

2009 Attendance Area Adjustment Committee
Meeting #4
August 11, 2009

Summary

The fourth meeting of the 2009 Attendance Area Adjustment Committee (AAAC) began at 7:09 PM. Joel Gallihue Manager, School Planning, opened the meeting.

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:

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

Committee members not in attendance:

Kemi Adetunji	Jonathan England
Vernon "Ron" Brade	Jennifer LaStova

Handouts

Committee members received copies of emails that were sent to boundary@hcpss.org and reports from plans presented to the Office School Planning in the last week.

Presentation

Mr. Gallihue presented the meeting agenda on a Power Point slide. The citizen emails and redistricting plans were discussed.

Email from Tim Keene of Trinity Homes. The committee decided to discuss the agenda items and return to Mr. Keene's email in a few weeks.

Email from Theodore Wimberly, 2009 AAAC Member. Mr. Gallihue answered the questions asked in the email. The community of Greenbridge knows about staff's recommendation. The recommendation for this area has been the same for many years now. The recent calls and emails about Greenbridge have expressed the citizens' concern about trailing siblings. The HVAC system is expected to be completed for the 2010-2011 school year. Polygon 205 was listed twice on page 34 of the Feasibility Study. 205 and 1205 should have both been listed. A location that is approximately in the middle of the Greenbridge Area is about 4.5 miles from Glenelg HS and 5.5 miles from River Hill HS. The charts in the Feasibility Study show the current data (pre-measures) and the effects of the redistricting (post-measures).

Email from Susan Arensmeier, citizen of Howard County. Ms. Arensmeier is concerned about the Greenbridge Area.

Email from Joan Doyle, citizen of Howard County. Ms. Doyle is concerned about the Greenbridge Area.

Email from Sharon Stephan, citizen of Howard County. Dr. Stephan is concerned about the Woodmark Triangle Area. She and her neighbors have offered various redistricting plans to resolve the small feed that their neighborhood experiences from Folly Quarter MS to Marriotts Ridge HS.

Discussion: Greenbridge Area

About half of the students chose Glenelg HS while the other students attend their assigned school, River Hill HS. Both Glenelg HS and River Hill HS's populations are projected to decrease in the long-term future, but River Hill HS's population is projected to decrease more significantly. It was noted in the Feasibility Study that the space that becomes available may be used to alleviate Reservoir HS and potentially Hammond HS. Also, recent capital projects have been completed at Glenelg HS and the entire scope of the project is scheduled to be completed by the 2010–2011 school year. The residents in the Greenbridge Area have been told for years that the area would be redistricted back to Glenelg HS when the capital project has been completed. One committee member thought that if the open enrollment was removed and the students were not redistricted to Gleneg HS, in the future when the redistricting is needed, that the redistricting would be even more difficult. The committee members did not develop a different plan than the staff recommendation.

There have been numerous citizens voicing their concerns about a concept called “trailing siblings.” Some parents in the Greenbridge Area are concerned that younger siblings will be redistricted while the older sibling is attending the other high school. There were several suggestions for dealing with the trailing siblings:

1. Have a one year open enrollment period for any trailing siblings currently attending middle school. The families would have one year to choose a school.
2. Have more than one year open enrollment period for any trailing siblings currently attending middle school. The families would have a longer period to choose a school.
3. Allow trailing siblings to open enroll in either school for the four years after the redistricting has taken place. The students would enroll during the ordinary enrollment period appropriate for their grade level.
4. Treat the redistricting just as redistricting is done in other non-exception areas. Do not allow any exception for the trailing siblings.

Committee members discussed other thoughts about potential trailing sibling exceptions. A policy/procedure should be created so that there is consistency for trailing siblings. Consistent approaches are more defensible. One committee member said that transportation should not be provided. Another member noted that allowing trailing siblings to open enroll without transportation may be inequitable for families who have lower incomes or have two working parents. It was also mentioned that, if such an exception were made for a large geographic/highly populated area, it would be very difficult to manage. Mr. Gallihue said that he would speak with Kay Brook in the

Student Reassignment Office to discuss this topic and any issues that may be involved with this type of exception. It was noted that the open enrollment has been a disruption for parents in the Greenbridge Area and that continuing and type of exception may continue the disruption. Also, some siblings may not want to be at the same school. Mr. Gallihue noted that, if an exception were to be granted for the trailing siblings, that the exception would be granted to the student, not the home or property.

The committee was reminded that, in the past, rising juniors and seniors are not affected by redistricting when a new school opens, and that rising sophomores, juniors and seniors were not affected when general redistricting took place. One committee member asked if the upper-classmen could chose to take advantage of the redistricting and attend the newly assigned school. Mr. Gallihue said that he was not sure and would find out. Committee members asked why it would not be a possibility when the new bus routes could accommodate the students.

Discussion: Woodmark Triangle Area

The Woodmark Triangle small feed was created by a last minute decision made by the Board of Education for the 2006–2007 redistricting. The number of students going to River Hill HS from Folly Quarter MS is much larger than the number of students going to Marriotts Ridge HS from Folly Quarter MS and the students were given the option to enroll at River Hill HS instead of attending their assigned school, Marriotts Ridge HS. One year later, the area was given transportation to River Hill HS. There was already a Tech-Magnet bus traveling the route, so the open enrollment students were able to ride the bus. Transportation was made available in subsequent years, even though the Tech-Magnet program has ended. One committee member noted that there are only seven rising 9th graders coming out of Folly Quarter MS in the Greenbridge Triangle this year.

The AAAC wanted to review the staff recommendation in preparation for the committee's next meeting. The staff plan moves students from Mount View MS to Folly Quarter MS to increase the small feed from Folly Quarter MS to Marriotts Ridge HS. Mount View MS has a high capacity utilization and Folly Quarter MS has a lower capacity utilization, so the recommended redistricting would help stabilize the capacity utilization at each school. Two issues with the staff recommendation are (a) the small feed that is created at the elementary to middle school and (b) the middle school to high school feed will not meet the policy of 15% until another redistricting is enacted years later.

Committee members discussed the balance of moving a small number of students and creating a feed that falls within the policy considerations of Policy 6010.

Committee members requested a summary of the differences between the plan titled f09wdmk6 and the cumulative plan presented in the Feasibility Study.

It was noted that maps would help the committee understand the various redistricting plans that were proposed by members of the Woodmark Triangle Area.

Committee members asked if the emails sent to boundary@hcpss.org between the meeting and Monday could be forwarded to the group by Monday so that they had time to review the public's concerns before the meeting.

Mr. Gallihue spoke about using a voting tool, survey software or a simple count of hands to find a consensus on various topics discussed at the AAAC meetings.

The meeting ended at 9:03 PM. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 18th. The discussion will be focused on the Woodmark Triangle Area.