

BCPS High School Capacity Study Email Log: 06/19/18 through 07/27/18

July 20, 2018, 1424 hours

E. Mah

To Whom It May Concern,

I attended the high school capacity meeting at Catonsville and was disappointed that BCPS was concentrating solely on numbers to try to address the issues of overcrowding. Teachers and parents know that there is always more than what we see at face value and that it is the underlying problems that are the true issues.

Part of the reason Catonsville High School (and Catonsville Middle and select elementary schools) are overcrowded is because the population has increased in the area. But the more significant reason is that Catonsville High is considered the best school in the area and Woodlawn is considered not only academically inferior, but worse, a dangerous environment for students. Lansdowne too does not have the reputation that CHS maintains. True or not, these are the perception and families move, get special transfers or exceptions, find specific programs, waive ESOL services, skirt around residency rules, or whatever it takes to go to CHS instead of WHS or LHS.

Redistricting even half of Catonsville to go to Woodlawn or Lansdowne will not solve the issues. It will simply skyrocket the housing prices on the "right" side of town, force parents to be even more creative in getting special exceptions, or push involved and active families of means out of the public school system and into the private school system. Woodlawn and Lansdowne High Schools need attention - in the form of resources, training, support and whatever else necessary to make them schools considered on equal footing with CHS.

BCPS has an obligation to address the problems at Woodlawn and Lansdowne Highs, beyond looking at capacity. Every student in BCPS deserves to feel safe and be well educated in their school environment.

Sincerely, Erica Mah, Catonsville, MD

July 21, 2018, 1441 hours

R. Hesse

Perry Hall High has needed to expand for a long time now, currently using trailers as class rooms

July 22, 2018, 2004 hours

P. Bauler

I am against sending students from their currently zoned schools to neighboring schools. For example, Catonsville students potentially being sent to Lansdowne or Woodlawn. When a community works together to build an excellent school with parent involvement, it would be detrimental to the schools, families and neighborhoods to send students to another school.

1. These alternative schools are not equivalent to Catonsville, academically, socially, quality of facility, parent involvement. Moving Catonsville students will not solve BCPS problem of poorly performing schools like Woodlawn and Lansdowne.

2. BCPS does not enforce the school boarders now. It is common knowledge that students from Baltimore City are crossing in to Baltimore County and attending county schools. BCPS has a poor record of enforcement. Once this is under control, come back and discuss moving county students around to alternative "lower capacity" schools.

3. I understand that students who claim to be bullied or bothered by gangs or violence are allowed to transfer to another county school of their choice even if the new school is over capacity and the principal can not turn these students away. Find a solution to this policy before moving innocent students from their home school.

4. Families make large financial decisions and property values are affected by schools. Family's who have purchased homes in a specific school district, the biggest investment a family can make, should not be uprooted and children sent to another community.

5. Sending students to an alternative school due to capacity issues is detrimental to moral. Students, moved from the community, friends, sports relationships and family support systems, will be moved not by their family's choice but by an arbitrary policy of BCPS. Catonsville HS has a long history with generations of families having attends, some are 3-4 generations at this point. Many graduates come back to teach at the school. Catonsville functions more as a small town than county suburb, mostly because we have one high school which connects everyone. Moving students and thus an entire family, So wrong.

6. My son went to Chadwick Elem. which was grossly over capacity. Children ate lunch in their classrooms because the cafeteria couldn't handle the volume. Majority of the students were people of color and, ESOL. None of these students were moved to an under capacity school but Catonsville students, performing at high levels with and outstanding PTA and Booster Club, these students should be moved to lower performing schools? Are there other motives which are driving this idea/policy?

Paula Bahler, Woodlawn Grad

July 24, 2018, 1126 hours

K. McCray

Thank you for conducting this study. Please include residency checks for ALL students attending high schools and all county schools for that matter as well. As someone that sold their home in the city and bought in the county for the schools I would really appreciate that.

July 24, 2018, 1323 hours

M. Wax

Both of my children went to Sudbrook Magnet Middle School and Catonsville High. They had an amazing experience at Sudbrook-both scholarly and socially and really thrived at Catonsville -thanks to some amazing teachers. I have never understood why Baltimore County did not/does not expand the magnet school programs. The ones you have are very successful and it is a brilliant way to allocate resources. Look at Montgomery County where I believe all the high schools now have magnet programs and students are not bound by geography at all. Why isn't this a bigger part of the conversation?

Marjorie Wax

Have a great day

BCPS High School Capacity Study Email Log: 06/19/18 through 07/27/18

July 26, 2018, 0923 hours

C. Golczynski

Dear Sirs;

I have just finished reading the local Dundalk Eagle with reference to the overcrowding of the local High schools and how it was going to substantially increase in the next ten years.

First and foremost I am a proud graduate of the bcps system (Patapsco Patriot class of 73). If the bcps was an industry wouldn't it just start a second shift? This would eliminate the need for more schools and/or increasing the existing infrastructure to the existing buildings. Yes the bcps would have to make some changes to their staffing needs including hiring some extra staff for the off shifts but that being said we have to educate these kids so they can move on. I read in the Eagle article that these kids need a H.S. diploma so they can go to college. This simply is not true. This country is in desperate need of tradesmen and this does not require a college education BUT does require the H.S. diploma. Just my thoughts on the matter. Mr. Golczynski, Dundalk