

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY'S
PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BOUNDARIES FOR
WOODHOLME ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Wednesday, March 23, 2005
Pikesville High School

The public hearing was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Ms. Barbara Walker, Assistant to Dr. Scott Gehring, Executive Director of Schools for the Northwest Area. The following Board members were present: Vice President Thomas G. Grzymalski, Mr. Luis E. Borunda, Ms. Frances A.S. Harris, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, and Ms. Joy Shillman. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent, J. Robert Haines, Deputy Superintendent of Business Services, Nevelt Steele, Jr., Esq., Assistant County Attorney, staff members, as well as media were present.

Ms. Walker reviewed the boundary process to date.

The following citizens addressed the Board:

1. Mr. John Redmond, a Library Media Specialist at New Town Elementary and a member of the Woodholme Boundary Committee, stated the committee was composed of representatives of the community, parents, teachers, and administration of the cluster schools. Mr. Redmond urged the Board to accept the committee's recommendation of scenario "C" and understand this is the first of a number of boundary changes that need to be made in the northwest area.
2. Ms. Erin Waller, a PTA officer at New Town Elementary School and a member of the Woodholme Boundary Committee, stated scenario "C" allows some of the potential Owings Mills/New Town area future growth to be distributed to Woodholme. She urged the Board to vote for scenario "C".
3. Ms. Ann Badin, a member of the Woodholme Boundary Committee and PTA President of New Town Elementary School, stated scenario C is the best solution and asked the Board to accept the boundary committee's recommendation. She stated the sole purpose for the change is to help alleviate overcrowding at New Town Elementary School and not about property value.

Mr. Hayden entered the room at 7:22 p.m.

4. Mr. Louis Kaplan, a member of the Board of Directors of Long Meadow Estates and chairman of its Education Committee, stated he has spoken on behalf of Long Meadow Estates at previous Board meetings. He shared his concern that his community was excluded from the redistricting process. Mr. Kaplan requested that his neighborhood be considered in the redistricting from Wellwood International to Fort Garrison Elementary School.

5. Mr. Alan Zukerberg, President of Pikesville Community Council and Long Meadow Association, asked those individuals in the audience in support of his request to stand (approximately 30-35 people). He voiced his concern that his community was excluded from the boundary process. Mr. Zukerberg stated the boundary committee had no representatives from the Northwest Advisory Council. He believes there was a violation of Policy 1280 by not including this community as a stakeholder in the process. Mr. Zukerberg asked the Board to amend scenario “C” to include Fort Garrison.
6. Ms. Nancy Olin, a member of the Fields of Stevenson Community Board of Directors, shared her concern that the community forum questionnaire only provided two choices and did not allow for other scenarios or amendments. She stated Fort Garrison and Wellwood International are schools whose boundaries and populations are affected by the redistricting process. Ms. Olin noted there were communities approximately 1.4 miles from Fort Garrison Elementary School and about 1.7 miles from Wellwood International.
7. Mr. Michael Gruber, President of the Dumbarton-Stevenson Civic and Improvement Association, which represents the Dumbarton Heights Community, and a member of the Northwest Area Educational Advisory Council, stated the children of his community should travel to the school that would be shorter and safer for children. He stated moving students from his neighborhood to Fort Garrison Elementary School would free up capacity and spare the community a second redistricting situation in the future.
8. Mr. Dan Martin, Legislative Director for Delegate Zurkin, introduced himself and stated he was available to answer questions individuals may have about the boundary changes.
9. Ms. Amie Bell, co-chairman of Cedarmere Elementary School PTA Overcrowding Committee, asked parents from Cedarmere to stand (three stood). She stated though while this boundary change is a step in the right direction, it does nothing to relieve the unacceptable overcrowding at Cedarmere. Ms. Bell asked the Board to remember this school as it considers the boundary lines for Woodholme Elementary School.
10. Ms. Lori Rosenzweig, a parent and resident of the Huntington Community, stated that scenario “C” makes the most logical boundary for Woodholme Elementary and urged the Board to support that scenario.
11. Mr. Eugene Seidel, a resident at the Fields of Stevenson, voiced his concern that the redistricting to excluded the Fields of Stevenson, Dumbarton, and surrounding areas. He urged the Board to reconsider the boundary change and to incorporate the Fields of Stevenson and Dumbarton, at a minimum, in the Fort Garrison district.

12. Speaker waived commenting before the Board.

The Board of Education of Baltimore County will vote on the proposed boundaries on April 12th. Vice President Thomas Grzyski urged the audience to contact the Board office so that additional comments could be forwarded to Board members.

The hearing was concluded at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Board Secretary-Treasurer

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