

APPROVED REPORT

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY'S PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BOUNDARIES FOR VINCENT FARM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Wednesday, February 27, 2008
Stemmers Run Middle High School

The public hearing was called to order at 7:05 p.m. President JoAnn C. Murphy and the following Board members were present: Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Ms. Mary-Margaret O'Hare, Mr. Joseph J. Pallozzi, and Mr. H. Edward Parker, Jr.

The following citizens addressed the Board:

1. Ms. Nancy Gregorie, Parent – Presented a petition signed by 51 out of 61 families in the Honeygo Ridge community requesting an addendum to proposal 2A, which would add their neighborhood as a satellite area within the Chapel Hill Elementary School boundary. She stated that there is a concern with safety: passing over train tracks and crossing at the intersection of Route 40 and Ebenezer Road. Ms. Gregorie suggested that the Board investigate the proposal of adding both sides of Route 7 from White Marsh Run northwards.
2. Mr. David Postan and Mr. Rich McKenner, Williams Fields HOA – Supports the recommended scenario 2A. Williams Fields is a small subdivision that is only .5 miles away from Chapel Hill Elementary School. Both speakers stated that the Board should follow Policy 1280 and keep communities together and students should attend the schools closest to their homes.
3. Ms. Mindy Rodgers, Parent – Asked the Board to amend the proposal and move the boundary line east of Route 40 and south of Honeygo Run (Route 43). If scenario 2A is approved, her children would travel 3.72 miles as opposed to 2.5 miles to Chapel Hill Elementary School. Ms. Rodgers stated that her question with respect to gifted and talented instruction at Vincent Farm Elementary School has not yet been answered.
4. Ms. Penny Mullins, Parent – Asked the Board to move the boundary line to Route 40 instead of Route 7 to include community off of Carrington Drive. Though her daughter does not yet attend school, she expressed concerns over sending her child to Vincent Farm Elementary School then back to schools in the Perry Hall area.
5. Mr. David Marks, Parent – Supports part of scenario 2A that moves neighborhoods from Chapel Hill Elementary to Joppa View Elementary School. He noted that there would be students crossing Honeygo Boulevard. Mr. Marks hopes that the school system would work with the police department to ensure students do not cross Honeygo Boulevard.

6. Mr. Mark Hauf, Parent – As a parent living in the Saddlebrooke community, he fully supports scenario 2A. He stated that through this process none of the proposals took into account the Route 40 corridor. Mr. Hauf also proposed leaving current students at Chapel Hill Elementary School and phasing-in new students that live on the opposite side of Route 7.
7. Mr. Kent Smith, Boundary Study Committee Member – Supports scenario 2A as recommended by the boundary study committee. He stated that scenario 2A includes all the goals set by the committee. Mr. Smith noted that Chapel Hill Elementary School's addition was supposed to last ten years; however, if not for the new Vincent Farm Elementary School, Chapel Hill Elementary would be over capacity by approximately 230 students within that ten year period.
8. Ms. Patty Warns, Parent – Asked the Board to consider either scenario 1 or 2. Her daughters currently attend Chapel Hill Elementary School. She stated that while the Tremper Farm community children would attend Joppa View Elementary School, which is across the street from the community, there are safety and traffic concerns with respect to Honeygo Boulevard. The student population in this community is so small that redistricting these students to Joppa View Elementary would possibly mean that no other Chapel Hill alumni would attend this school.
9. Mr. Scott Willens, Parent – Asked the Board for empathy for those families that live east of Route 7. He stated that his family, as well as those of active reservists, moved to the Saddlebrooke community specifically for Chapel Hill Elementary School.
10. Mr. John Beerman, Parent – Asked the Board to make Route 43 north part of the Chapel Hill Elementary School district. He does not want to see his daughter attend a new school then have to go back to Perry Hall Middle and High Schools. Mr. Beerman also stated that there has been no mention of before- and after-school daycare services at Vincent Farm Elementary School. Chapel Hill Elementary offers this service, which working parents heavily rely on. He also suggested phasing-in this community over a five-year period.
11. Mr. Bryan Hocks, Parent – Stated he lives between Route 7 and Interstate 95, would support scenario 2A, and will wait to see what happens once the boundary is in place.

Ms. Murphy announced that the Board of Education of Baltimore County would vote on the proposed boundaries on March 11, 2008. President Murphy urged the audience to contact the Board office so that additional comments could be forwarded to Board members.

The hearing was concluded at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Board Secretary-Treasurer

/bls