

2012 Attendance Area Committee
Special Meeting
October 9, 2012

Summary

A Special Meeting of the 2012 Attendance Area Committee (AAC) was held in the Board room at 108 Clarksville Pk, Ellicott City, MD. The meeting began at 7:00 PM. Joel Gallihue, Manager of School Planning, opened the meeting.

Board of Education members in attendance:

Sandra French, Chair
Allen Dyer, member

Staff members in attendance:

Ken Roey, Executive Director, Facilities Planning and Management
Rebecca Amani-Dove, Public Relations
Caryn Lasser, Strategic Planning
Joel Gallihue, Manager of School Planning
Tim Rogers, Planning Analyst

Committee members in attendance:

Geoffrey Pickett	Brendan Robinson
Amy Grutzik	Lisa Schlossnagle
Bill Lewis	Marc Steingesser
Craig Renier	James Weidemann
Renee Kamen	Carmesha Young
Michelle Yeh	

Committee members not in attendance:

Khalid Boushaba

Administrative

A sign in sheet was distributed.

Handouts

None

Presentation

Mr. Gallihue opened the meeting by explaining to the committee and the audience that staff was directed by the Superintendent to reconvene the AAC to test ideas and plans that would result in less disruption to students and schools. Mr. Roey discussed the next steps in the attendance area planning process and outline the upcoming meeting schedule.

Group Work

The group expressed concerns regarding the purpose for the meeting, discussing the strengths and benefits of the plan they developed in August, and their previous efforts to minimize disruption while still developing a plan that follows policy.

Mr. Steingesser expressed concern that a plan centered on minimizing disruption may be in conflict with the group's desire to create a long-lasting plan.

Mr. Lewis commented that the group added moves from the Feasibility Study 2015 plan in order to avoid the disruption of a second redistricting.

Ms. Kamen discussed the advantages of reassigning polygons with planned growth, before the students arrive. This way the plan disrupts fewer students.

In response to a question from the group, Mr. Gallihue described some of the work staff had done since the AAC concluded.

The group discussed which portions of plan L10 could be removed to reduce disruption. It was determined that removing the moves in West Columbia could subtract around 240 students from the total impact. Other ideas were discussed, including alternative ways to open ES #41, citizen feedback regarding neighborhood contiguity, and the need to reassign Turf Valley before major development occurs.

Mr. Renier presented a plan he developed prior to the meeting, noting the total number of students moved is projected around 1600. A few modifications were made to Mr. Renier's plan, and the group decided to support this plan as an alternative to plan L10. Another alternative supported by the group was plan L10 minus the West Columbia and Turf Valley changes.

Mr. Robinson presented his plan, which reassigns a similar number of students to Mr. Renier's plan. Staff will test this plan and post reports and assessments as soon as possible.

In conclusion, Mr. Gallihue asked staff to reflect on their work, and discuss some conclusions from tonight's process.

The group expressed concern that plans that were quickly prepared and largely untested would be presented as the group products. Another concern was that in order to reduce disruption now, long-term goals were being sacrificed. Also, most group members said they were happy to be asked to re-evaluate their plan, but wanted more time to test ideas and respond to citizen feedback.

Mr. Gallihue and Mr. Roey concluded the meeting by thanking the Committee for giving more of their time, and making thoughtful suggestions.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:05 PM.