

2012 Attendance Area Committee
Meeting #7
August 7, 2012

Summary

The seventh meeting of the 2012 Attendance Area Committee (AAC) began at 7:00 PM. Joel Gallihue, Manager of School Planning, opened the meeting.

Staff members in attendance:

Ken Roey, Executive Director, Facilities Planning and Management
Joel Gallihue, Manager of School Planning
Tim Rogers, Planning Analyst

Committee members in attendance:

Khalid Boushaba	Brendan Robinson
Amy Grutzik	Lisa Schlossnagle
Renee Kamen	Marc Steingesser
	James Weidemann
Geoffrey Pickett	
Craig Renier	Carmesha Young

Committee members not in attendance:

Bill Lewis	Michelle Yeh
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Administrative

A sign in sheet was passed around.

Handouts

Committee members received summary notes from the July 31st, 2012 AAC meeting, citizen emails/feedback to AAC, and reports/assessment for plans AAC_L5 and AAC_L6.

Presentation

No PowerPoint presentation. Mr. David Ramsay, Director of Pupil Transportation joined the group. Mr. Ramsay explained how his office coordinates with the Office of School Planning at least each week during the redistricting process. Mr. Ramsay shared a number of metrics about Pupil Transportation. There are a total of 315 busses traversing approximately 30,000 miles each day when school is in session.

Mr. Ramsay responded to questions from the committee. Buses must traverse all the roads where students live but choices are made in configuring the routes as safely as possible. Walk areas depend upon BOE policy and the guidance of the Howard County traffic engineers. When infrastructure is updated changes are considered. Crossing guards are provided by the Howard County Police Department with available funding.

Bus ride times are intended to be under one hour and often well under a half hour depending upon area of the county.

Other discussion

The committee asked how AAC plans were presented to the BOE. Staff explained that it is the job of staff to make a recommendation to the BOE. Perhaps part or all of the AAC recommendation will be the staff recommendation. Regardless of the staff presentation the efforts of the AAC are documented for all to see.

Group Work

The group began with plan AAC_L6 and discussed a large volume of input from the Brampton area registering their objection to being assigned to Thunder Hill ES from Waterloo ES. The committee wanted to test other options. In exploring options the committee found that in order to assign this neighborhood to Worthington ES a series of other changes involving Worthington, Veterans and Northfield as well as Thunder Hill were necessary. A revised plan was developed (AAC_L7) which moved 99, 2099, and 310 from Worthington to Veterans. Polygon 103 was moved to Northfield. This allows 1148 and 2148 to stay at Thunder Hill. Polygon 309 was considered for Veterans but it is too much. Perhaps 309 could be divided. Staff committed to provide a middle school plan that matches AAC_L7 called AAC_M7.

- Polygons 1098 and 98 to Worthington from Waterloo
- Polygons 99, 2099, and 310 from Worthington to Veterans
- Polygon 103 from Veterans to Northfield
- Polygons 1148 and 2148 to stay at Thunder Hill

The next discussion was about the balance of FARM at Longfellow. The rise in FARM is caused by removing neighborhoods to Clarksville ES. This concentrates the FARM so it would be 41% under plan AAC_L6 when the current FARM rate is 36%. Other schools are higher but the change is disruptive and that should be looked at in balance with a brief improvement to utilization at Clarksville ES. The committee considered moving fewer neighborhoods out of Longfellow ES because it is not projected to exceed 110% utilization even if there were no action. Polygons 141 and 1141 were selected to remain at Longfellow because they egress on Harpers Farm not MD 108. As a result of this change, the FARM rate at Longfellow would only increase 2% with Plan AAC_L7. The committee felt this was a better result.

- Polygons 141 and 1141 were selected to remain at Longfellow

Homework

Look over Plan AAC_L7 and AAC_M7 when it is posted. Forward any suggestions in advance of meeting so they may be tested in advance.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 PM.