

## Crestwood Area Redistricting Study Community Meeting Notes

Monocacy MS, 5/22/23

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.

- On page 22 (as listed online) Superintendent Recommendation lists actual capacity vs. projected capacity – is that using the current attendance boundaries or future? Currently 108% for Frederick HS and 105% for Governor TJ HS and 96% for Tuscarora HS. Frederick HS projected to go up, Governor TJ HS projected to go down and Tuscarora HS goes up. Seems like a lot of swapping kids and doesn't make much difference in capacities.
- Tuscarora ES parent is wondering if there's a guarantee that the proposed change for Tuscarora ES will be reversed. How can we impact the decision – is it number of emails? Attendees at meetings? Comments? Proposed plan – did that come from you or BOE? Will the new plans be shared with community before presentation to BOE? Community Planning Block 261 and Planning Block 262 would like to remain walkers. Planning Block 249 is 2 miles away and already bussed so could be easily bussed to Carroll Manor ES. **The Board of Education has heard the community's concerns and have directed staff to prepare additional options over the summer and present them to the community in August and September. The dates and locations of those meetings will be posted on the projected web page as soon as they are scheduled. The Board's public hearing and final decision will also be rescheduled.**
- Tuscarora ES parent doesn't want to be bussed. Would like to continue to walk to school. From a community standpoint and logical standpoint, we would like to stay where we are. Please bus Planning Block 249 instead.
- 6<sup>th</sup> grader at West Frederick MS who attended Whittier ES previously stated that West Frederick MS has a uniquely shared campus. Not fair to take the Whittier ES community away from Frederick HS to Governor TJ HS. Frederick HS is a new state of the art school. Students had difficult time during COVID and it will cause additional stress to move so many students. The name Crestwood Area Redistricting does not accurately describe the study area.
- Parent of two Yellow Spring ES students stated that they appreciate the unprecedented growth in Frederick County. Need to consider the greater good and equity. Frederick HS is increasing in population – will there be equity of resources? Will the number of staff at schools increase or decrease? **Staffing and educational resources are provided based on the enrollment at the school. Schools whose enrollments increase due to the redistricting will receive additional resources.**

- Concerned about concentration of poverty at Frederick HS. Free and reduced meals (FARMs) number underestimates the count of students in poverty. Waverley ES community has lots of undocumented immigrants and they don't sign up for assistance so the FARM numbers don't likely account for all of them. High level of poverty impacts everyone who goes to the school, not just those in poverty. Seems unlikely that Frederick HS will actually receive the resources they need to deal with all the poverty. Frederick HS already has high level of poverty and you are making it worse.
- Why is the addition being built at Crestwood MS when population is low there? Wouldn't it be better to build elsewhere like Monocacy where there is more growth? Why was this a priority over something like Brunswick HS? **Crestwood MS was originally designed for a future addition, with oversized core areas such as cafeteria, media center, gym, and administrative offices. The other middle schools in the area are older schools that do not have core facilities large enough to support an addition.**
- Have you been given a directive by Superintendent to create additional plans? Tuscarora ES parent would like to keep 261 and 262 at Tuscarora ES. **Yes, the Superintendent and Board of Education have heard the parents concerns and have directed staff to prepare alternative plan(s) that will be presented to the community in August and September.**
- Parent of 3 students at Yellow Spring ES thinks that this seems like a short-term fix with all the building going on. Are there additional elementary and middle schools planned in this area? Understand you have a tough job. Where is the disconnect – rapid development and not enough schools? Who should we talk to about this problem? **The replacement of Yellow Springs ES is currently in design and will add about 300 seats when it opens in August 2026. A new elementary school to serve the east side of Frederick City and surrounding County is planned to open in August 2027 and will add approximately 725 seats. If parents are concerned about residential growth in Frederick County and municipalities, they should contact the County and municipal planners and planning commissions. The time to express your concern about residential growth is when the County/municipality is considering a rezoning or annexation request. Once the property is zoned or annexed for residential development, they can proceed in accordance with subdivision regulations and building code.**
- Are you telling us that there are 5000 units planned in Governor TJ HS and there are no more ES sites over there? **County staff have been searching for appropriate future school sites but there is little land left within approved development areas.**
- Can you just build the same building over and over to save time and money? **FCPS has utilized a repeat design many times in the past. While it does save some time in design, every site is different and has to be evaluated separately. Every jurisdiction has its own set of development regulations and every school has to be reviewed by the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) prior to beginning construction.**
- Planning Block 64 parent. Why is the community engagement process happening after the proposal? The policy requires that the community be engaged at the project level. Guidelines include community engagement to inform the plan. Job is difficult but you have the skillset to do the job? Why are you cutting corners? Why the rush? Housing is temporary. Impact to children is permanent. Policy was developed in 1979 and amended in 2007. Plan needs to be more robust with more foresight. Include options such as private property rentals and include other solutions to solve the problems – there is lots of open commercial property to keep students

where they are. Staff was given a scope of work that included evaluating attendance boundaries and preparing revisions to those boundaries that balanced enrollments at the middle school and adjusted elementary and high school boundaries where necessary to address feeder patterns. There is no funding currently available to lease commercial space or provide temporary school facilities.

- Frederick HS student asks how can students be assured that new plans are less harmful than current plan?
- Who gave the direction for the scope of work? The Board of Education approved the scope of work, study area and schedule in October 2022.
- Whittier ES student 4<sup>th</sup> grade said that it has been a hard year and it was hard going through pandemic. The redistricting is stressful. Wants to go to West Frederick MS and Frederick HS. Does not want to move.
- Parent from Monocacy MS and Yellow Springs ES thanks FCPS for the plan to alleviate overcrowding at Monocacy MS. Monocacy MS hallways are overcrowded and enrollment is almost 1,000. Some classrooms have to be walked through to get to another. Cafeteria can't hold everyone at once. No other middle schools are overcrowded. It is impacting students' ability to learn and feel safe. Also concerned about potential overcrowding at Governor TJ HS due to 5000 units planned.
- Whittier ES PTA president is concerned about poverty level increasing at Frederick HS and West Frederick MS. Concerned about lack of communication. They created packets and stickers for 769 students to inform them because FCPS didn't inform them. The name Crestwood was ignored because most people aren't associated there. What about families who don't have smartphones and computers and don't get Find Out Firsts (FOFs)?
- Why did you tell people they have to go advocate at City/County about development? We have not advised anyone to advocate at City or County about residential development. The question was asked who they should speak to about residential development.
- Can't understand why you would want to disrupt the school experience of the Whittier ES community. Don't want to break up the clean feeder pattern.
- Student stated that when people built their houses, they intend for their kids to go to a particular school. Not fair for the kids to have to move.
- Someone who went through prior redistricting that impacted Whittier knows people who were impacted and it was hard for them. Makes it hard for Whittier ES to develop their identity. We had to redevelop a Cadet identity after having been Patriots and it took a long time. Parents used to get involved in facility planning meetings. Parents need to be involved to influence the Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP) and advocate.
- Frederick HS parent of senior in 24-25 asked if seniors will be impacted? Concerned about impact to college applications and AP exams. The decision to grandfather juniors or seniors or any other grade is a discussion that the Board will have prior to making their final decisions later in the year.
- Thank you for going back to the table to come up with other options. Need to consider getting a mental health professional involved in the planning team prior to making other options. As a teacher, I saw the impact of students coming back from COVID. Need to also involve the police force to make sure it is safe to mix the students. The Frederick HS and Governor TJ HS rivalry is significant. The police know the areas and potential impact.