

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

S. Dallas Dance, Ph.D., Superintendent

6901 Charles Street Towson, MD • 21204-3711

June 9, 2017

Dear Lansdowne Elementary School Families:

With the support of the Board of Education, Baltimore County Government and the State Delegation, Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) is in the midst of a 1.3 billion dollar capital plan, *Schools for Our Future*. This initiative will add seats to address our increasing enrollment and will improve our existing facilities, including accelerating the process of air-conditioning all schools.

It is with great excitement that BCPS will open a new Lansdowne elementary school (ES) in August 2018. The boundary process for the new Lansdowne elementary school will start in September of 2017 and a recommendation will be presented to the Board of Education for a decision in December 2017.

Schools participating in the Lansdowne Elementary Community Boundary Study include: Baltimore Highlands ES, Lansdowne ES, and Riverview ES.

The boundary study committee will be identified this August and will convene in September 2017. Between September and November, the group will meet four times, including hosting a public information meeting in October to share the group's work, talk with community members, and gather information. In November and December 2017 the Board of Education will consider and take action on the committee's recommendation, including holding a public hearing.

The new Lansdowne Elementary School will open in August 2018.

- **How can I get involved in the boundary study process?**
 - Let your principal know that you are interested in serving on the boundary study committee (contact your principal to express your interest no later than July 21, 2017).
 - Participation is limited; schools may not be able to accommodate all requests.
 - Committee members are asked to commit to serving the interests of *all* students and schools involved.
 - A significant time commitment is required of all committee members.
 - Starting in September, watch boundary study committee meetings online (live and recorded).
 - Attend and observe boundary study committee meetings (meetings are open to the public; but participating in committee activities is limited to committee members).

- Attend the public information session in October to review the committee's draft recommendations and talk with staff and committee members about boundary change considerations.
 - Participate in the online survey in October to provide input on the committee's draft recommendations.
 - Attend Board of Education meetings and participate in general public comment.
 - E-mail the Board of Education and the boundary study committee to offer input.
 - Attend the Board of Education's public hearing specific to the boundary change decision (in February).
- **Who serves on the boundary study committee and what is their role?**
 - The boundary study committee is appointed by the superintendent with input and recommendations from the community superintendent, executive director, and school principals. The committee has equal representation from all involved schools and is limited in size to one teacher and two representatives (parents and/or others from the school community) from each school. Principals serve as nonvoting members and provide information to support the process.
 - Committee members are asked to focus on the interests of all children that will be affected by the boundary process and to resist representing their personal interests.
 - Members commit to attending four meetings. They spend time in and outside of meetings carefully considering information and providing relevant insight about the community.
 - Members attend the community public information session to help explain the committee's work and engage in conversations about boundary change considerations.
 - **Parents or teachers interested in participating on the committee should:**
 - Have interest in reviewing highly-detailed information.
 - Be certain of their ability to commit to all meetings
 - Demonstrate their care for our students across the region – and not simply advocate for their own community or family.

This information, along with Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), is posted on the BCPS Web site under the "What's Happening" section. [Link to the Lansdowne Elementary Boundary Study Webpage](http://www.bcps.org/construction/lansdowneES/). (<http://www.bcps.org/construction/lansdowneES/>). This site will be updated throughout the boundary change process with new information, so please refer to it often.

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To learn more about the boundary study committee, please contact your principal no later than July 21, 2017. Please remember, BCPS provides many ways to stay informed and to advocate for specific concerns as part of the overall process.

Thank you so much for sharing the school year with us.

Sincerely,

Karen Blannard
Community Superintendent
Zone 4

af/kc

Copies to:

Ms. Michele Prumo, Chief of Staff

Ms. Verletta White, Chief Academic Officer

Mr. Brian Williams, Principal, Baltimore Highlands Elementary School

Mr. Stephen Price, Principal, Lansdowne Elementary School

Ms. Mary Maddox, Principal, Riverview Elementary School