

Crestwood Area Redistricting Study Community Meeting Notes

Waverley ES, 5/15/23

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.

- Frederick HS student freshman is concerned about moving to a new school for junior year and impact on college admissions. Proposal poses risks to mental health of students. Cited Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stats on students' mental health and suicide concern. How many mental health professionals are on the committee? **There are no mental health professionals on the redistricting study committee.** We are knowingly and deliberately added a stressor to the lives of over 2,000 students who will be wrenched from their attendance areas and moved to another area.
- Student at West Frederick MS concerned about changing high school attendance areas. As a person with anxiety and panic disorder, she is concerned about toll on mental health. Concerned about moving to a new school without friends. She has been raised to be prepared to go to Frederick HS and moving would disrupt students' expectations.
- West Frederick MS student says that West Frederick MS shares campus with Frederick HS and they are the only school in FCPS that shares a campus and fields. Why are the schools being broken up when they share the same resources? **FCPS strives to retain straight feeder patterns but it is not always possible and occasionally, the feeders are split.**
- Monocacy MS student concerned about changing to a different middle school and high school and graduating from a different middle school.
- Frederick HS freshman wants to go to programs that are only at Frederick HS such as Lynx and the Career and Technology Center (CTC). Is it possible to have the same programs offered at Governor TJ HS? **All FCPS students in grades 10 through 12 may apply to attend the Career and Technology Center.**
- Orchard Grove ES 5th grader is not happy about changes. Concerned about moving to two different schools while in middle school. Make new friends and new routines at MS. Applied to Crestwood MS to participate in spelling bees and wants to stay at Crestwood MS. Ballenger Creek MS does not compete in spelling bees so concerned about losing the opportunity since schools involved in a redistricting are closed to out of district transfer the first year after a redistricting.
- West Frederick MS 7th grader asked what the benefit is for students aside from balancing enrollments.

- There are 5000 available units at Governor TJ HS that haven't been developed. What is the probability that we will be redistricting again soon? Over 2500 kids are being displaced for only 319 seats at Crestwood MS. Why? **In addition to the additional 319 seats that will be available at Crestwood, there are approximately 860 other available middle school seats unevenly distributed across the study area.**
- Is the Board of Education (BOE) involved when the County approves the housing growth? The BOE should have a say. **The BOE has no authority or role in approving residential development in the County or municipalities. FCPS staff does perform the school adequacy test that is part of the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) and comments on residential development plans regarding safe access to schools and capacity of schools but does not have authority to approve or deny residential developments.**
- Parent of ES student starting at Whittier next year. Concerned about student going to West Frederick MS and then Governor TJ HS. That scenario doesn't make sense.
- Majority of students affected are in Whittier ES, West Frederick MS, and Frederick HS. Why are the meetings being held at schools outside this area and no meetings in this area? **Meeting sites were scheduled at the beginning of the study prior to developing the Superintendent's recommendation. The meetings were scheduled where space was available at locations that are geographically dispersed throughout the study area.**
- Can we get a representative from planning staffs from the City or County to make sure we are having input on growth? Would also like to know what is happening with funding and where it is going.
- Parent of minority/immigrant students who are impacted. Process has not been efficient. Expected to receive a letter home for something this significant. Please consider when planning communication and send out letters to all families.
- How was the scope developed? Was a private consultant involved? Did the scope include the other agencies that are causing problems for FCPS (development impact)? They need to be held responsible.
- Parent involvement is very important. Need to consult with parents before the changes happen.
- Parent of Whittier ES, West Frederick MS students and a Frederick HS staff member is concerned about student achievement. Need to support students from 8th to 9th grade – very important transition. She has been looking forward to having child attend the school where she teaches and now, they won't. How to help students get set up for success in a new school environment without the friends that they have had since elementary school. Uncertainty is damaging to social and emotional health of the students. Students are concerned now and they don't know where they are going next. Kids are invested in academics and sports already before they arrive at their HS.
- Parent of 4 students at Whittier ES asks if anyone on the redistricting committee was a mental health professional and involved in the development of the redistricting plan? Why be reactive rather than proactive? Why wasn't a mental health professional included in development of recommendations?
- Parent whose child was impacted by previous redistricting. The student went to Crestwood MS and now goes to West Frederick MS. We already know the issue with transportation of students. I help take kids to school when they don't have a bus. Now have a high schooler and one starting in high school. Need to take into consideration in areas where there are a lot of walkers.

Student could not walk safely to Crestwood MS when a bus doesn't show up in the morning so she was glad to switch to West Frederick MS where walking is a little safer. There are a lot of concerns with students not having a bus to pick them up. Many years ago, she attended parent courses talking about parent involvement and academic success and they emphasized the impact on students over the age of 9 due to impact on academic achievement. I'm asking for you to take into consideration this area where we live. A lot of students don't have access to alternate transportation and need to be able to get to school on their own if the bus doesn't show up.

- Parent of Whittier ES and West Frederick MS students moving to next levels next year. MS student has had a lot of instability due to COVID. This is first year she had a normal year since beginning of 5th grade. Student excited about attending Frederick HS. Concerned about both kids transitioning. Whittier community is a stable community and should be kept together. Hard for students to leave their schools and relationships they have established. I am a mental health provider and students are drowning from the impact of COVID. Lots of interventions due to suicide attempts. Not healthy for students to be moving and having additional transitions.
- Parent of student graduating this year wants to know how walkers were considered? Frederick HS is currently a very diverse community. Concerned that the socioeconomic impact on Frederick HS is disproportionate. Hoping that moving forward you can consider socioeconomic factors carefully. Frederick HS is an important institution and the ripple effects can last for decades.
- Whittier ES PTA president encouraging everyone to attend BOE meeting this week. Whittier PTA now taking responsibility for communicating to parents on this issue via stickers placed on every student and flyers in backpacks. They shouldn't have to do that.
- Whittier ES has military families and she knows many of them. Many are concerned about being redistricted to Monocacy MS. The kids already have to move around a lot. Difficult to change schools for other reasons.
- Crestwood redistricting name is misleading. Grateful to Frederick News Post (FNP) reporter who put out article on Saturday. Name still needs to be changed to include Frederick. Not just Crestwood.
- Frederick HS 9th grader has been hearing about Lynx program for years. Heard about other communities within the school such as Lynx. Not fair that students who are experiencing it will have it taken away. It is amazing program.
- Concerned with impact on children and how difficult redistricting will be. Please take into consideration a plan that minimizes the number of students impacted. What is the benefit to students? Has taught high school and knows the impact of being over capacity but the sense of belonging is important too. The changes seem like a spiral for nothing that will impact students' lives.
- 429 students going from Frederick HS to Governor TJ HS. 104 students going from West Frederick MS to Monocacy MS. All of these students are Whittier ES students.