

2009 Attendance Area Adjustment Committee
Meeting #8
September 15, 2009

Summary

The eighth and final meeting of the 2009 Attendance Area Adjustment Committee (AAAC) began at approximately 7:10 PM. Mr. Joel Gallihue Manager, School Planning, opened the meeting.

Staff members in attendance:

Theresa Alban, Chief Operating Officer
Joel Gallihue, Manager of School Planning
Jennifer Bubenko, Planning Specialist

Committee members in attendance:

Kemi Adetunji	Rita Morsberger
Jonathan England	Mary Jo Neil
Ayeola Fortune	Jon E. Offley
Jennifer LaStova	Theodore D. Wimberly, Sr.

Committee members not in attendance:

Vernon "Ron" Brade	Lynn Ensor
Marie desJardins	Jill McLeigh

Handouts

At the beginning of the meeting, the committee members received copies of boundary@hcpss.org correspondence received between 9/10/09 and 9/15/09 and a summary of their work.

Meeting Introduction

The summary that was provided to the committee will be the starting point for the staff report. The AAAC received a great deal of correspondence and response from the public about their recommendation to the superintendent and long-term planning. The discussion will focus on the long-term plan tonight.

Discussion included:

The effect of the economy on the student enrollment projections was discussed first. Historically, our county remains fairly stable and HCPSS student enrollment tends to grow each year. Mr. Gallihue expects that the county's trends will remain similar, but perhaps future projected growth will be delayed further into the future. The starting point for the next year's projections is the September 30, 2009 enrollment. The September 30, 2009 enrollment is expected to be finalized in October 2009, and before this information is available, it is premature to know how the numbers are looking. Staff prepares a projection accuracy report for the Board of Education each year.

The New Northeastern ES is expected to have a capacity of about 443 students, have multiple stories, shared storm water management (potentially underground), shared

parking (potentially a garage or underground), and high walker accessibility in a high residential density development. New educational specifications will need to be developed that consider fewer acres necessary for an elementary school site.

Elementary school capacities may be reevaluated in the future. Special education works with the Office of School Planning to place programs in schools with available space.

Although there is no specific plan to close West Friendship ES in a specific number of years, all options must be strategically considered for long-term planning. If it becomes necessary to replace the waste water treatment system at the school, the estimated cost is about 7-8 million dollars. Schools that are no longer used as schools can be re-purposed or surplused to the county.

The AAAC returned to a plan (original 09Plan_A) that they developed on August 4, 2009. The plan moved:

- 111 students from Bellows Spring ES to New Northeastern ES
- 277 students from Elkridge ES to Rockburn ES
- 219 students from Rockburn ES to Ilchester ES
- 145 students from Waterloo ES to New Northeastern ES

The committee reviewed this plan's capacity utilization rates at each elementary school. The capacity utilizations to account for the capital projects as requested in the FY11 Superintendent's Proposed Capital Budget.

The AAAC considered moving polygon 95 from Ilchester ES to Waterloo ES, but decided against splitting it from polygons 1095 and 2095.

09Plan_B was created from 09_PlanA in an effort to move fewer students in and out of Elkridge ES and Rockburn ES. This plan did not have the intended outcome and the AAAC moved on to another idea.

09Plan_C was created from 09_PlanA. The plan moved:

- 111 students from Bellows Spring ES to New Northeastern ES
- 277 students from Elkridge ES to Rockburn ES
- 127 students from Rockburn ES to Ilchester ES
- 145 students from Waterloo ES to New Northeastern ES
- 49 students from Ilchester ES to Waterloo ES
- 92 students from Rockburn ES to Bellow Spring ES

Discussing 09_PlanA, 09_PlanB, or 09_PlanC or any other planning ideas does not signify that these plans will translate into staff's recommendation in the 2011 Feasibility Study.

Additional Comments:

- Residents in polygons 95, 1095 and 2095 consider their three polygons to be one neighborhood.

- Mr. Gallihue noted that, although Pre-Kindergarten is under consideration to be mandated by the federal government, there is no way to fit such a program into the current facilities. If mandated, Pre-Kindergarten programs may possibly use space at regional centers.
- Islands are avoided if possible.
- There was a concern about staggering the ES and MS redistricting causing some students to be moved in ES and also in MS a few years later.
- At a previous AAAC meeting, the committee agreed that they had no recommended change to the staff's plans for the Greenbridge Area (redistrict all students in the proposed area to back Glenelg HS).
- There was no final AAAC opinion on the trailing siblings. The AAAC discussed that trailing siblings should be treated the same way across the entire county and that eligibility would have a time limit. Not all committee members agreed with the above statement. Many citizens are concerned about splitting the siblings between two high schools.
- The public can testify at the Regional Meetings on September 29th and 30th, as well as the public hearing on November 10, 2009. The AAAC is invited to the Regional Meetings and Public Hearing, but they are not asked to present at the meetings.
- Programs (for example JROTC) can be moved rather than redistricting students. There are 4 high schools with the facilities for JROTC (OMHS, AHS, HHS, MRHS), but MRHS does not currently have a JROTC program.

Closing Comments:

- Theresa Alban, Chief Operating Officer, thanked the Attendance Area Adjustment Committee members for their thoughtful, receptive, civil and serious hard work and effort.

The meeting ended at about 9:15PM. This was the final meeting of the 2009 Attendance Area Adjustment Committee.