

Crestwood Area Redistricting Study Community Meeting Notes

Tuscarora HS, 9/06/23

Speaker comments are shown in black

Staff responses are shown in red

Definitions:

ES - Elementary School

MS - Middle School

HS – High School

FCPS – Frederick County Public Schools

FOF – Find Out First

PTA – Parent-Teacher Association

BOE – Board of Education

LOU – Linganore-Oakdale-Urbana

Approximately 65 attendees

- Speaker thanked FCPS for presenting alternatives but would have appreciated alternatives when original plan was presented. All the presentations talk about 2029 – are there any plans to build additional schools in the area to accommodate growth in 2029?
- Speaker wants to know if there is any guarantee that their children won't be shuffled again.
- Community member asked what is best way to share their preferred alternate. **Send us an email through CrestwoodRedistricting@fcps.org email and share the planning block you live in. You can also share your comments by completing the survey. Try to be specific in your comments about what you like and don't like about the original recommendation and the proposed alternatives.**
- Is the original Superintendent's Recommendation still on the table as an option? Does the Superintendent's Recommendation have more clout than the other alternatives? **The original recommendation and all the alternatives will be considered by BOE.**
- The state rated capacity numbers don't include the portable classrooms. People need to be aware of this.
- Will the survey be sent as a FOF? Can you send out a FOF countywide? **Information about the survey will be shared in school newsletters, on the project web page and on each individual school's webpage. It will be sent by FOF via the feeder patterns but a FOF about the survey will not be sent to every FCPS parent.**
- Are all the data points mentioned in the addendum report? **Yes.**
- Do the enrollment projections account for future growth? **Yes, the enrollment projections include the impact of approved residential development through 2029.**
- The speaker thanked the staff for providing options and addressing the concerns. The speaker wished that these options were available in May to have time to digest the info before giving feedback. The speaker lives in block 64 and kids have attended the clean feeder from Whittier ES to West Frederick MS to Frederick HS. With students readjusting to life after COVID, alternative 3 is best because it has the lowest impact on students. It maintains the existing school climate and demographic mix the best.

- As a mental health provider, the speaker thinks that the FAQ question about mental health concerns doesn't address parent concerns about students adjusting after having only one normal school year. Being uprooted could impact academic gain as well as social emotional health.
- A Student at West Frederick MS does not like Superintendent's Recommendation that splits West Frederick MS and takes a portion of it to Governor Thomas Johnson HS. West Frederick MS should not be a split feeder when they share a campus and facilities with Frederick HS. The speaker thinks all of West Frederick MS should go to Frederick HS.
- Student stated that students have already gone through a lot with COVID, and they should not be asked to change schools. The speaker does not support the Superintendent's Recommendation because it affects 23 schools.
- Speaker asked why are the portables not included in the State Rated Capacity calculation. The speaker stated that Whittier ES is celebrating 25th anniversary and it has had portables there since it opened. The portables should be counted in the available capacity of a school.
- Speaker stated there are FOF messages that go out from County to everyone in the school system and FCPS should send out the survey link to every FCPS parent, guardian, grandparent, etc
- Speaker stated the need to provide a way for people with no computer to complete the survey in order to be equitable.
- Speaker stated that the name of the study is wrong and it should be called the Frederick County Redistricting Study due to the number of students impacted. Speaker thinks that Alternative 3 is really the only Crestwood Redistricting.
- Parent of Frederick HS sophomore stated that staff made a comment about the redistricting process. The speaker stated that while this is a process, it is not the BOE's process. The Parent read from Policy 200 and stated that the current process does not follow the exact process outlined by Policy 200. The speaker also stated that the goal of Policy 200 is to have an engaged community and the process for this redistricting study does not reflect that goal. The speaker also thinks that it would be inaccurate and wrong for the BOE to consider any of these alternatives given the process that has occurred.
- Speaker stated that sending out the information only via email is not good enough because only half of parents check their emails. The speaker has experience with PTA and they have to send information out in multiple ways.
- The speaker stated that in spring when the info came out, very few parents knew about what was going on. A process was presented back then but it was changed for what is happening now. The speaker asked if the process is going to change again.
- Speaker stated that on the website where anyone can sign up for FOFs, there is a category to sign up for called "Boundary Changes" but this wording is misleading – it should be called "Redistricting."
- Speaker stated that 8th graders should be allowed to remain at their current middle school as well as their siblings. Kingsbrook will be within walking area for Crestwood MS and won't get a bus but the speaker thinks this isn't safe due to Crestwood Road and New Design Road intersection – this is not safe for students to cross.
- Parent is concerned about the process for this redistricting. The speaker thinks that Oakdale went through a large redistricting and they had a different process, perhaps due to the wealth in

the area, and that is not fair. The speaker thinks that this community is not being treated the same way that the Oakdale community was treated. The speaker also asked Why the Superintendent's Recommendation presented before the community had a chance to provide input.

- The speaker stated that there are FCPS leadership people in attendance, and they should be responding to these questions. The speaker does not think it is fair that FCPS staff are being asked to respond.
- A parent spoke on behalf of parents with kids who have anxiety. The parent asked if other parents saw anxiety in their children after COVID and stated that this needs to be taken into account.
- Speaker stated that since redistricting will be happening again within 5 years, it only makes sense to approve Alternative 3.
- A parent stated that the BOE is not going to vote for one of these 4 options, so why are they being considered? The BOE will only vote yes or no to the Superintendent's Recommendation. Staff stated that the **BOE will consider the Superintendent's recommendation and the three alternatives. The BOE may vote to approve one of the four alternatives or they chose one option with minor revisions or they may choose portions of multiple options to combine for a final decision. The BOE's final decision may look like any one of those scenarios. The BOE sincerely wants to understand the community's concerns and come to solution that will support all the communities.**
- The speaker stated that the LOU redistricting study was in a wealthier demographic area, and asked if that is why they had a consultant and the policy was followed. The speaker also asked when was the outside consultant hired for the LOU study, and if the families impacted by this redistricting should make a request to the BOE that a consultant is hired for this study as well.
- Parent of 2 Tuscarora ES students and mental health professional who works for Montgomery County stated that they have been studying a lot of data regarding how students will recover from the pandemic and found it will take 25 years for kids to recover. The speaker asked why is the redistricting taking place now. The speaker also asked what FCPS is doing to ensure that students have consistency and safety as they are moved from one school to another.
- The speaker asked when the Superintendent looked at all the alternatives, did she re-select the original recommendation?
- The speaker asked if the policy was followed during the LOU redistricting. The speaker stated that everyone is wondering why the policy is not being followed in this redistricting.