

2009 Attendance Area Adjustment Committee
Meeting #3
August 4, 2009

Summary

The third meeting of the 2009 Attendance Area Adjustment Committee (AAAC) began a few minutes after 7:00 PM. Joel Gallihue Manager, School Planning, opened the meeting. There was a round of introductions.

Staff members in attendance:

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	Rita Morsberger
Marie desJardins	Mary Jo Neil
Jonathan England	Jon E. Offley
Lynne Ensor	Theodore D. Wimberly, Sr.
Ayeola Fortune	

Committee members not in attendance:

Verron "Ron" Brade
Jennifer LaStova
Jill McLeigh

Presentation

Mr. Gallihue discussed the topic of the meeting: plan making strategies. He discussed that the group would work together, potentially starting with a concern (i.e. capacity utilization, small feed), to learn planning strategies and techniques for utilizing the redistricting tools. Mr. Gallihue noted that the goal is to understand how the tools function, not necessarily develop a satisfying plan in the meeting.

The committee discussed a starting point for the meeting's planning process. One member mentioned the Columbia East region, and another noted that the Northeastern and Southeastern Regions higher capacity utilizations merit more immediate attention. It was mentioned that, because the entire Northeastern and Southeastern regions are over utilized, that polygons would need to be moved from the regions or capacity would need to be built in the regions to resolve each school's over utilization.

One member suggested starting at Elkridge ES. Another member suggested moving students from the Southeast to the Northeast and then from the Northeast to the North Region to resolve the capacity needs in both the Northeast and Southeast Regions. The number of seats available in the West was mentioned. Mr. Gallihue suggested that the committee members can learn the process by doing various scenarios.

Committee members asked about the location, size and expected completion date of the New Northeastern Elementary School. Mr. Gallihue said that the school may be located near the intersection of Route 100 and Route 1. He said that the school may be between 450-500 seats and that staff expects the completion date to be 2013. Mr. Gallihue noted that, if the attendance area was located on the southern side of Route 1, more busing would be necessary.

A committee member noted that there are pressures to redistrict in order to “open” the schools that are “closed” through the Adequate Public Facilities Open/Closed School Chart. Mr. Gallihue reminded the AAAC of the letter that they received in from Mr. Michael Pfau of Trinity Homes.

After receiving a question from a committee member, Mr. Gallihue noted that the planning polygons are geographic regions that include approximately 100 or fewer elementary students.

A discussion about the sensitivity for redistricted students arose. One committee member noted that redistricting associated with the opening at a new school can be celebratory, but the students’ transition during general redistricting can be more difficult due to the lack of sensitivity the school staff has toward the students needs.

There was discussion about feeds and trade-offs between policy considerations (i.e. moving and disrupting a larger number of students to maintain a larger feed or moving and disrupting a smaller number of students and creating a small feed.)

To learn more about planning, the GIS mapping software and the “Whiffer” redistricting software, the AAAC created a new redistricting plan (09Plan_A) focused on the Northeastern Region. Greenbridge and Woodmark Triangle are on the agenda for the following two meetings so 09Plan_A may not be discussed again until the first meeting in September.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 11th. The discussion will be focused on the Greenbridge Area.