

**Henrico County Public  
Schools Redistricting  
Feedback January 27, 2020**

# **Brookland District Comments**

## Justin M. Briggs (jmbriggs)

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**From:** Kristi B. Kinsella (kbkinsella)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2020 7:13 AM  
**To:** LIPPA, KEITH A; Christopher A. Sorensen (casorensen); Justin M. Briggs (jmbriggs)  
**Cc:** Superintendent  
**Subject:** RE: Redistricting Census Tracts 10314 & 16309

Keith,

Thank you and the Staples Mill communities for advocating for your communities. I apologize for the delayed reply due to the holiday weekend. I appreciate you sharing your group's analysis that addresses specific redistricting concerns with me. As discussed at last week's meeting, I've copied division leaders, Chris Sorensen and Justin Briggs, overseeing the redistricting process on this email. They will ensure committee members receive your feedback.

I encourage you to continue to communicate your concerns through our website: <https://henricoschools.us/redistricting/>. All comments received are provided to the committee for review. All information and progress of the committee are also posted on our website.

Warm regards,

Kristi

**Mrs. Kristi Kinsella**  
Henrico County School Board  
Brookland District

Email: [kbkinsella@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:kbkinsella@henrico.k12.va.us)  
Cell Phone: (804) 592-7538

School Board Clerk: Ms. Debbie Ward  
Office: (804) 652-3808  
Fax: (804) 652-3856

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**From:** LIPPA, KEITH A <Keith.A.Lippa@dupont.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 8:58 AM  
**To:** Kristi B. Kinsella (kbkinsella) <kbkinsella@henrico.k12.va.us>  
**Cc:** 'klippa02@yahoo.com' <klippa02@yahoo.com>  
**Subject:** Redistricting Census Tracts 10314 & 16309

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Mrs. Kinsella,

Thank you again for meeting with our group of representatives last Sunday to discuss the redistricting process. We appreciate the opportunity to explain how the different options presented thus far impact our neighborhood. I have attached the document we reviewed in hopes that you can share it with other Board and Committee members.

I represent the area **north of Hungary and west of Staples Mill Roads** that includes the following small subdivisions in Census Tracts 10314 and 16309:

- 10314 - Staples Mill Trace
- 16309 - Brittany, Dove Hollow, Hill Trace, Ironwood at Crossridge, Mountain Cove, and Twin Oaks.

**Our proposal is to be redistricted from Longan ES to Echo Lake ES and remain at Hungary Creek MS and Glen Allen HS as we are currently zoned. Options A & C support this proposal, have the least overall impact to students, and meet ALL redistricting guidelines in the following ways:**

- **Using major roadways as boundaries** (Staples Mill and Hungary Roads).
- **Supporting safe, efficient transportation** (avoiding dangerous intersections, unassisted left-hand turns out of our subdivisions onto Hungary Road, U-turns, and long commutes past other schools to work around medians).
- **Keeping our contiguous geographic zone north of Hungary and west of Staples Mill Roads intact while balancing a neighborhood school concept** (keeping our subdivisions with the rest of the Crossridge community).
- **Supporting reasonable walking zones** (many of our students can walk to Hungary Creek MS and Glen Allen HS if desired without crossing ANY major roadways).
- **Keeping our children’s K-12 progress intact as it is today and consistent with the feeder patterns of our surrounding communities** (Echo Lake ES to Hungary Creek MS to Glen Allen HS).

If Options B & D are revised slightly based on the rationale and proposals detailed in the attached document, then our communities would fully support these and any future options that include these modifications. One final point we’d like to emphasize is the way the boundaries are sometimes represented on the maps can be misleading. Because Hungary and Staples Mill Roads cut at odd angles and our neighborhood was already singled out by our placement at Longan ES, the current boundary represented by the thick, black line can visually lead one to believe it is following a major roadway, when in reality, it is in our back yards. If used as a boundary, it will carve us out from the rest of our Crossridge community, pull us across a major roadway, and oppose many of the redistricting guidelines set forth by the Board. The map below from Elementary Options A & C illustrates how we feel the boundary *should* appear on all the maps, **with the blue line recognizing Staples Mill and Hungary Roads as the boundary line at all 3 school levels. By using these major roadways as a consistent boundary, ALL redistricting objectives and guidelines given by the School Board would be met for this area of the county.**



In closing, we are grateful for the time and consideration we have been afforded in this process and appreciate everyone’s efforts to ensure the best possible outcome for all students of Henrico County.  
Sincerely,  
Keith Lippa

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In case there are issues downloading the attachment, I’ve included the word document contents below for reference:

HCPS Redistricting Committee:

Hi, my name is Keith Lipka, and I represent a small group of communities on the northwest corner of Staples Mill & Hungary Roads that are being impacted by the current redistricting process (Census Tracts 10314 & 16309 from the map below). The subdivisions represented in this message are:

- Staples Mill Trace (10314)
- Dove Hollow (16309)
- Brittany (16309)
- Mountain Cove (16309)
- Hill Trace (16309)
- Twin Oaks (16309)
- Ironwood at Crossridge (16309)



We are a collection of a few small communities, many of which have only 4 to 10 houses in a cul-de-sac, so our neighborhood has very little impact on overall capacity numbers of the schools in which we are placed.

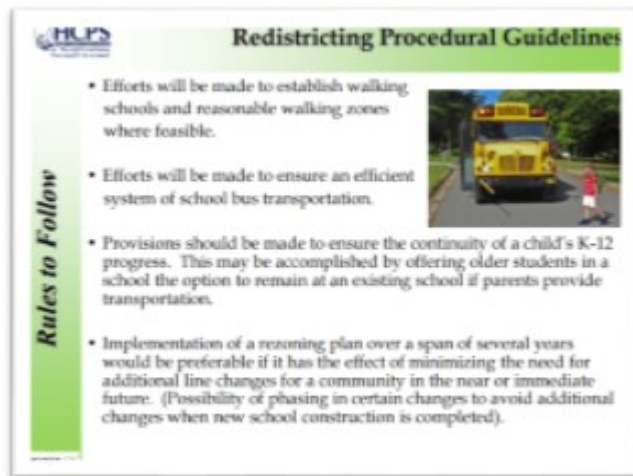
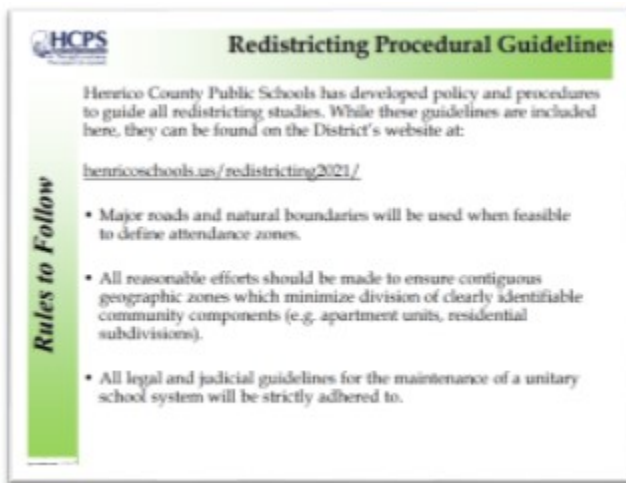
**Our proposal is to be redistricted from Longan ES to Echo Lake ES and remain at Hungary Creek MS and Glen Allen HS as we are currently zoned.**

Several members from our neighborhood attended the public information session and gallery walk at Godwin HS in November. We learned lots of valuable information while there and enjoyed talking with committee members and

providing our thoughts on the process. The committee members asked us to complete the online survey and provide general feedback on the options relative to the Redistricting Procedural Guidelines provided by the school board, which we have done. For reference, our residents were the extremely vocal portion of the Longan Elementary group represented in the Options A & B survey, with our elementary zone having the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest number of responses in the county.

This is an extremely emotional process for all families involved, and we appreciate each committee member’s time and commitment to working through this process. We kindly ask that you consider our feedback and proposals as you develop and modify options.

This message will be broken up to provide some rationale for our neighborhood’s concerns and present some options for the committees to remedy those concerns. It will go through each of the Redistricting Guideline points one at a time to provide feedback on how the current options relate to the guidelines from our neighborhood’s perspective. These redistricting guidelines were taken from the HCPS Cropper presentations as shown below. For ease of communication, I’ve numbered these bulleted guidelines within this message. Proposal options will be given at the end for the committee to consider.



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**Redistricting Guideline #1:** “Major roads and natural boundaries will be used when feasible to define attendance zones.”

Options A & C SUPPORT this guideline for our neighborhood. They use the major roadways of Staples Mill & Hungary Roads as the boundary for Echo Lake ES, Hungary Creek MS, and Glen Allen HS. Both Staples Mill & Hungary Roads are 4-lane roadways with median dividers. Our communities are in full support of these two options because they meet the objective of following major roadways as boundaries whenever possible.

Options B & D do NOT support this guideline at all for our neighborhood. In fact, if either Option B or D is chosen as currently drawn, it would place the boundary line for Echo Lake ES / Dumbarton ES in our back yard and would NOT follow the “Major Roadways” guideline listed above.

As previously mentioned, our communities are located ON Staples Mill and Hungary Roads. We are adjacent to the Crossridge and Lanceor Drive subdivisions on the Staples Mill Road side and to Duncroft on the Hungary Road side. All our surrounding subdivisions attend Echo Lake ES, Hungary Creek MS, and Glen Allen HS. In fact, if either Option B or D is selected as currently drawn, we would be the ONLY group ON our entire side of Staples Mill and Hungary Roads that would not attend Echo Lake ES or Glen Allen HS. Every other subdivision west of Staples Mill and north of Hungary Roads would attend Echo Lake ES and Glen Allen HS EXCEPT our neighborhood.

Many of us can look out our back yards and see or walk to Crossridge which ultimately backs up against Hungary Creek MS & Glen Allen HS. Echo Lake ES, Hungary Creek MS and Glen Allen HS are all within a few hundred feet of one another, and our proximity to all 3 of these schools is illustrated by the map on page 1 of this message.

In Options B & D, the boundary for Echo Lake ES and Glen Allen HS extends down Staples Mill & Hungary Roads and stops JUST BEFORE our subdivisions instead of continuing to the corner of Staples Mill & Hungary Roads, which are both major 4-lane roadways with medians. Our neighborhood is literally carved out from our surrounding subdivisions with the boundary being between back yards instead of along major roadways. For this reason, we strongly oppose Options B & D as they currently stand because they do not meet the objective of using major roadways as boundaries whenever possible.

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**Redistricting Guideline #2:** “All reasonable efforts should be made to ensure contiguous geographic zones which minimize division of clearly identifiable community components (apartments, residential subdivisions).”

Options A & C SUPPORT this guideline for our neighborhood. Since they use Staples Mill & Hungary Roads as the boundary for Echo Lake ES, Hungary Creek MS, and Glen Allen HS, they keep the contiguous geographic zone north of Hungary Road and west of Staples Mill Road intact. They keep all subdivisions within the Crossridge community together and don't single any neighborhood out.

Options B & D do NOT support this guideline for our neighborhood. Since they use our back yards as the boundary line, they single out our series of extremely small subdivisions from the rest of the Crossridge community. Options B & D do not support a contiguous geographic zone in our area of Glen Allen as currently drawn.

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**Redistricting Guideline #3:** “All legal and judicial guidelines for the maintenance of a unitary school system will be strictly adhered to.”

This area of the county is extremely diverse – so all options meet this guideline.

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**Redistricting Guideline #4:** “Efforts will be made to ensure an efficient system of school bus transportation.”

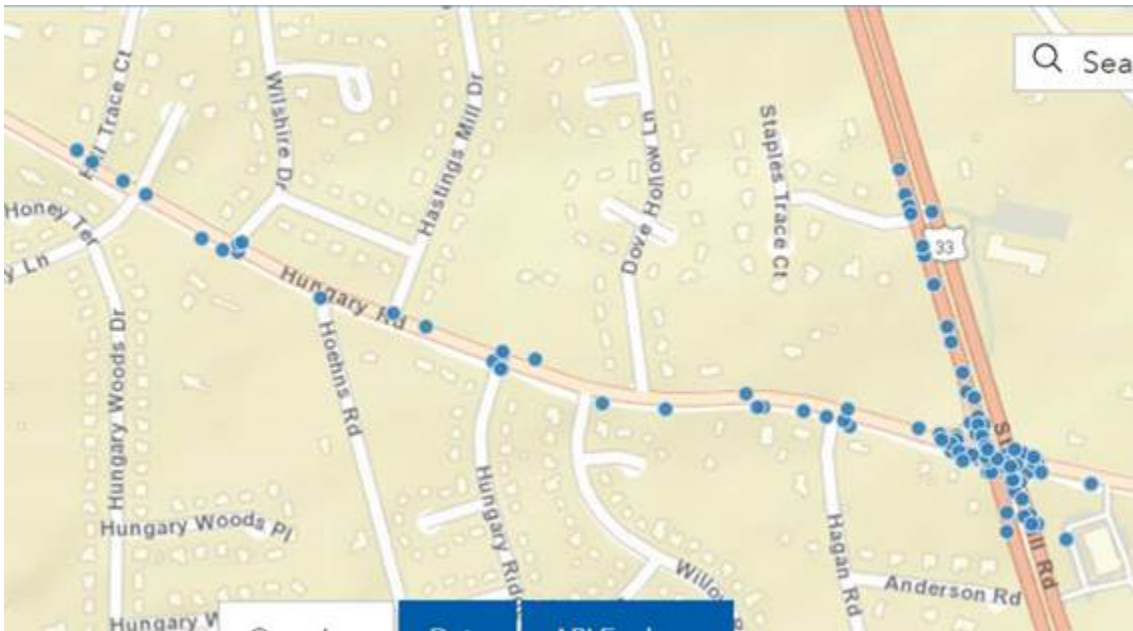
Options A & C SUPPORT this guideline for our neighborhood. School buses would only need to make safe, right-hand turns from our communities onto Staples Mill or Hungary Road and then another right-hand turn at the small, neighborhood intersection of Francistown & Hungary Roads to deliver our children to Echo Lake ES, Hungary Creek MS, and Glen Allen HS.

Options B & D do NOT support this guideline for our neighborhood. Our school buses and student drivers would travel through the dangerous, major intersection of Hungary & Staples Mill Roads then travel through another dangerous, major intersection at Staples Mill & Hungary Spring Roads to deliver our children to Dumbarton ES and Hermitage HS. The commute home from school would require buses and student drivers to travel through the same two major intersections and to face challenges presented by medians, forcing them to either make a U-turn on Staples Mill Road or drive several miles out of the way to avoid doing so.

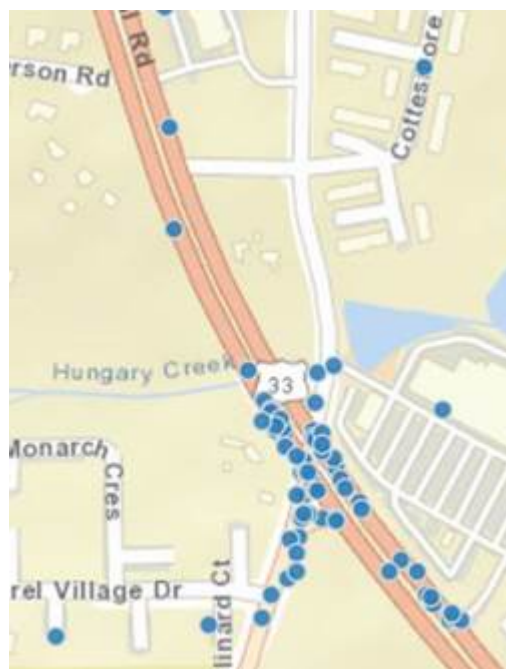
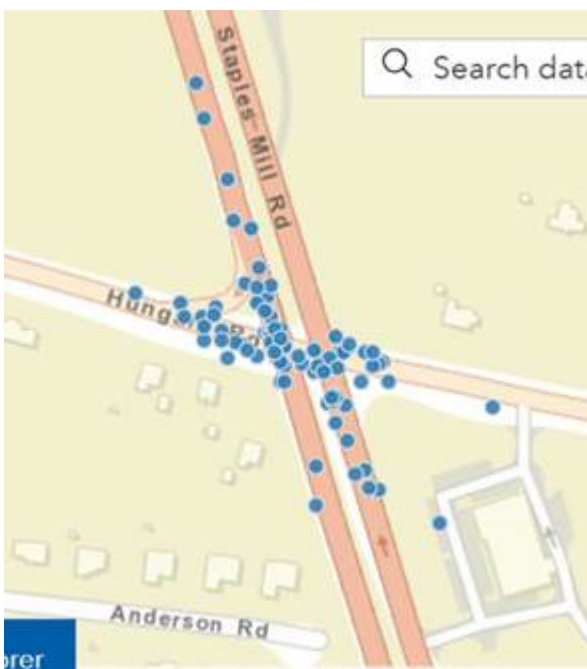
Staples Mill Road is a major 4-lane roadway with a median, and there is no way to access Staples Mill Trace from Dumbarton ES or Hermitage HS unless one makes a U-turn on Staples Mill Road or turns left on Hungary Road, then drives down Francistown Road, then Springfield Road, then back on Staples Mill Road and down toward Hungary Road. Mind you, this route drives right past Echo Lake ES, Hungary Creek MS, and Glen Allen HS just to take our students home. Options B & D pose a huge safety concern for both buses and student drivers and are not an efficient use of school bus transportation.

The other subdivisions along the Hungary Road corridor are in a similar position as Hungary Road is also a major 4-lane roadway with a median divider. Many of our communities are blocked by the median where a left-hand turn out of the subdivision is not even possible. Buses must either travel significantly longer distances or make U-turns on Hungary Road and cross two dangerous intersections to deliver students to Dumbarton ES & Hermitage HS.

Additionally, the “Data Sources for Traffic Volume and Accidents” link posted on the redistricting webpage uses accident data provided by VDOT to illustrate how dangerous these two intersections are. Each dot on the maps below represents an accident that has occurred at these intersections between July 2018 and July 2019. Options B & D would force our students to travel through these intersections at least twice a day in order to get to and from school.



Magnified View of Intersections at Staples Mill/Hungary and Staples Mill/Hungary Spring Roads:





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**Redistricting Guideline #5:** “Efforts will be made to establish walking schools and reasonable walking zones where feasible.”

Options A & C SUPPORT this guideline for our neighborhood. Under Options A & C, our students would attend Glen Allen HS as they do today. As it is only about one mile away, many of our students can reasonably walk to GAHS and NOT have to cross ANY major roadway or intersection.

Options B & D do NOT support this guideline for our neighborhood. Under Options B & D, if our students would like to walk to school (Dumbarton ES or Hermitage HS), they would have to cross two major, dangerous intersections (Staples Mill & Hungary and Staples Mill & Hungary Spring Roads) in order to get to school. This poses a huge safety concern and risk to our students if either Option B or D is selected in its current state, and realistically, our students would not have a viable option to walk to either of these schools.

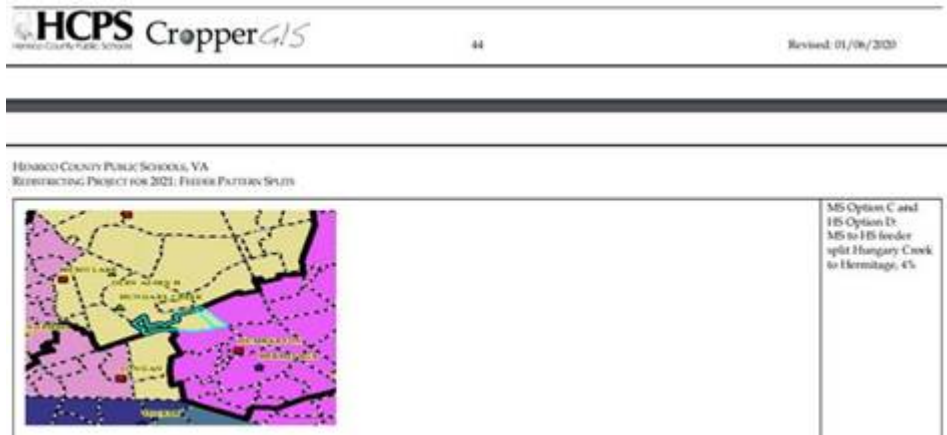
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**Redistricting Guideline #6:** “Provisions should be made to ensure the continuity of a child’s K-12 progress.”

Options A & C SUPPORT this guideline for our neighborhood. Our students would remain with their current middle and high school feeder patterns (Hungary Creek MS to Glen Allen HS), ensuring K-12 continuity. Echo Lake ES feeds into Hungary Creek MS which ultimately feeds into Glen Allen HS.

Options B & D do NOT support this guideline for our neighborhood. Under Option B, our students would be split going to middle school (only 13% of Dumbarton ES would go to Hungary Creek MS in Option B – and of that 13%, our neighborhood only makes up 9%) and then again going to high school (only 13% of Hungary Creek MS would go to Hermitage HS in Option B – and of that 13%, our neighborhood only makes up 3%). Similarly, under Option D, we make up the entire 4% split from Hungary Creek MS to Hermitage HS, meaning ONLY our neighborhood would move from Hungary Creek MS to Hermitage HS in Option D.

This Option D split is shown on Page 45 of the Cropper report Revised 1/6/20 where our neighborhood is specifically called out for an undesirable feeder pattern split. This map illustrates that our students are the only ones to make up this 4% split by being moved away from Glen Allen HS where they currently attend and rezoned to Hermitage HS as both Options B & D propose.



These inequitable feeder pattern splits would separate our children from most of their friends and the relationships they have built at both transition points (elementary to middle, and middle to high schools). According to information presented at the public information session as well as stated from several committee members, if a split must occur, ideally it should be closer to 50/50% as opposed to something like 90/10%. Options B & D clearly do NOT meet this objective in our case and specifically exclude our few students.

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**Redistricting Guideline #7:** “Implementation of a redistricting plan over a span of several years would be preferable if it has the effect of minimizing the need for additional line changes for a community in the near or immediate future.”

All options meet this guideline.

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**General Comments:**

According to the Fall 2019 membership numbers report, enrollment at Echo Lake ES is trending down and dropped to 77% this year, whereas enrollment at Dumbarton ES is trending up and increased to 95% this year. Options A & C move us from Longan ES which is trending up and is at 98% utilization this year to Echo Lake ES. This both provides capacity relief to Longan and increases utilization at Echo Lake – a win for both schools. This move also meets ALL objectives and guidelines set forth by the school board for this redistricting process. Option B places us at Dumbarton ES, essentially replacing the students who would be moved to the expanded Holladay ES, and keeps Dumbarton at 92% utilization. This move not only provides minimal capacity relief to Dumbarton ES, which is currently experiencing tremendous growth, but also opposes a majority of the redistricting guidelines.

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**Proposals for Resolutions:**

Below are some proposals to consider that allow SLIGHT modifications to Options B & D. IF these slight modifications are made, then our neighborhood would support these and any future options.

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**Our Option 1 Proposal** is to SLIGHTLY modify Options B & D as follows:

- Move Census Tracts 40609 (58 students) and 40509 (0) back to Rivers Edge ES where they are currently zoned. This places the boundary for Rivers Edge ES & Springfield Park ES at Cox Road which is a major roadway (supporting Redistricting Guideline #1 above). Since this is where these students currently attend, no students would be impacted as a result of this change.
- Move Census Tracts 40601 (32), 10614 (0), 10616 (3), and 16335 (32) back to Springfield Park ES as they are currently zoned. This keeps all neighborhoods on Springfield Road (north of Nuckols) together as they are zoned today. Additionally, this keeps the Lindsey Lakes subdivision together with their neighborhood instead of splitting them in the middle of their residential community as Option B proposes (violating Redistricting Guideline #2 above). Since Springfield Park ES is where these students currently attend, no students would be impacted as a result of this change either.
- Move Census Tracts 10314 (7) and 16309 (53) to Echo Lake ES. This keeps Staples Mill & Hungary Roads, both major roadways, as the boundary line for Echo Lake ES (supporting all of the Redistricting Guidelines).
- Move Census Tracts 10314 (5) and 16309 (37) back to Glen Allen HS where they are currently zoned. This keeps Staples Mill & Hungary Roads (both major roadways) as the boundary line for Glen Allen HS, ensuring consistency with Echo Lake ES and Hungary Creek MS boundaries (supporting all of the Redistricting Guidelines). Since Glen Allen HS utilization is 83% in Option B and 90% in Option D, they can handle this extremely small group of students without negative impact.

Our Option 1 Proposal is a happy medium combining the Pros of Options A, B & C. The ONLY students impacted by this change are the ones in Census Tract 40602 (all 3 options already move these students from Rivers Edge ES to Springfield

Park ES so they are likely impacted regardless of which option is chosen) and the students in Census Tracts 10314 & 16309 (who are also slated to be moved from Longan ES in all 3 options, are happy to be zoned to Echo Lake ES, and want to remain at Glen Allen HS).

The two key differences between Options B & D and our Option 1 Proposal is this proposal allows our students to be placed in Echo Lake ES while allowing Lindsey Lakes and a few other neighboring communities to remain at Springfield Park ES with the rest of their neighborhood, and it also allows our students to remain at Glen Allen HS. These changes follow and meet ALL the Redistricting Guidelines (using major roadways as boundaries, keeping contiguous geographic zones together, ensuring safe and efficient use of school bus transportation, maintaining continuous K-12 progress, etc.), without impacting any students other than our own.

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**Our Option 2 Proposal** is to SLIGHTLY modify Options B & D as follows:

- Move Census Tracts 16335 (32) back to Springfield Park ES as they are currently zoned. This keeps the Lindsey Lakes subdivision together with their neighborhood instead of splitting them in the middle of their residential community as Option B proposes (violating Redistricting Guideline #2 above). Since Springfield Park ES is where these students currently attend, no students would be impacted as a result of this change.
- Move Census Tracts 10314 (7) and 16309 (53) to Echo Lake ES. This makes Staples Mill & Hungary Roads (both major roadways) the boundary line for Echo Lake ES (supporting all of the Redistricting Guidelines).
- Move Census Tracts 10314 (5) and 16309 (37) back to Glen Allen HS where they are currently zoned. This keeps Staples Mill & Hungary Roads (both major roadways) as the boundary line for Glen Allen HS, ensuring consistency with Echo Lake ES and Hungary Creek MS boundaries (supporting all of the Redistricting Guidelines). Since Glen Allen HS utilization is 83% in Option B and 90% in Option D, they can handle this extremely small group of students without negative impact.

Our Option 2 Proposal is a reduced version of Our Option 1 Proposal and is still a happy medium combining the Pros of Options A, B, & C. The ONLY students impacted by this change are the students in Census Tracts 10314 & 16309 (who are slated to be moved from Longan ES in all 3 options, are happy to be zoned to Echo Lake ES, and want to remain at Glen Allen HS).

The two key differences between Options B & D and our Option 2 Proposal is this proposal allows our students to be placed in Echo Lake ES while allowing Lindsey Lakes to remain at Springfield Park ES with the rest of their neighborhood, and it also allows our students to remain at Glen Allen HS. These changes follow and meet ALL the Redistricting Guidelines (using major roadways as boundaries, keeping contiguous geographic zones together, ensuring safe and efficient use of school bus transportation, maintaining continuous K-12 progress, etc.), without impacting any students other than our own.

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**Our Option 3 Proposal** is to SLIGHTLY modify Options B & D as follows:

- Use the Elementary School Boundary Option 6 map as the Option B map since it was selected by the elementary committee in November as one of their top two options. Elementary School Option 6, which placed Census Tracts 10314 (7) and 16309 (53) at Echo Lake ES, was supposed to be combined with Secondary Option 3 to formulate Option B, but modifications were made to the elementary map which moved these Census Tracts from Echo Lake ES to Dumbarton ES in the newly formed Option B.

- Move Census Tracts 10314 (5) and 16309 (37) back to Glen Allen HS where they are currently zoned. This keeps Staples Mill & Hungary Roads (both major roadways) as the boundary line for Glen Allen HS, ensuring consistency with Echo Lake ES and Hungary Creek MS boundaries (supporting all of the Redistricting Guidelines). Since Glen Allen HS utilization is 83% in Option B and 90% in Option D, they can handle this extremely small group of students without negative impact.

The only differences between Options B & D and our Option 3 Proposal is this proposal allows our students to be placed in Echo Lake ES and allows our students to remain at Glen Allen HS. These changes follow and meet ALL the Redistricting Guidelines (using major roadways as boundaries, keeping contiguous geographic zones together, ensuring safe and efficient use of school bus transportation, maintaining continuous K-12 progress, etc.), without impacting any students other than our own.

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**All 3 of our proposals would address our neighborhood’s concerns, accomplish the redistricting objectives, AND meet the Redistricting Guidelines in the following ways:**

- Using major roadways as boundaries (Staples Mill & Hungary Roads)
- Supporting safe, efficient transportation (avoiding dangerous intersections, unassisted left-hand turns out of our subdivisions onto Hungary Road, U-turns, and long commutes past other schools to work around medians)
- Keeping our subdivisions with the rest of the Crossridge community (balancing a neighborhood school concept)
- Keeping our children’s K-12 progress intact as it is today and consistent with the feeder patterns of our surrounding communities (Echo Lake ES to Hungary Creek MS to Glen Allen HS)

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**In Summary....**

We are in full support of Options A & C as they relate to our neighborhood. From our perspective, they meet ALL the Redistricting Guidelines as described above and have the least overall impact to students.

We would be in full support of Options B & D and any future options IF slight modifications were made to the Option B Elementary school map (moving us from Dumbarton ES to Echo Lake ES) and the Options B & D High school maps (moving us from Hermitage HS to Glen Allen HS where we are currently zoned).

We’re asking the redistricting committees to consider SLIGHTLY revising Options B & D based on the rationale and proposals detailed above. By making the major roadways of Staples Mill & Hungary Roads the boundary line at all 3 school levels, ALL redistricting objectives and guidelines given by the school board would be met for this area of the county.

Thank you again for your time and consideration in this matter.

-Keith Lippa

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# **Three Chopt District Comments**

## Justin M. Briggs (jmbriggs)

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**From:** Superintendent  
**Sent:** Friday, January 24, 2020 4:00 PM  
**To:** Greg Doran  
**Cc:** Christopher A. Sorensen (casorensen); Justin M. Briggs (jmbriggs)  
**Subject:** RE: Henrico County Redistricting

Good afternoon, Mr. Doran,

I have forwarded your email to Chris Sorensen and Justin Briggs for their review.

Kind regards,

**Cheri Guempel**

Policy & Constituency Services  
Henrico County Public Schools  
Office (804) 652-3714  
Fax (804) 652-3856  
[www.henricoschools.us](http://www.henricoschools.us)  
[HCPS Policies & Regulations](#)



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**From:** Greg Doran <gidoran@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 24, 2020 2:27 PM  
**To:** Superintendent <Superintendent@henrico.k12.va.us>  
**Subject:** Henrico County Redistricting

**Use Caution: This message originated outside of Henrico County Public Schools. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links or responding to requests for information.**

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Dear Dr. Cashwell,

On 1/8, I sent an email to you concerning observations from the secondary committee redistricting meeting that expressed concern about the actions of a member of that committee. This email was intended as a private communication and request to look into the matter. Instead, the email was published with the committee member's name, which I feel was inappropriate and unnecessary. I contacted your office several times to request removal of the email; however,

that request was denied. My intent was never to inflame or cause any damage to any individual. Although I was distressed by what I had heard, I was overly emotional and harsh in my communication.

Since I now know all communication that mentions the redistricting process will be published, I wanted to take the opportunity to publicly apologize to Jaime Petrsek. Based on some feedback I received about the secondary committee meeting, I emailed the Superintendent requesting the removal of Jaime from the secondary committee. I was bothered by what I had heard and unfortunately composed the email in an emotional state that led me to exercise poor judgement. I sincerely regret using Jaime's name in the email and calling for her removal from the secondary committee. I was overly harsh with my email because I let my emotions get the best of me. I feel this has been a trying process for many and while emotions run high on all sides, the committee members are doing their best. I am also very remorseful that this email was published on the redistricting website - this was certainly not my intent. My expectation was that this was a private email expressing concerns and I disagree with Henrico County's decision to publish this email without my consent. While I disagree with the handling of this matter I also fully acknowledge that it is ultimately my fault that this email was made public. I sincerely apologize to Jaime for the impact this has had on her and her family.

Sincerely,

Greg Doran



## Justin M. Briggs (jmbriggs)

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**From:** Steve Glissman <steveglissman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 23, 2020 2:01 PM  
**To:** Superintendent; Michelle F. Ogburn (mfogburn1)  
**Cc:** Justin M. Briggs (jmbriggs); Christopher A. Sorensen (casorensen); Matthew Cropper; Alyson K. Beverly (akbeverly); Andy Jenks; Bill Auchmoody; Todd Springer  
**Subject:** Fwd: Henrico Redistricting Comments and Concerns 1/8/2020

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Note: This email was originally sent to Ms. Ogburn on January 8. As I do not see it noted in the [Emails received as of January 13, 2020](#), I am resubmitting with additional recipients. The contents have also been submitted via the General Feedback Form. Thank you for your consideration on this matter. SG

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Ms. Ogburn:

My name is Steve Glissman, and I am a homeowner in the Covered Bridge community. Our neighborhood is west of Gaskins Road, north of Ridgefield Parkway, and east of Pump Road. We are approximately a mile from Godwin High School and are currently zoned for Short Pump Elementary, Pocahontas Middle, and Godwin.

I am writing with my comments and concerns regarding the Henrico Redistricting process.

Regarding High School proposals, I enthusiastically support HS Options C and D. Option D is my preference, as it appears to affect the least number of students and families.

Conversely, I strongly oppose HS Options A and B, both of which move our neighborhood from Godwin, which again is a mile a way from our home, to Tucker, which is five miles away. As you are aware, there has been a great outcry against the original proposals, and I am very glad to see these new proposals added. I believe that your support for the community by meeting with various concerned citizens and also attending the recent meetings has been important in the creation of the new options.

Accordingly, our neighborhood needs your help with the Middle School options.

Every current MS Option - A, B and C - move my family from Pocahontas to Quioccasin. **There are no Middle School options that keep our neighborhood at its current school of Pocahontas.** It is imperative that new options be added which allow the opportunity for my neighborhood to stay at Pocahontas.

In addition, the current MS options fail to meet the standards of the [HCPS Policy and Regulations for Redistricting](#), including

**Student continuity**

A stated value of the [HCPS Policy and Regulations for Redistricting](#) is that "Provisions should be made to assure the continuity of a child's progress in K12." Under current zoning, a child from my neighborhood would go to Short Pump ES, where 100% of attendees would then move on to Pocahontas, which then feeds 100% of students to Godwin.

All of the proposed Middle School options unnecessarily disrupt this normal flow. Under Option C, my child would spend one year at Pocahontas, and then two years at Quioccasin, which would then send 50% of her classmates to two other high schools.

Based on statistics provided by the committee, this change is completely unnecessary. Option C would move my neighborhood from **Pocahontas, which would fall to 79% utilization**. There is no logical reason or observable benefit to making this change.

### **Logical Boundaries**

A stated value of the [HCPS Policy and Regulations for Redistricting](#) is that "Major roads and natural boundaries will be used whenever feasible as zone lines." Under the current zoning, the MS boundaries are made using Pump Road, Ridgefield Parkway and Gaskins Road.

In the new MS options, these boundaries are abandoned and replaced with an assortment of arbitrary boundaries, including MS Option B, which replaces Pump Road with an imaginary creek (Stony Run) off of Ridgefield Parkway.

Especially with the advent of the new HS Options C and D, keeping our neighborhood at Godwin High School, there is no logical reason or observable benefit to making this change.

As stated in [HCPS Policy and Regulations for Redistricting](#), student continuity and logical boundaries, or in short, common sense, should be driving factors in deciding what changes should go into redistricting.

Before concluding, as a parent of a child in the Henrico County Public School System and a tax payer of Henrico County, I would like to state that the redistricting process has been extremely frustrating . In various public forums, Matthew Cropper of Cropper GIS has treated the concerns of parents with open contempt. He seems to forget that it is our tax dollars are paying for his "services." In addition, I have been very surprised by the comments of the Committee Members during their sessions, as they have expressed multiple times that they are being pushed into options, and also that they have not received the all of the information that they need. At the Secondary Committee meeting on December 9, a teacher on the Secondary Committee summarized this frustration by stating that they started this whole process with two maps, confusing goals and outdated information. Our committee members have an extremely difficult job, and we are doing a disservice to them by placing them in an untenable situation.

In summary, as a member of the Covered Bridge community, I enthusiastically support HS Options C and D, and I strongly oppose all of the MS Options and request the creation of a common sense MS option that keeps our neighborhood at Pocahontas. Any help that you can provide in these matters would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you very much for taking the time to listen to my concerns. I greatly appreciate it. Thank you again, and I hope that you have a great day. SG

Steve Glissman  
804-564-8042  
[linkedin.com/in/steveglissman](https://www.linkedin.com/in/steveglissman)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Michelle F. Ogburn (mfogburn1)** <[mfogburn1@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:mfogburn1@henrico.k12.va.us)>

Date: Thu, Jan 9, 2020 at 6:15 PM

Subject: Re: Henrico Redistricting Comments and Concerns 1/8/2020

To: Steve Glissman <[steveglissman@gmail.com](mailto:steveglissman@gmail.com)>

Cc: Christopher A. Sorensen (casorensen) <[casorensen@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:casorensen@henrico.k12.va.us)>, Justin M. Briggs (jmbriggs) <[jmbriggs@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:jmbriggs@henrico.k12.va.us)>, Matthew Cropper <[mcropper@croppergis.com](mailto:mcropper@croppergis.com)>

Mr. Glissman,

Thank your for reaching out to let me know your concerns with the current redistricting plan. I appreciate you letting me know the reasons for concern.

If you haven't done it as of yet, it is essential that the points noted in your e-mail be shared with the committee through our website: <https://henricoschools.us/redistricting/>

### [Redistricting – Henrico County Public Schools](#)

Redistricting Home Interactive Map Survey about Options A and B Calendar and Documents Past Community Updates: Fall 2019 HCPS Policy and Regulations for Redistricting General Feedback Form Stay Connected Reestructuración Distrital Why is Henrico County Public Schools redistricting? Because of curre...

[henricoschools.us](https://henricoschools.us)

All comments received are provided to and summarized for the committee to review. Just so you know, all information and progress of the committee is frequently updated on our website.

The School Board will not make any final decisions regarding redistricting until the spring of 2020.

I have copied Chris Sorensen, assistant superintendent for Finance, and Justin Briggs, education specialist for Planning and Mr. Cropper. All are monitoring the work of the committee. I am especially glad that you shared your take on the actions of of committee members and staff. That is certainly not the way we expect things to be handled and appreciate the opportunity to learn the impressions of others. It is our goal to be sure that the committee has the resources that they need. I am asking the staff to be sure that this is currently the case.

Thanks again,

Micky Ogburn

Mrs. Micky Ogburn  
Henrico County School Board  
Three Chopt District

EMAIL: [mfogburn1@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:mfogburn1@henrico.k12.va.us)

CELL PHONE: 804-385-9819

School Board Clerk:  
Ms. Debbie Ward- (804)652-3808, FAX-(804) 652-3856

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**From:** Steve Glissman <[steveglissman@gmail.com](mailto:steveglissman@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2020 4:50 PM  
**To:** Michelle F. Ogburn (mfogburn1) <[mfogburn1@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:mfogburn1@henrico.k12.va.us)>  
**Subject:** Henrico Redistricting Comments and Concerns 1/8/2020

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Ms. Ogburn:

My name is Steve Glissman, and I am a homeowner in the Covered Bridge community. Our neighborhood is west of Gaskins Road, north of Ridgefield Parkway, and east of Pump Road. We are approximately a mile from Godwin High School and are currently zoned for Short Pump Elementary, Pocahontas Middle, and Godwin.

I am writing with my comments and concerns regarding the Henrico Redistricting process.

Regarding High School proposals, I enthusiastically support HS Options C and D. Option D is my preference, as it appears to affect the least number of students and families.

Conversely, I strongly oppose HS Options A and B, both of which move our neighborhood from Godwin, which again is a mile a way from our home, to Tucker, which is five miles away. As you are aware, there has been a great outcry against the original proposals, and I am very glad to see these new proposals added. I believe that your support for the community by meeting with various concerned citizens and also attending the recent meetings has been important in the creation of the new options.

Accordingly, our neighborhood needs your help with the Middle School options.

Every current MS Option - A, B and C - move my family from Pocahontas to Quioccasin. **There are no Middle School options that keep our neighborhood at its current school of Pocahontas.** It is imperative that new options be added which allow the opportunity for my neighborhood to stay at Pocahontas.

In addition, the current MS options fail to meet the standards of the [HCPS Policy and Regulations for Redistricting](#), including

**Student continuity**

A stated value of the [HCPS Policy and Regulations for Redistricting](#) is that "Provisions should be made to assure the continuity of a child's progress in K12." Under current zoning, a child from my neighborhood would go to Short Pump ES, where 100% of attendees would then move on to Pocahontas, which then feeds 100% of students to Godwin.

All of the proposed Middle School options unnecessarily disrupt this normal flow. Under Option C, my child would spend one year at Pocahontas, and then two years at Quioccasin, which would then send 50% of her classmates to two other high schools.

Based on statistics provided by the committee, this change is completely unnecessary. Option C would move my neighborhood from **Pocahontas, which would fall to 79% utilization**. There is no logical reason or observable benefit to making this change.

### **Logical Boundaries**

A stated value of the [HCPS Policy and Regulations for Redistricting](#) is that "Major roads and natural boundaries will be used whenever feasible as zone lines." Under the current zoning, the MS boundaries are made using Pump Road, Ridgefield Parkway and Gaskins Road.

In the new MS options, these boundaries are abandoned and replaced with an assortment of arbitrary boundaries, including MS Option B, which replaces Pump Road with an imaginary creek (Stony Run) off of Ridgefield Parkway.

Especially with the advent of the new HS Options C and D, keeping our neighborhood at Godwin High School, there is no logical reason or observable benefit to making this change.

As stated in [HCPS Policy and Regulations for Redistricting](#), student continuity and logical boundaries, or in short, common sense, should be driving factors in deciding what changes should go into redistricting.

Before concluding, as a parent of a child in the Henrico County Public School System and a tax payer of Henrico County, I would like to state that the redistricting process has been extremely frustrating . In various public forums, Matthew Cropper of Cropper GIS has treated the concerns of parents with open contempt. He seems to forget that it is our tax dollars are paying for his "services." In addition, I have been very surprised by the comments of the Committee Members during their sessions, as they have expressed multiple times that they are being pushed into options, and also that they have not received the all of the information that they need. At the Secondary Committee meeting on December 9, a teacher on the Secondary Committee summarized this frustration by stating that they started this whole process with two maps, confusing goals and outdated information. Our committee members have an extremely difficult job, and we are doing a disservice to them by placing them in an untenable situation.

In summary, as a member of the Covered Bridge community, I enthusiastically support HS Options C and D, and I strongly oppose all of the MS Options and request the creation of a common sense MS option that keeps our neighborhood at Pocahontas. Any help that you can provide in these matters would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you very much for taking the time to listen to my concerns. I greatly appreciate it. Thank you again, and I hope that you have a great day. SG

Steve Glissman  
804-564-8042  
[linkedin.com/in/steveglissman](https://www.linkedin.com/in/steveglissman)

## Justin M. Briggs (jmbriggs)

---

**From:** Matthew Cropper <mcropper@croppergis.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2020 3:47 PM  
**To:** Michelle F. Ogburn (mfogburn1)  
**Cc:** Bill Auchmoody; Marcie F. Shea (mfshea); Christopher A. Sorensen (casorensen); Justin M. Briggs (jmbriggs); Kendra Taylor  
**Subject:** Re: Update: FOIA request

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Hi Ms. Ogburn and all,

Thank you for your email. We are reviewing the attendance at the committee meetings and following-up with committee members that have several absences. However, at this time we are confident that a sufficient number of committee members are present at each meeting to continue without adding new committee members. Existing committee members have been taking part in deliberations throughout the process that include not only the work at the meetings, but also careful review of materials prior to meetings. While many committee members have not been present at all meetings, most have been present for a large share of them so that the committee is making progress as we would expect. In sum, members of the committee have been engaged in a long process since August that is working towards redistricting for the benefit of all students in the county.

The purpose of having committee members from each zone is to ensure geographic diversity on the committee and that, in sum, the committee will be knowledgeable about the county as a whole. Individual committee members are not instructed to “represent” their school, they are instructed to enact changes consistent with the HCPS redistricting goals that align with the best interests of all students in the county. Therefore, having individual members absent at certain meetings does not mean particular communities are not represented, as this is not what committee members are tasked with. At all times, committee members are tasked with representing the best interests of the entire county as expressed in the redistricting goals and criteria. As a whole, we are confident that the committee meetings have included enough members to give the entire committee a broad understanding of the entire county, making it possible to make informed redistricting decisions.

Sincerely,

Matthew Cropper

President

Cropper GIS Consulting, LLC

P.O. Box 1308

Delaware, Ohio 43015

[614.451.1242](tel:614.451.1242) phone

[614.573.7174](tel:614.573.7174) fax

[614.208.9110](tel:614.208.9110) mobile

[mcropper@croppergis.com](mailto:mcropper@croppergis.com)

[www.croppergis.com](http://www.croppergis.com)

Check out our online mapping service at [www.croppermap.com](http://www.croppermap.com)!

On Tue, Jan 21, 2020 at 1:50 PM Michelle F. Ogburn (mfogburn1) <[mfogburn1@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:mfogburn1@henrico.k12.va.us)> wrote:  
Bill,

Thank you for the offer. There is a process for replacing members as there are back-ups for each school. I have copied Chris Sorensen and Justin Briggs so we can be sure that they know you are willing.

Micky

Mrs. Micky Ogburn  
Henrico County School Board  
Three Chopt District

EMAIL: [mfogburn1@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:mfogburn1@henrico.k12.va.us)

CELL PHONE: 804-385-9819

School Board Clerk:

Ms. Debbie Ward- (804)652-3808, FAX-(804) 652-3856

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**From:** Bill Auchmoody <[billauchmoody@gmail.com](mailto:billauchmoody@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 21, 2020 12:23 PM

**To:** Michelle F. Ogburn (mfogburn1) <[mfogburn1@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:mfogburn1@henrico.k12.va.us)>; Marcie F. Shea (mfshea) <[mfshea@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:mfshea@henrico.k12.va.us)>

**Subject:** Re: Update: FOIA request

**Use Caution: This message originated outside of Henrico County Public Schools. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links or responding to requests for information.**

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Hi Micky and Marcie:

When I reviewed the attendance sheets from the committee meetings, I noticed that Fred Clarke has not attended any of the secondary meetings beyond the initial meeting.

If Mr. Clark, or any other member, has withdrawn from the committee, I would be willing to join the committee in his/her place.

If a substitute were to be allowed, I am confident there few from the community who have the same depth of knowledge in the proceedings as I do. I have attended every meeting since the November 7 maps presentation.

I think it should also be noted that the elementary committee has 45 assigned members. The attendance for that committee has steadily declined. Attendance now stands at just 51%. I have to wonder what is happening that so many members are not engaged is such an important issue.

As always, thank you,

Bill Auchmoody  
804-908-4771



## Justin M. Briggs (jmbriggs)

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**From:** Michelle F. Ogburn (mfogburn1)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2020 3:38 PM  
**To:** Christopher A. Sorensen (casorensen); Justin M. Briggs (jmbriggs); Matthew Cropper  
**Cc:** Amy E. Cashwell (aecashwell)  
**Subject:** Fw: Church Run Neighborhood

Forwarding you an email that I received from a committee member. I have responded and declined the invitation to meet. Wanted to keep you all in the loop.

Micky

Mrs. Micky Ogburn  
Henrico County School Board  
Three Chopt District

EMAIL: mfogburn1@henrico.k12.va.us  
CELL PHONE: 804-385-9819  
School Board Clerk:  
Ms. Debbie Ward- (804)652-3808, FAX-(804) 652-3856

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**From:** Lew Ross <lewis.ross79@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 21, 2020 3:12 PM  
**To:** Michelle F. Ogburn (mfogburn1) <mfogburn1@henrico.k12.va.us>  
**Subject:** Church Run Neighborhood

**Use Caution: This message originated outside of Henrico County Public Schools. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links or responding to requests for information.**

Good afternoon, Micky:

I feel that it is time that the Church Run group have another meeting with you to discuss redistricting – I guess the Morgan Run group as well, since we will all be grouped in together. I feel that this process is going nowhere, and I feel this committee is doing a disservice to the County. Just a few things that I notice:

1. While they tout the benefits of the committee having members from all over the county, it is only a hindrance to any sort of logic. I tried to explain to one of the groups at the joint committee meeting that they were moving the wrong area – that the area they were moving was already in Quioccoasin, so moving them to Pocahontas creates an unnecessary move. Not to mention, they are 3 miles away from Pocahontas, and there are neighborhoods that are less than a mile away that are being sent over 3 miles away to Quioccasin. They just nodded and went about their way, not doing anything to fix it. These were folks from the East End. I don't pretend to know a thing about the East End and the neighborhoods / traffic routes, so why would I ever try to comment on that?? The reverse should be true.
2. "We have to fill up the capacity!!!" I'm sorry, but more capacity does not equal better performance. Pocahontas MS performs at a superior level at 95% capacity. Who on Earth thinks it is a good idea to remove 15% of the student population drop it to 79%? And move Quioccasin to 95%, without regard to the new

Regency development? Adding more students to a school that is underperforming without adding more resources is a recipe for disaster. I heard TWO committee members make great statements.

3. Nice quote that the Richmond Times Dispatch used in their article by one of the committee members about the process. "Some community members appear prejudiced against schools with relatively large populations of students from low-income or non-English speaking families." The committee member that said that does not even send her kids to Henrico Schools. She does not feel that Henrico schools in her area are good enough for her kids to go there. She is free to think what she wants, but don't say Henrico schools aren't good enough to send your kids to, but then come into a committee meeting about the schools and say the community is prejudiced. Her statement completely makes her biased towards the "low-income or non-English speaking families".

4. "Oh really?? Well then that line shouldn't be drawn there." That has been the response from more than one Secondary committee member on the Church Run / Windsor Place line not being a natural boundary. Yet every time maps come out, the line is there. Again, people who don't know the area trying to put things together.

5. Multiple people have said in these meetings "Well, it isn't part of the guidelines that we should move the least number of people" and "Past redistrictings don't matter". I'm sorry, but that is a bunch of crap. Residents aren't pawns in a game, and that is exactly what we ALL feel like.

We are about to get no less than 4 new maps. Each map is going to be different and going to have different groups upset. No one knows what to think now. My comment during the meetings is paralysis by analysis.

Can you let me know when you would be able to meet with our neighborhood.

Thanks!!

Lew

# **Tuckahoe District Comments**

## Justin M. Briggs (jmbriggs)

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**From:** Melinda Winterhalter <melinsean@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 21, 2020 7:12 PM  
**To:** Christopher A. Sorensen (casorensen); Justin M. Briggs (jmbriggs); Matthew Cropper; Superintendent; schoolboard  
**Subject:** Re: Concerns over biased committee members

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Good Evening Chris,

Thank you for your follow up email. I appreciate your time in getting back to me.

I do fail to see how a committee member that advocates in opposition to maps that move his neighborhood could be unbiased (the committee member wearing Godwin shirt, made specifically to SUPPORT OPPOSITION of maps, and holding banner at public presentation). I fail to see how this individual can be serious about developing options that best meet ALL students of Henrico County. It is obvious that this individual is focused on best options for HIS own community.

Melinda

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Christopher A. Sorensen (casorensen) <casorensen@henrico.k12.va.us>  
**To:** melinsean@verizon.net <melinsean@verizon.net>; Justin M. Briggs (jmbriggs) <jmbriggs@henrico.k12.va.us>; Matthew Cropper <mcropper@croppergis.com>; Superintendent <Superintendent@henrico.k12.va.us>; schoolboard <schoolboard@henrico.k12.va.us>  
**Sent:** Mon, Jan 20, 2020 6:16 pm  
**Subject:** RE: Concerns over biased committee members

Ms. Winterhalter,

Sorry my first email did not address your questions.

Each meeting does have opportunities for the members to discuss options. However, when time for discussion may be limited there are other processes in place to remove as much personal bias/opinion/perspectives as possible. Those processes include: 1) review the redistricting goals and criteria at each meeting; 2) data and metrics to evaluate the maps; 3) transparency to the public; 4) provide the committee with public feedback; and 5) discuss implicit bias with the committee.

*The staff and Cropper are not able to police comments and activities of all committee members at all times. Each committee has a chair that does work with members at their discretion to ensure the process is as objective as possible.*

*These are large committees and therefore it is difficult for any one person to have undue influence on the process. Because the committees are large, there will be different views and perspectives, but in the end, committee members are effectively working on a solution for the benefit of all students. Also, the final recommendations to the School Board will come from the entire committee and not from individual members.*

*Regarding your question about the committee's guidelines, the following was included in the orientation at the first meeting. This guideline has also been repeated at other meetings.*

The School Board approved a grass-roots, community-based committee lead this redistricting study. Total committee membership numbers 66 volunteers. Citizens from throughout Henrico County will sit on the committee.

The committee members have been chosen based on where they live, as well as based on the quality of their application. Although committee members live in various areas of the county, they will be instructed not to only focus on the area in which they live. Members will be oriented to focus on developing options that best meet the needs of ALL students in Henrico County.

*I hope this helps.*

Chris

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**From:** Melinda Winterhalter <melinsean@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2020 8:27 AM  
**To:** Christopher A. Sorensen (casorensen) <casorensen@henrico.k12.va.us>; Justin M. Briggs (jmbriggs) <jmbriggs@henrico.k12.va.us>; Matthew Cropper <mcropper@croppergis.com>; Superintendent <Superintendent@henrico.k12.va.us>; schoolboard <schoolboard@henrico.k12.va.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Concerns over biased committee members

Use Caution: This message originated outside of Henrico County Public Schools. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links or responding to requests for information.

Good Morning Chris,

Thank you for your follow up to my email, although I do not feel as though my concern of explicit biases has been addressed. In regards to the December meeting when Map D was created, I did not observe any consensus from the committee. I witnessed an opinion, of one individual, of moving one area. The committees had limited time to split and talk that evening so not sure how implications of moving that area would have had dedicated time to be discussed. I do wish these sessions were videotaped so that these in these instances, discrepancies could be reviewed. Your email did not address the elementary committee member advocating for his neighborhood, in t-shirt and holding banner, at the Godwin Public Session nor the policing of the committee members to ensure they remain neutral. Did the committee members receive guidelines or requirements they need to adhere to when they applied for this process and/or once they were selected? If so, can you send those to me or direct me where to find them on your website.

Thank you for your time helping me understand how HCPS staff and Cropper adhere to governance over the committee/committee members.

Melinda

-----Original Message-----

From: Christopher A. Sorensen (casorensen) <casorensen@henrico.k12.va.us>  
To: Justin M. Briggs (jmbriggs) <jmbriggs@henrico.k12.va.us>; Matthew Cropper <mcropper@croppergis.com>; Superintendent <Superintendent@henrico.k12.va.us>; schoolboard <schoolboard@henrico.k12.va.us>; melinsean@verizon.net <melinsean@verizon.net>  
Sent: Wed, Jan 15, 2020 5:32 am  
Subject: RE: Concerns over biased committee members

Good morning Ms. Winterhalter,

I am sorry for the delayed response to your email.

Thank you for your comments and your continued participation in the process. I agree with your assessment that the committee and staff are working diligently to develop the best solution possible. Part of that process includes sharing different perspectives and approaches to developing solutions. Each committee meeting, however, includes time for the entire committee to discuss all individual comments and reach consensus on which perspectives and approaches best meet the guidelines and goals of the process.

I hope this addresses your concerns. Have a nice day.

Chris

Chris Sorensen  
Chief Financial Officer  
Henrico County Public Schools

---

**From:** Melinda Winterhalter <[melinsean@verizon.net](mailto:melinsean@verizon.net)>

**Sent:** Friday, January 10, 2020 3:14 PM

**To:** Justin M. Briggs (jmbriggs) <[jmbriggs@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:jmbriggs@henrico.k12.va.us)>; Christopher A. Sorensen (casorensen) <[casorensen@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:casorensen@henrico.k12.va.us)>

**Cc:** Matthew Cropper <[mcropper@croppergis.com](mailto:mcropper@croppergis.com)>; Superintendent <[Superintendent@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:Superintendent@henrico.k12.va.us)>; schoolboard <[schoolboard@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:schoolboard@henrico.k12.va.us)>

**Subject:** Concerns over biased committee members

Use Caution: This message originated outside of Henrico County Public Schools. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links or responding to requests for information.

Mr. Briggs and Mr. Sorensen,

I had the opportunity to observe both the secondary and joint committee meeting this week as part of the redistricting process. It is apparent that most of the committee members and staff are truly working hard trying to come up with a solution and I applaud their efforts.

One observation that did concern me were two separate instances of both elementary and secondary members advocating for a particular solution that appear biased towards their own preferences rather than an impartial solution based on the county wide goals of this exercise.

First, it appears as if Map D was created by a committee member, not Cropper, at the December secondary meeting. When the committee met again on Wednesday and broke into smaller groups to make adjustments to maps, the first group stated that they focused on feeder pattern. It seems that is the sole area they focused on. When asked by the other group if socioeconomic disadvantage numbers were considered, at a blatant "NO!" was remarked. Aren't the committees supposed to take into account all of the guidelines/criteria? How can a map be relevant if created based solely on one criteria? The other group did say they focused on socioeconomic disadvantages, feeder patterns and capacity numbers. This is how I would expect the thought process to be as they are working on the maps.

Secondly, when at the joint committee meeting last night, I recognized an individual, who is one the elementary committee. I remember seeing him at the Godwin public meeting. When at the Godwin presentation, he stood out to me when advocating in full force with his neighborhood/area in opposition to certain maps! He was wearing T-shirt specifically made for that meeting and holding a banner representing his neighborhood! I was shocked seeing him on the committee last night!!! Committee members are not supposed to show favor towards one particular community, as that is being biased! Frankly, pondering over this last night and today, I do not understand how it is that he still on the committee?

How does staff and Cropper police and correct these instances where clear neighborhood bias by a committee member is injected into discussions that should be neutral and geared to the guidelines?

Thank you for your time in reading my concerns.  
Melinda Winterhalter