

## **Redistricting Committee Minutes-November 12, 2019**

**In attendance:** Anupama Anne, Michael Arnold, Adam Bidegary, Wayne Birster, Leigh Ann Bradley, Jeff Bryant, Maria Chavez , Cindy Chok, Michel Comstock, Alexis Cooper, Kate Coulter, Danielle Crilley, Christine Cucinotta, Kristin DeFrancesco, Cynthia Dieckmann, Jason Duhan, Rebecca Eberly, Meghan Edwards, Kevin Fagan, Kimberly Fallon, Tammi Florio, Anthony Froio, Deanna Gabe, Mary Gadaletto, Brian Gallen, Hope Gilman, Joanna Gool, Christina Gotro, Crystal Grace-Green, Lynda Hennigan, Lynda Hickey, Camille Holstein , Bobby Jacob, Kellie Keenan, Sriram Kudaravalli, Mike Marano, Justin Matys, Alice McVeigh, Andrew Mease, Richard A Mitchell, Christina Morley, Dante Mucci, Elisha Ozer, Carly Pilotti, Michele Porco, John Purcell, Jeyanthi Ramadurai, Leigh Ann Ranieri, Kristin Ray, Michael Reese, Erin Rodgers, Donna Ryan, John Scully, Bob Sokolowski, Heather Stewart, Lisa Stoddard, Mark P. Thompson, John Timko, Kerri Turner, Laura Turner, Jeff Ulmer, Joe Vaccaro, Nicole Verbos, Tony Wadyko, Michael Wagman, Steve Werner, Will Wood, Jasmine Worrell Dutton, Kevin Yearing, Shalene Zaucha

### **Minutes**

The first meeting of the redistricting committee took place on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, 6:30 pm in the Spellman Education Center. Superintendent, Jim Scanlon opened the meeting with comments about the task at hand for the committee. With more than 4000 apartment and home units approved, or soon to be approved, the school district is anticipating an additional 1,197 students over the next five years. The school board approved the construction of a new elementary school to open in fall, 2021.

The following information was presented:

#### **1. The role of the steering committee was discussed and include:**

- Help to minimize impact on students – Are there areas, issues we need to consider as we look at attendance boundaries?
- Provide help developing transition plans:
  - Grandfathering
  - Bus transportation topics
  - Orientation for students and parents
  - Other topics
- Help with Community feedback meetings

#### **2. Parameters for the process were discussed and include:**

- Schedule secondary buildings at 90%-95% of capacity
- Schedule elementary buildings at 93% to 98% of capacity
- Maintain middle school/high school feeder patterns (Fugett MS/East HS, Peirce MS/Henderson HS, Stetson MS/Rustin HS)
- Schedule buildings with free and reduced lunch rates within 8 percentage points of the district average of 17.4%
- Include transition plans for changes

- Allow all high school students (9-12) to finish their current feeder pattern
- Possibly reduce or eliminate split elementary school at Fern Hill (Fern Hill ES attends Peirce & Fugett.)
- Consider ways to move as few students as possible.

**Building capacities were reviewed** and the following table demonstrates the enrollment capacities calculated for each building. Already removed from the calculations are rooms such as music, art, band, library, gym space, special education classrooms, and rooms for small group instruction such as Reading, speech, and English Language Learners.

Elementary Schools		Middle Schools		High Schools	
School	enrollment	School	enrollment	School	enrollment
East Bradford	458	Fugett	926	East	1425
East Goshen	583	Peirce	926	Henderson	1493
Exton	611	Stetson	879	Rustin	1309
Fern Hill	554	Total	2731	Total	4228
Glen Acres	554				
Greystone	611				
Hillsdale	554				
Mary C. Howse	554				
Penn Wood	554				
Starkweather	633				
Westtown-Thornbury	611*				
Total students	6278				

\* (assumes 4 room addition by 2021)

**The 2014 Redistricting Plan was reviewed** and a history of redistricting going back to 1971 was provided. The 2014 plan included a section called “Future Considerations.” That section outlined five areas of the district that are typically moved during a redistricting process. The report noted if redistricting took place before these children finished their feeder pattern that consideration be given to them to finish the school feeder pattern they started.

Current boundary maps were reviewed and the location of the new Greystone Elementary School, in West Goshen Twp. was shown. Neighborhoods around the new school will be attending the new school. Because the 590 home development behind

the school will not be built out by the time the school opens, space will need to be allocated to allow for growth in this building, thus it will not open with its maximum capacity of 611 students.

**Assumptions for the process were reviewed.** Those include:

1. We are working on estimated number of students projected to enroll for developments not completed yet.
2. We will schedule projected enrollment from developments already approved and under construction.
3. Crebilly Farms enrollment will need to be addressed with additions to Hillsdale and Starkweather. We won't add those students until the development is officially approved.
4. Capacities assume the removal of all modular classrooms, however, modular classrooms will not be removed until after implementation of new boundaries.
5. Consideration must be given to allow students in areas 4, 6, 18, 22, and 26 from the 2014 redistricting plan, to complete the feeder pattern they started in 2015.

**Questions from the committee included:**

1. **Can we consider neighborhood schools, particularly in the borough of West Chester?** *This was a parameter established in 2014, and the last committee was able to reduce the number of schools servicing the borough from ten to six. While we can look at that again, it is not a parameter established by the school board.*
2. **Have we spoken with the townships about the number of developments being approved?** *Yes, our last update was done in September. Our Business Office and Facilities' Office have been updating these lists since spring, 2019.*
3. **Will we consider creating attendance boundaries for people who want to move away from the Sunoco Pipeline, but remain in their current feeder pattern?** *No, this was not a parameter established by the board, however when the boundaries are drawn, it may create those opportunities.*
4. **When will we begin to review a boundary map?** *The first map will be reviewed at the December 3 meeting. It will start with carving out the Greystone boundary and placing the expected students from developments into existing schools.*

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday December 3, 6:30 p.m. at the Spellman Education Center – 782 Springdale Drive, Exton.**