

-Committee Meeting 2-

Middle School Rezoning Study

October 24, 2018

CropperGIS

Meeting Objectives

1. To review updates since last meeting and discuss any questions from the committee.
2. Review DRAFT baseline options and committee small group exercise to review and markup options.

1. Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) have an imbalance in middle school utilization:
 - a) James Wood Middle School is overcrowded.
 - b) Frederick County Middle School has available capacity.
 - c) Admiral Byrd Middle School is also overcrowded, but it is expected to get relief when R. E. Aylor Middle School is rebuilt, and subsequent rezoning occurs.
 - d) The expectation is that this rezoning will only impact middle schools, with no impact on elementary or high school boundary lines.

2. These factors necessitate a comprehensive look at attendance boundaries.

Rules to Follow

The Frederick County Public Schools has a set of criteria to follow when evaluating middle school rezoning options. These are rules to follow when considering any potential attendance zone adjustment.

The rezoning committee will be oriented on these criteria and will follow them as best as possible as they consider rezoning options.

- **Balance building utilization.**
 - Schools should be at similar percentages of capacity when the next middle school is planned to be opened. Allow for increasing attendance in high growth areas. Keep future capital projects in mind.
 - Building utilization does not include the use of portable or semi-permanent spaces in the total building capacity.
 - Avoid additional rezonings before the next middle school opens.
 - Economic, cultural, and ethnic diversity should be considered to ensure schools are inclusionary and not adversely affected by realignment decisions.
 - Special needs populations should be evenly distributed across all schools in a manner consistent with sound educational practices.

- **Minimize impact on students.**
 - Minimize the number of students impacted by a boundary adjustment.
 - Students should be assigned to the school closest to their homes when possible.
 - Establish a clean feeder pattern system; reduce the number of schools at the next level any single school feeds. When splits are necessary, the attendance zone should be divided in a balanced manner, so that students continue to the next level with their peers. Eliminate existing splits and/or improve split balance.
 - Minimize the number of times any single child must be moved by rezonings.
- **Minimize impact on communities.**
 - Keep all students from each neighborhood/community together at the same school.
 - Minimize the division of clearly identifiable community components (i.e. villages, settled areas, etc.)

- **Maximize student transportation efficiency.**

- Account for school bus routes when determining a boundary adjustment.
- Minimize travel times and costs. Students should be assigned to the school closest to their homes when possible.



- Use major roads and natural boundaries when feasible to define attendance zones. Minimize the number of students crossing major intersections and other barriers to maximize their safety and security. Contain bus routes within natural boundaries to avoid traffic delays and late arrivals.
- Make all effort to establish contiguous attendance zones. Avoid creating satellite zones, which are not connected to the primary attendance zone. Attempt to eliminate existing satellite zones.

Review of Timeline

Process & Timeline for Rezoning Study					
	Sept. '18	Oct. '18	Nov. '18	Dec. '18	Jan. '19
<i>Redistricting Criteria/ Guideline Development</i>					
Rezoning Study					
<i>Data Collection</i>					
<i>Data Analysis/ Assimilation</i>					
<i>Internal Logistics Planning with district</i>					
<i>Background Report Development</i>					
<i>Baseline Options Development</i>					
<i>Public Information Session #1: Present Project Process, Criteria, Timeline, and Realignment Objectives to Community. Information meeting to public, without public comments.</i>		10/10			
<u>Committee Meeting 1</u> <i>- Orientation, Review Background Data, Introduce Baseline Options</i>		10/11			
<u>Committee Meeting 2</u> <i>- Options Development</i>		10/24			
<u>Committee Meeting 3</u> <i>- Options Development, Prepare for Public Information Session #2</i>			11/14		
<i>Public Information Session #2: Present Preliminary Realignment Options to Community for Comment/Feedback</i>			11/28		
<u>Committee Meeting 4</u> <i>- Review public input, modify options</i>				12/12	
<u>Committee Meeting 5</u> <i>- Finalize Recommendations & Prepare for Board Presentation</i>					1/8
<i>Presentation of Final Recommendations to the Board of Education</i>					1/15

We are here

Updates Since Last Meeting

1. The public has provided a few comments so far:
 - a) After attending the meeting tonight (10/10), I hope as the committee redraws lines, it takes into consideration families who not only have a child in middle school, but also have children in elementary school and high school. Next year we personally will have 1 at each level. No parent should not have to be running all over the county for their children. For example, OVES, FCMS and SHS or OVES, FCM, and JWH.
 - b) Please consider school sporting events that affect parents' ability to attend public meetings. On the Oct. 10th meeting date, many parents were not able to attend due to an away girls' basketball game.
 - c) I believe that option 1 is the best option for our students. The kids in option 1 are already in zone for JWHS. In option 2, you would be sending a small group of kids to a school on one end of the county, and then sending them to the other side of the county for high school. This goes against the values that our county schools are trying to gain - small communities with schools feeding into each other.
 - d) My daughter will be going to middle school next year. We live on Lauck Drive which is literally 4 minutes from James Wood Middle School and 2 minutes from James Wood High School. Per the suggested two plan options, she would be traveling to Frederick County Middle School next year. This is a 15 - 20 minutes travel time. I specifically moved to my current residence due to the fact that I am virtually minutes from all the schools for my district. Not to mention I work on Cork Street which is a few minutes away if I am needed. Per the consultant, they wanted to keep children in the school's closest to their residence which is not what I am seeing per these proposals. Please take into consideration, this area (Sunnyside area) relative to continuing to send children to the James Wood Middle School.

Updates Since Last Meeting

1. Information has been provided to show the number of out of zone variances per school.
2. The UDA Layer and Utility Service Area have been added to the online map.
3. Planning blocks have been further refined per committee input.
 - a) Additional blocks created along the Rt. 11 corridor
 - b) Block split along Cedar Creek Grade.
4. Two (2) additional DRAFT options have been developed for your review and input, based on feedback from the public and committee.

Review of DRAFT Options

Remember that everything is considered
DRAFT!

- Nothing is written in stone
- Existing DRAFT options are subject to change
- New options can/will be created

*Focus isn't on picking the best solution YET, but to
openly explore the various options to present to the
public for feedback*

Review of DRAFT Options

DRAFT options are presented to you this evening

- Committee has 8.5x11 maps, as well as plots of maps for review
- Option maps are now available on interactive map (www.croppermap.com/fcpsva)
- Copies of the handouts, including small and large format maps are now posted on the FCPS Rezoning webpage.

Review of DRAFT Options

When analyzing boundary options, it is best to look at the information in two different ways:

- Study the geography i.e. shape of the current and option zone lines
 - Look at where the lines shift away from the current vs. the option
 - Look at road networks and envision how school busses and parents would travel to school
- Study the tables
 - Review the balance of enrollment, and identify any imbalances that may exist
 - Question why there may be imbalances, and examine possible ways to provide better balance

Review of DRAFT Options

Review Objectives and Criteria

- Understand how DRAFT options support the rezoning study objectives and criteria.
- Examine ways to improve alignment with rezoning study objectives and criteria.

Review of DRAFT Options

Interactive review of DRAFT Options 3 and 4

- Review of boundaries via online interactive map.
- Review of statistics in Meeting 2 Options Analysis Handout.

Small Group Exercise

Break into 3 groups

Each group review the options tables and maps.

Planning blocks can be adjusted if you feel they are dividing a neighborhood or can be refined in any way.

Please feel free to note any changes or highlight any part of the map you want to discuss. If you have any notes/comments, please write them directly on the plots.

Once you've had time to evaluate the info, the groups will report to the full committee.

**Next Meeting is Wednesday, November
14th.**

6:30pm @ FCPS School Board Office

Same place, same time!