

## APPROVED REPORT – 03/10/09

### REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY’S PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGE FOR CHESAPEAKE TERRACE/EDGEMERE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Wednesday, February 25, 2009  
Sparrows Point High School

The public hearing was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Vice President, H. Edward Parker, and Board member Mr. Rodger C. Janssen were present.

The following citizens addressed the Board:

1. Ms. Michele McWilliams, Parent – Opposes the recommendation of Scenario 1. Ms. McWilliams believes that the January 7, 2009 input meeting was not handled properly and that people did not get an opportunity to voice their opinions. Ms. McWilliams expressed concern over class sizes at Chesapeake Terrace Elementary and whether additional teachers would be provided. She stated that Scenario 2 would have been the better recommendation. As a resident of Millers Island, Ms. McWilliams stated that she pays high property taxes for the area and believes she should be able to send her child to Edgemere Elementary School.
2. Ms. Dawn Raut, Parent – Opposes Scenario 1. Ms. Raut stated that this scenario divides a neighborhood. She stated that children at Beacon Point go to school together and all of that would change with this proposed recommendation. Her son, currently in the third grade, has been attending Edgemere Elementary School for five years and would like to remain there.
3. Ms. Cheryl Gowers, Parent – Opposes Scenario 1. She stated that her son is currently in the third grade and is concerned about attending another school. Ms. Gower concurs with the first speaker and wants her child to remain in Edgemere Elementary School.
4. Ms. Corinne Stratton, Parent – Opposes Scenario 1. Ms. Stratton concurred with all previous speakers. She commented that the recommended changes would split up a community. Ms. Stratton stated that she purchased the house in Millers Island because Edgemere Elementary was the school her children would attend.
5. Mr. Rich Kowalewski, Parent – Opposes Scenario 1 and supports Scenario 2. He stated that when he moved to Millers Island his children were in private school. However, he placed his children in public school because of Baltimore County Public Schools’ (BCPS) programs and services. Mr. Kowalewski stated that Chesapeake Terrace Elementary School was an older school facility and that the teaching environment is not the same as Edgemere Elementary.

6. Ms. Joyce Jwill, Grandparent – Has four grandsons who attend Edgemere Elementary School. She stated that one grandchild, who has special needs, was at Chesapeake Terrace last year. However, it was decided that he would be better served at Edgemere Elementary. Ms. Jwill noted that the community has grown significantly. The boundary change would require students attending Chesapeake Terrace Elementary to board buses at the end of North Point Road near a business, which would be extremely dangerous for elementary students.
7. Mr. Greg Lusk, Parent – Opposes Scenario 1. Mr. Lusk stated he purchased his house so that his children could attend Edgemere Elementary School. He stated that Chesapeake Terrace Elementary does not offer special services for his one child. Bus service would be at the top of North Point Road, which is very dangerous for elementary students.
8. Mr. David Pavch, Parent – Strongly opposes Scenario 1. He stated that, if the boundary change is approved, he would have one child going to Chesapeake Terrace Elementary and one child attending Edgemere Elementary. Mr. Pavch asked the Board not to separate a family.
9. Mr. Frank Watts, Parent – Opposes Scenario 1. As a Millers Island resident, he has two children not yet enrolled in Baltimore County Public Schools. However, he moved to this area because Edgemere Elementary School was the zoned school for his address. Mr. Watts believes that this boundary change is an inconvenience to the families living in Millers Island.
10. Mr. Joseph Smith, Parent – Opposes the boundary change. As a Millers Island resident, Mr. Smith stated that it appears that no one is concerned with children, and the recommendation seem to be about the money and numbers.

Mr. Parker announced that the Board of Education of Baltimore County would vote on the proposed boundaries on March 10, 2009. Vice President Parker urged the audience to contact the Board office, if they had further input, and advised that additional comments could be forwarded to Board members.

The hearing was concluded at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Joe A. Hairston  
Board Secretary-Treasurer