Please vote “no” for the boundary changes. As an employee for BCPS and a parent, I have a chance to see day-in and day-out what is happening in our school system. As much as I love BCPS, I recognize that we are facing many challenges and that we are in a time of great transition. Our school system has many issues to address, and no decisions should be made without considering all short- and long-term effects. I feel that the long-term effects of changing the boundaries at this time have negative consequences that far outweigh any positive outcomes. I know that several other emails have been sent from Hampton parents which have included all the details (i.e. Hampton is slated to have its enrollment skyrocket due to construction in its area; there are other schools which should be considered, not just the three involved; moving students from PPES faces away its chance to get future construction money; more students would need more busses and we know how transportation is). I could go on and on.

We have a newly elected board. We have a new superintendent. I know that we have a lot of old business to take care of, but we also have a chance to move forward and make our school system better than it has been in years. Please do the correct thing and vote ‘NO’ to these boundary changes. There has to be a better solution.

Thank you for your consideration,

T. Daniels
Date: 12/11/2019, 1448 hrs

Please forward or post the policy analysis mandated by BCPS Rule 8130 governing internal board operations for the revision of Rule 1280 in July of 2019. Thank you.

J. Dyer
Date: 12/11/2019, 1534 hrs

Dear Ms. Causey and members of the Pleasant Plains Boundary Study Committee,

Because there was not sufficient space provided in the study to leave comments, I am writing this email and trust that you will get it in the hands of decision makers. I have also copied the Baltimore County Executive and County Councilman Wade Kach on this email because I think it's important they understand how their constituents feel about this matter. As a Hampton Elementary parent for the next half-dozen years, I am very invested in finding an appropriate solution to the problem of overcrowding at Pleasant Plains Elementary that does not overwhelm Hampton or any other schools. Unfortunately, I do not believe any of the options presented in this boundary study fit the bill.

First, despite beginning in mid-September 2019, the boundary study uses enrollment numbers from the 2018-2019 school year. Currently, Hampton enrollment is around 605 students, which is a significant jump over the 2018-19 enrollment. Given this, any of the proposed options put Hampton itself over the state-rated capacity for the 2020-21 school year. Let's not alleviate an overcrowding problem at one school by creating one at another.

Second, it doesn't make sense to dramatically enlarge the area zoned for Hampton as proposed in any of the study's 3 options for several reasons.

1. Doing so does not take into account new housing currently under construction in Towson, which includes hundreds of units and is already zoned for Hampton. Upon completion of this new housing, enrollment will already be increased, further pushing Hampton Elementary towards - or over - capacity.

2. Several schools are closer to the current Pleasant Plains zone: Oakleigh, Stoneleigh, Rodgers Forge, Harford Hills, Villa Cresta, Pine Grove and Cromwell Valley Elementary school are all at least as close (or closer!) and should also be considered to provide relief to Pleasant Plains. Hampton Elementary and Halstead alone should not be expected to alleviate the overcrowding.

3. Families formerly zoned for Pleasant Plains or Halstead may have difficulty accessing Hampton. Even on regular school days when busing is provided, students would face a longer bus ride and journey past several closer schools on the way to Hampton. Events at other times (ex: evening PTA/school events like back to school night, teacher conferences, and school weather or emergency closures) could prove hard or impossible to get to for families without reliable transportation. Hampton is further than their formerly zoned schools, and not on a direct bus route. This will cause frustration for those families newly in the zone, and lessen the feeling of a tight-knit school community at Hampton, which is one of the highlights of an elementary school experience.

Obviously other nearby Elementary schools should be part of a solution to offer relief to the current overcrowding problem at Pleasant Plains. Hampton Elementary can certainly be one of those schools and take on a sensible piece of Pleasant Plains' zone. But all three of the options proposed in the current boundary study place too high a burden on Hampton.

I encourage the Baltimore County Public School Board to vote down these proposed boundary changes and instead look for another solution that takes into account all the available schools, geographic considerations, school succession plans, new housing being constructed, and population trends in this area. Perhaps that looks like a major elementary school boundary revision in the entire northwest section of Baltimore County?

Even if it takes a few years, we can do better than a quick-fix like the options proposed in this boundary study that will result in another band-aid a few years down the road. BCPS would be best served by adopting a proactive stance on problem solving for this and other school capacity matters.

Thank you for your consideration,

S. Haddock
Date: 12/11/2019, 1719 hrs

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