

BCPS High School Capacity Study Email Log: 09/26/18 through 10/04/18

September 28, 2018, 1805 hours

J. Norris

I'm trying to review all of the potential scenarios on the webpage. Where can I see the proposed redistricting boundary lines for each proposed scenario? Thank you.

September 30, 2018, 1156 hours

M. Bennell

Without having information about what types of magnet programs will be included in the new seats, where those programs will be, or how transportation will be provided it is not possible to determine if these scenarios provide equitable access to programs.

I continue to believe that the issues with redistricting in the southwest area are tied to the elementary, middle, and high school feeder patterns. I would like the school system to consider out of the box thinking to realign the overall overcrowding at all levels of education. Perhaps creating a new school structure where K-2 grades share a location, 3-5 grades share a location, 6-7 grade share a location, 8-9 grade share a location and 10-11 grade share a location. I realize this is not how the system is currently structured but I believe this is a solution that will allow the system to use schools with under utilized seats. While reducing the community's concern about feeder patterns and redistricting. This is an area where the potential walking zones for elementary schools overlap and more than one school exists within the community.

I believe it is short sighted to address this region's needs by looking at each level of education separately when the overall problem of overcrowding clearly follows a feeder pattern from elementary schools that feed, CMS, which then feeds CHS.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my input.

Sincerely, Melinda Bunnell-Rhyne, SW Region Parent

October 01, 2018, 2043 hours

J. Thompson

Please consider the attached proposals when developing your final study recommendations.

James Thompson, Towson, MD:

The proposal to build two new schools in the central corridor needs to be resolved in a practical manner. Towson High School has character and it needs to be preserved and enhanced. Dulaney High School is newer than several secondary schools that have been successfully renovated recently and that should be done there too. It is ludicrous to even consider demolition and construction of either school because vocal factions demand it. We cannot afford to replace all our schools as they age. Only in America would 50-75 year old structurally sound buildings be considered "obsolete".

Aside from perceived building age problems the other factor driving the new construction fever is expected limited capacity in the central corridor. Expansion of either or both schools to be the size of Perry Hall High School is not desirable from a social or administrative perspective. While both Towson and Dulaney need renovation, major capacity expansion needs to be addressed in other ways. Some things that should be considered include:

- build one new moderate size high school large enough to handle expected growth, perhaps in the Falls Road and Joppa/Seminary area to relieve Towson, Dulaney and Pikesville and remodel the older schools
- re-district to move pupils from Towson and Dulaney to the smaller Loch Raven High School (which could be expanded); another associated option is moving some Dulaney pupils to Hereford then some Towson pupils to a smaller Dulaney
- convert Carver to a neighborhood high school and move the arts program to an under-used facility
- eliminate magnet programs to open up seats for neighborhood students

I urge BCPS to consider all these options or any combination to achieve a practical and affordable solution to the capacity problem.

October 1, 2018, 2248 hours

G. Martin

To whom it may concern,

I am very concerned that Scenario 3 is apparently off the table. It was the least expensive option and had no redistricting. Why does it appear that this option no longer exists?

I'm also very disappointed with the survey that you are providing to us. As a software engineer I deal with collating data and extrapolation of data sets to provide results that can be usefully leveraged by my customers. The info graphics you provided do not allow us, the tax payers and parents of students, to come to conclusions on the questions you asked. Yes, we can add and subtract the high level numbers to determine cost differences, but without having more specifics on where programs will move or where the district shifts will happen we cannot make reasonable conclusions on that type of question.

Additionally, your team swap the map legend colors between generating the original info graphics for the numbered scenarios and the lettered scenarios used in the survey. Just one more item which adds confusion to an already complex and difficult situation to understand.

Sincerely, Geoff Martin, Catonsville

BCPS High School Capacity Study Email Log: 09/26/18 through 10/04/18

October 3, 2018, 1150 hours

K. Feldman

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to add our voices to this conversation. I would just like to say that as a Catonsville parent, I completely understand the desire to resist redistricting. Some people bought houses with a specific expectation, and others, like me, just don't like the idea of my children being separated from the friends that they have grown up with. I also understand that every parent wants what is best for their child.

That said, I am not comfortable with resisting redistricting because certain schools are not good enough for my child. If a school is not good enough for my child, then it is not good enough for the children down the street. We as a community need to be more concerned about making sure that all children have access to quality education, not just our own. And magnets should not be the solution. School districts use magnets as an excuse not to improve neighborhood schools by saying parents can choose to send their child elsewhere. No. Children should not have to go 30-60 minutes away to get a quality education. All children (not just my own) deserve a quality education in their own neighborhoods.

I do not care about equitable access to magnets. I care about equitable access to quality neighborhood schools. We would not care as much about redistricting or property values if all of our children had access to high quality education in high quality local facilities. I am hopeful that future scenarios include more attention to quality facilities, quality teaching, and positive school climate responsive to each community's needs with less attention to magnets. We all need to focus less on what is best for me and my child and my property values and more on what is best for the whole district--which would end up being better for everyone in the long run.

K. Feldman