned to Marriotts Ridge HS attendance area from Mount View MS to Folly Quarter MS to increase the small feed. This redistricting option does not increase the feed from Folly Quarter MS to Marriotts Ridge HS to 15%, but future redistricting would continue to increase the feed percentage.

Mr. Gallihue also noted that future redistricting plans are listed in the Feasibility Study, and time permitting, the AAAC can review and comment on the long term plans after review of the 2010–2011 recommendation.

Homework

Mr. Gallihue asked committee members to study the 2009 Feasibility Study for future meetings. The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.