Date: 11/22/2019, 1116 hrs
V. Isaacs

To all board members:
Thank you for taking the time for parents to express their opinions concerning Hampton Elementary. As a Hampton parent, I am completely against moving students from other schools to Hampton. Parents in this district have worked very hard to buy homes in this area so their children could attend this amazing school. There are other schools closer to those areas that could be used instead of Hampton. Cromwell Elementary is a perfect choice as it is not to capacity and it’s right near the bus depot. Why would you send buses not only further away to pick up students, but to a school (Hampton) that is even further away. It has also come to my attention that Pinewood, Riderwood, Stoneleigh (where no development is planned in the future) and Lutherville Lab are also available. The board doesn’t seem to care that our classes are filled with enough children. Adding children to these classrooms with max our their capacity and make learning more difficult. We just attended Education Week for our 3rd and 5th graders. The classrooms are small and are filled to the maximum capacity. There is no room in any classroom to add children.
If it means putting up trailers, then you can do that at their existing schools and not ours. As a family who moved from the Pleasant Plains area because of the lack of discipline in the students and the decline in education, we find it very unfair to move people from there when we had to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to purchase a home in Hampton to give our children the education they deserve. We are asking that you reconsider this move for the well being of Hampton. If you must move children to other districts, please move them to schools that are closer to them.
Sincerely, V. Isaacs

Date: 11/22/2019, 1416 hrs
R. Ball

Mr. Dickerson & BCPS Team / Pleasant Plains Boundary Capacity Relief Study,
Thanks again for all you are doing. During this week’s Capacity Relief Meeting (Wed Nov 20 @ Loch Raven Academy), there was a statement made that surprised me. The live video feed of the meeting just dropped on the TeamBCPS site. Wanting to ensure that I heard it correctly, I went back to listen, and quickly realized the video has been edited at approx. minute 23:30 to remove the specific comment. Is that standard for BCPS to edit these video recordings? Have there been any other strategic edits of the records involving this specific capacity relief study? Is it normal for it to take 2 days for these recording to drop? And is it possible to have the unedited version released? Thank you.

Date: 11/25/2019, 1014 hrs
J. Henn

Mr. Ball,
Thank you for contacting me. I am forwarding your e-mail to the Office of the Superintendent to have staff investigate your concern. Someone will contact you directly to assist in resolving any concerns or issues.

Date: 11/25/2019, 1014 hrs
M. Dickerson

Good Morning, Mr. Ball,
I am not sure what might have happened, but I will check with the appropriate staff to determine if there was a problem with the stream and/or archive video.

Date: 11/25/2019, 1128 hrs
M. Dickerson

Mr. Ball,
Our BCPS TV Team took a look at the recorded file and there are no irregularities. It appears there may have been a break (buffering) in the YouTube livestream. There was no editing done by BCPS-TV nor do they ever edit meeting content. We are replacing the YouTube link with the recorded version of the meeting. As for the time it takes to upload, the meeting is up immediately on the youtube channel. We then send that link to the Office of Strategic Planning and they upload it along with all other meeting related documents to the website. It is usually uploaded within 48 hours after the meeting. It is also important to note, if a comment was made off or away from a microphone, it would not be captured on our recording. It would simply be background sound. I hope this addresses your concerns. Have a good day and a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Date: 11/25/2019, 1245 hrs
K. Causey

Mr. Dickerson,
Thank you for the follow-up.
Mr. Dickerson, thank you for the quick response. I still don’t hear the comment from the meeting that I know I heard, although today’s updated release still appears to have additional “break (buffering)” moments where meeting comments from Matt Cropper have been left out (and which were not made off or away from microphones – but were part of the main presentation.) Assuming today’s latest recorded version is the best that the public will get – we’ll obviously move forward from here. However, it is disappointing to me that the full versions of these meetings are not available to the public, including comments that I personally believe parents would care about.

Thanks,

Date: 11/25/2019, 1420 hrs
R. Ball

Mr. Ball, Here is the link that was updated https://youtu.be/q0Xe0DuQKSo

Our team started streaming these meetings a few years ago as an effort to help those who are unable to attend. Our efforts are to do everything we can to be more communicative and open to the public which is why we try to provide a backup option to the livestreaming. There is no effort to edit or prevent the public from seeing the full meeting. Hopefully, this link will work for you.

Thanks,

Date: 11/25/2019, 1737 hrs
M. Dickerson

Good Morning David,

Thanks for your response, family is doing great, thanks for asking!

just some additional information I would like to provide to you. Not only is this not a viable option now or ever, there are many developments that are in progress that are not being accounted for, and below this information is highlighted along with some pretty staggering numbers that are not being taken into account in the current study, and whatever you are being told about the Towson apartments being in a planning phase is ridiculous. We can all see that is beyond a planning phase and will be open next year. Additionally for every one of these development the projects students coming out of these developments is absurdly low based on the number of students that have come out of other developments in the nearby area, and should be reconsidered considering they will all be in the Hampton district once complete. Please review this information if you haven’t already and take this into account prior to approving any redistricting. Thanks

The Preserve at Fallowfields: 12 single-family houses (they project 2 students)
Limkiln Farm: 25 single-family houses (they project 4 students)
Avalon Towson: 371 units (they project 12 students)
Loch Raven Commons: 192 units - although their website states 208 units) (they project 7 students)
That is a total of 600 dwelling units and they project 25 students.
Not in their list is The Red Maple, which will be 56 units. 22 one-bedroom and 34 2- and 3-bedroom units (so, let’s just say 34 units for sake of student projection).
Additionally I’ve heard rumors of what is expected to be some additional residents in the BB&B/DSW in Towson Plaza and another 300+ apartments on Greenridge next to Heaver Plaza that is not being considered and in the Hampton boundary area.

Where are all these students from Pleasant Plains, Halstead and all the new students out of the new developments supposed to go at Hampton? You just finished a renovation there and now you want to go back to adding trailers? Why was Hampton not expanded during the renovation? Why do we only build to fix the current problem and not to accommodate for the future? Ultimately there needs to be a new Elementary school, in the central Towson area, have you considered any locations? What about the land in the back of Hampton Gardens where an old church is (previously Davenport Pre-School)?

Why are all the schools within a 4 mile radius of Pleasant Plains not being considered? Just because other schools are overcrowded right now doesn’t mean they will remain over crowded. What are the 1, 3, and 5 year capacity projections at those other schools? There is a lot less development happening south of Joppa Rd than there is North in the Hampton boundary area. I think this is unfair to just over fill Hampton with all these students who will be pulled away from their friends, and travel 20-30 minutes on a bus in at times potentially bad weather (sounds unsafe to me considering there are no seatbelts) to get to and from school. This would be a much bigger community disruption for them moving them north than keeping them in a general area.

Additionally, why are certain school being given exception to all this redistricting? Cromwell Valley never seems to be involved in these studies which doesn’t makes sense. Just because they are a Magnet school they should not be removed from these studies, there has to be a way to use them as help as well. Same goes for Lutherville Lab, when we are talking about redistricting, there should be no school off the table that has space.

The development in Towson is great for the economy and the area but terrible for our infrastructure and our schools. Why are these builders/developers not being held responsible to help relieve this issues, roads, lights, schools, etc. to account for their profit and the stresses they bring to the areas as well.

If you have a structural engineer building a bridge and they miscalculated their numbers by over 80% the bridge would not be safe. It simply couldn’t work. The shortsightedness and only thinking of the bottom line here makes this situation equally unsafe. Our community simply cannot afford to miscalculate numbers to such a magnitude.

We obviously don’t know how to come up with a more realistic projection. But let’s just say, 50% units have one kid each. That’s 326 kids. And I’m pretty sure that most families have more than one kid. And I’m also pretty sure that more than 50% of the units will have families with children. Especially the single family homes. I cannot fathom the idea that someone would buy a 4+ bedroom house in a sought-after neighborhood and school district as an empty nester.

Source: Boundary Study Inbox (boundarystudy@bcps.org) unless otherwise noted
Prepared by the Baltimore County Public Schools
Office of Strategic Planning, November, 2019