

Crestwood Area Redistricting Study Community Meeting Notes

Orchard Grove ES, May 8, 2023

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.

- The high school recommendations make no sense
- West Frederick MS PTA President requested presenter to read the demographic data (number of students eligible for Free and Reduced Meals, number of English Learners and number of students with IEPs) for each school utilizing the current attendance boundaries and the proposed attendance boundaries.
- What are the number of students in planning blocks 224 – 230? **The total number of students within those planning blocks are 173 elementary, 69 middle and 122 high school students.**
- Will 8th graders be allowed to stay at their current schools? What about siblings of the 8th graders? **The Board of Education will consider grandfathering provisions when they make their final redistricting study decisions**
- Can we see the alternative options that were considered? The policy requires that the options be shared with the school communities for review and comment. **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.**
- Community engagement needs to be more transparent
- The study should be called the Frederick City Redistricting
- Why wasn't a consulting firm hired? **FCPS staff is more than qualified to perform this study. The Supervisor of Facilities Planning is an accredited planner with more than 35 years of planning experience, 21 years of which are as a school facilities planner. Facilities Planning staff also includes an additional accredited planner with a master's degree in Urban Plan, and a Planning Data and GIS analyst with a Master of Science degree in Geo-environmental Studies.**
- Why were students shuffled around (similar total number of students going into and out of Frederick HS/Governor Thomas Johnson HS attendance areas)? **Students were recommended to move from one attendance area to another to balance enrollments, address feeder patterns and to maintain contiguous attendance areas.**
- Tuscarora ES parent who lives close to the school wondering why they are being moved to Carroll Manor ES which is farther away.
- Participant identified as Whittier ES PTA president, and a parent of a West Frederick MS student is concerned about West Frederick MS being split when they share a campus with Frederick HS

- Concerned that their student will no longer be eligible for the Lynx program when kids have been promised the opportunity since elementary school
- Is there a survey planned for near future? We would like one.
- Participant identified as parent of two Governor Thomas Johnson HS students is concerned about Governor Thomas Johnson HS's old building being able to handle the influx of students coming from Frederick HS as well as the 5,000 dwelling units that have been approved. Building is already crowded. **Governor Thomas Johnson HS was completely renovated in 2000 and is currently operating at 88% of SRC.**
- Teacher at West Frederick MS and parent of 2 Whittier ES students asked how many seats are available at the FCPS schools and the actual number of students attending? **West Frederick MS is currently operating at 69% of SRC with 340 seats available. Whittier ES is currently operating at 115% of SRC with a deficit of 95 seats.**
- Tuscarora ES parent is frustrated that options are not being shared. Concern that Linton neighborhood will be moved to Carroll Manor ES when those students can walk to Tuscarora ES. Why not move students who are already being bussed such as students in Westview South neighborhood to Carroll Manor ES? Westview South is Planning Block 249.
- What level of consideration was taken in terms of the distress students experienced from COVID and the impact of moving them to a different school? Parent also expressed concern about Whittier ES being split and feeding to two middle schools.
- If we aren't given options, how are we going to vote? **The Board of Education is responsible for making the final attendance boundary decisions.**
- Are portables counted in the calculation of state rated capacity? **Portables are not included in the State Rated Capacity (SRC) calculations.**
- Did FCPS consider moving students who live on Key Parkway and attend Monocacy MS to Crestwood MS or Middletown MS? **FCPS considered all potential moves between schools within the study area including moves between Monocacy and Crestwood middle schools. However, Middletown MS is not included in the study area so was not considered.**
- Who is on the planning committee for the study? Are administrators, school counselors, pupil personnel workers, social workers, law enforcement staff such as Frederick City Police Chief Jason Lando, etc included? **The redistricting study is led by FCPS facilities planning staff with input from transportation, fiscal services, curriculum, and communication staff as well as school administration. School counselors, pupil personnel workers, social workers and school administration, among others, will be part of the team that creates the implementation plan to ensure that all students who move from one school to another are supported and welcomed in their new school community.**
- When was Waverley ES community last redistricted? Wasn't the last redistricting just two years ago? **The last Waverley ES redistricting study began in 2021 and was completed in February 2022. Approximately 600 students were moved from one attendance area to another.**
- Why isn't there a meeting in the Whittier ES, West Frederick MS, Frederick HS feeder area? What about Hillcrest ES area? **Staff chose four locations at schools that were geographically dispersed within the redistricting study area to hold community meetings.**
- Participant living in Planning Blocks 261-262 area stated that the plan is supposed to preserve feeder patterns. Why is Tuscarora ES projected to grow so much when only 59 units are remaining to be built? Participant would prefer an option where their children walk to school

and then perhaps new students moving into the neighborhood could take the bus to Carroll Manor ES.

- Student at West Frederick MS is looking forward to going to Frederick HS. Concerned about changing to a different HS. Concerned about losing academic opportunities. Moving Whittier into FHS and part of Waverley into Governor TJ HS seems like an unnecessary swap and is not related to the additional seats at Crestwood MS.
- A teacher at West Frederick MS used to teach at Clarksburg High when it first opened. They pulled students from neighboring schools (Damascus, etc.) in their redistricting and there were “gang fights” between students coming in from different schools. The fights got so bad that some teachers quit.
- Parent states that students from Whittier and Parkway participate in the sports and extracurricular programs at West Frederick MS/Frederick HS. Concerned that taking Whittier out of Frederick HS will harm these programs because people in Waverley have to go home after school to take care of younger siblings, etc. and don’t participate in those types of programs.
- Parents asked about if sports involvement was considered – looking at where students involved in sports live. Said her son’s baseball team at West Frederick MS all live in the Whittier attendance area; concerned sports program will suffer if Whittier ES is moved out of Frederick HS. Also expressed concern that those involved in sports will request an out-of-district transfer in order to stay at a school with a good sports program (said Frederick HS has a good football team)
- Parent felt the title of the project was misleading; explained that families in Whittier assumed that the “Crestwood Area” redistricting did not include them, because Crestwood is typically thought of as farther away.