

## Crestwood Area Redistricting Study Community Meeting Notes

Crestwood MS, 5/11/23

Parent comments are shown in black

Staff responses are shown in red

Definitions:

ES - Elementary School

MS - Middle School

HS – High School

Feeder – describes when all the students graduate from one school and are assigned to attend the same next level school; the elementary schools that *feed* to a middle school that *feed* to a high school.

Split feeder – describes when students who attend a school graduate to two different schools at the next level; an elementary school is split when it *feeds* to 2 different middle schools.

- West Frederick MS/Frederick HS parent has no problem with Governor TJ HS but has concerns about the redistricting. Policy 200 states that there should be alternatives presented during engagement meetings. Why haven't you followed policy and regulations? **The recommendation is a starting point to generate discussion. All comments will be reviewed and considered by staff and shared with the Board of Education. Revisions may be made to the recommendation as a result of comments received from the community.**
- Who is making the recommendation? **This is the Superintendent's recommendation**
- Are you trying to condense students eligible for free and reduced meals (FARMS) or separate it out to create more diversity? **The purpose of the redistricting study is to balance enrollments across the middle schools that are part of the study area.**
- Tuscarora ES parent who lives 200 feet away from school wants to know more about demographic info and non-transported student info. They live near the school and walk now. Not happy to be bussed. Will cost additional funds. Would be better to move Westview because they are already bussed.
- West Frederick MS/Frederick HS parent is concerned about student moving for senior year. Policy allows for grandfathering if space is available. Also is concerned about the impact of COVID and adverse childhood experiences (ACES) and mental health of students.
- Whittier ES PTA president asked if this is a proposal or have decisions been made? Have highlighted all the violations of the redistricting proposal. Why weren't there alternatives developed? Why wasn't an outside company hired? Is it on the May 17 agenda? **As noted before, the recommendation is a starting point to generate discussion. No decisions have been made. All comments will be reviewed and considered by staff and shared with the Board of Education. Revisions may be made to the recommendation as a result of comments received from the community. It is not necessary to hire consultants to prepare the redistricting study. FCPS staff have the knowledge, experience and expertise to prepare the plan.**
- Has transportation been determined (will my student be bussed or walk)? Will walkers have to cross New Design or Crestwood Blvd? **FCPS staff evaluates the pedestrian ways for all students identified as walkers and determines if the pedestrian path is safe. If there is no safe pedestrian path, then bus transportation will be provided.**

- Tuscarora ES parent asked if the number of students in Planning Blocks reflects current number of students? Are portables considered temporary? Are there any improvements planned at Tuscarora ES? What is equated capacity? **The number of students shown within each planning block is the enrollment as of September 2022. Portable classrooms are considered temporary and are not included in the calculation of state rated capacity. State rated capacity is calculated according to the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) guidelines and is defined as “The number of students that the IAC or its designee determines that an individual facility has the physical capacity to enroll based upon a calculation using standardized class sizes published by the IAC.” There are no renovations or additions currently planned for Tuscarora ES.**
- West Frederick MS/Frederick HS parent with 2025 grad asked why the community meetings did not include Governor TJ HS, Frederick HS, Whittier ES, West Frederick MS? Was a mental health provider one of the experts who assisted with development of the plan? **Four community meetings are being held to present the Superintendent’s recommendation that was presented to the Board on May 3 to give families multiple opportunities to hear the proposal. The four sites were chosen because they are geographically located within the redistricting study area and space was available. The redistricting study team does not have a mental health provider on the team. However, once the attendance boundary decisions are made, a team will work to ensure that all students are welcomed and supported in their new school assignments. A mental health provider will be part of that team.**
- How do the comments get conveyed to the Board of Education (BOE)? When/how? What is our best bet for getting feedback to the BOE? **Community members can send comments and questions to [CrestwoodRedistricting@fcps.org](mailto:CrestwoodRedistricting@fcps.org) or to the Board of Education directly at [Board@fcps.org](mailto:Board@fcps.org).**
- Can we have a meeting at Frederick HS/Whittier ES/West Frederick MS? That is where most people affected live? **At this time, there are no additional community meetings scheduled.**
- West Frederick MS student stated that West Frederick MS/Frederick HS share a campus and resources – why would you move students to a different high school? Does not like having to move especially after COVID.
- Concerned about name of the study. Net change of 100 students for Crestwood MS – over 2500 students moving. Name is misleading. Many people are not aware due to name of study. Schools are in shambles due to COVID and this is harmful to students. Public needs to be making the decision.
- The impacted students slide says 507 students will be transferred out of Frederick HS and 462 will be transferred in. That doesn’t make sense. Why is that?
- There seems to be a serious lack of transparency. Found out through PTA president. Didn’t find out through Find Out First (FOF). Have talked to several parents who had no idea. Involves large portion of students. Is there a plan in place before end of school year for FCPS to get the word out to these communities? **FOFs were sent twice to all families signed up to receive notices in the Frederick, Governor Thomas Johnson and Tuscarora feeder areas. FOFs will continue to be used to disseminate information to families as well as the project web page at [www.fcps.org/capital-program/crestwood](http://www.fcps.org/capital-program/crestwood) and the FCPS Facebook page.**
- 5<sup>th</sup> grader concerned about going to 6<sup>th</sup> grade at West Frederick MS and then change to Monocacy MS for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade.

- Watched Board of Education meeting and even BOE thinks the title is wrong too. Emphasized broad community engagement given large reshuffling of students. What was presented at April 3 community meeting? FCPS staff presented the purpose of the redistricting study, study area and study schedule as well as introduced the planning block map for the study and answered questions.
- When was BoardDocs posted for May 3 meeting? Was there a FOF about the BOE meeting on May 3? Upset about community engagement. Agenda items for the Board of Education meeting are always posted on BoardDocs the Thursday prior to the Board meeting.
- Looking for alternatives. Expected to be able to come in and see various ideas. Explain the problem. Explain the development and the problems that have to be considered. Concerned about ramifications for students. Give us alternatives and let us build consensus.
- When looking at schedule there is only one option for the BOE to approve or disapprove the option. The schedule doesn't allow for various options. Hoping BOE changes the schedule and changes the recommendations.
- Whittier community has been moved 20 years ago from Governor Thomas Johnson HS to Frederick HS. Not good to move the community again and again. Concerned about the amount of growth in TJ area and the Whittier community will have to be moved again.
- Student concerned about going to Governor Thomas Johnson HS and Monocacy MS and that they won't know anyone.
- Were you given a scope to create alternatives OR to create only one plan? Did it consider policy 200?
- Have ES students ever been allowed to stay in current school until they finish? Grandfathering provisions are unique to each redistricting and will be discussed by the Board of Education prior to their final decision.
- Heading of social media posts doesn't catch people's attention unless they go to Crestwood MS or will go there.
- Student at West Frederick MS excited about LYNX program and concerned about moving to a different school. Student concerned that students were not properly informed.
- There should be surveys for parents and students. There are a lot of unhappy parents and students.
- Whittier ES parent announced that she has been recording the meeting live on Facebook. There are lots of people who have questions. What consideration is being made for students with social/emotional challenges and how they can cope with a redistricting? Once the attendance boundary decisions are made, FCPS will prepare a plan that will ensure that all students are welcomed and supported in their new school assignments. This plan will include consideration of the student's social/emotional challenges.
- Society is divided. Public schools are coming under fire for various things. Need to unite within our communities. Kids are not numbers. They have emotions and feelings. Impact on kids needs to be heavily considered.