BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REDISTRICTING INITIATIVE

PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION & GENERAL PUBLIC

PROPOSED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREA BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS

NOVEMBER 29, 2010
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Joseph P. Licata, Chief of Administration
PURPOSE
To publicly present the proposed school attendance area boundary adjustments to the Board of Education prepared by the Superintendent and his Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), in accordance with the charge developed in 2008
AUTHORITY

• The Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article 13, Section 4-109 (c), Geographical attendance areas provides the sole authority for local boards of education to establish public school attendance area boundary lines:

  “With the advice of the county superintendent, the county board shall determine the geographical attendance area for each school established under this section.”

• Board of Education of Harford County establishes the Policies and Procedures for Aligning Enrollment With Capacity (20-0036-000) and Adjustment of School Attendance Boundary Lines (20-0041-000)
The BOE established the Comprehensive Elementary School Redistricting Initiative to meet several goals:

- Provide relief for Prospect Mill ES and the adjacent schools in its region,
- Develop the new attendance area for Red Pump ES,
- Provide relief for Emmorton ES,
- Balance enrollment with capacity in remaining elementary schools.
PROCESS/METHODOLOGY

• Process was initiated in 2008, but delayed for several reasons:
  – Decision to build only one new elementary school,
  – Final decisions regarding location of the new elementary school, and,
  – Decision to defer YBES project.

• Focus Groups were established in each elementary school and convened to develop a list of guidelines/requirements for redistricting
PROCESS/METHODOLOGY

- In February 2010, the STAC began meeting to develop the proposed plan, armed with the following data:
  - C.E.S.R.I. goals established by the Board of Education
  - 9/30 enrollments and projections
  - GIS technology with elementary students “geocoded” to unique parcel addresses
  - The list of 40+ requirements established by the Focus Groups
  - Locations of special programs and regional programs in elementary schools
  - Planned Residential Subdivision Growth by elementary school attendance area

- In August 2010 STAC completed its proposed plan
- In September 2010 the proposed plan was shared with the elementary school principals
- In November 2010 the proposed plan was presented to the Focus Groups and was published and disseminated to the general public
STRATEGY

• SEVERAL STRATEGIES WERE CONSIDERED:
  – DEVELOP ATTENDANCE AREA FOR RED PUMP FIRST, BY WORKING INWARD FROM PERIMETER OF REGION
    • Too many students within region (150+ @ 95% cap)
    • Relief for perimeter schools would not be attained
  – WORK OUTWARD TO FILL SCHOOLS IN PERIMETER, THEN WORK INWARD WITHIN AFFECTED REGION TO DEVELOP RED PUMP ATTENDANCE AREA
    • Ability to utilize space available in underutilized perimeter schools
    • Reduced the number of students available to develop Red Pump ES attendance area
    • Provided necessary relief to the most affected region
1. CONSTRUCT RED PUMP ES
2. RELIEVE PROSPECT MILL & REGION
3. RELIEVE EMMORTON ES
4. BALANCE REMAINDER TO 90%-95% CAPACITY
STRATEGY DECISION:
WORK OUTWARD FIRST, THEN DEVELOP RPES
CONSTRAINTS

- DIRECTED RELIEF TO PMES, HES, AND FLES BY VIRTUE OF DOMINO EFFECT
- 9/2009 COUNTY WIDE ELEMENTARY ENROLLMENT VS. CAPACITY WAS 93.8%. EVEN WITH ADDITIONAL CAPACITY AT DEERFIELD AND RED PUMP, COUNTY WIDE ELEMENTARY ENROLLMENT VS. CAPACITY REMAINED OVER 90%
- RELIEF REQUIRED FOR EMMORTON, WM. PACA/OPR, Magnolia, FILLED SCHOOLS TO THE SOUTH
- RELIEF REQUIRED FOR YBES REQUIRED MOVES TO THE NORTHERN PERIMETER
- 5 SCHOOLS REMAIN AT 100% AND WILL NEED ADDITIONAL RELIEF
**IN YOUR PACKETS YOU HAVE ...**

- A LIST OF THE REQUIREMENTS
- PLANNED RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION GROWTH BY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREA
- MAP OF EXISTING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREA BOUNDARIES
- MAP OF PROPOSED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREA BOUNDARIES
- MAPS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREA W/EXISTING AND PROPOSED BOUNDARY LINES
- ENROLLMENT CAPACITY CHART COMPARING BEFORE (9/2009) AND AFTER (PROPOSED PLAN)
- CHART INDICATING NUMBER OF STUDENTS MOVING FROM AND TO EACH OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
- CHART OF FEEDER SCHOOLS BY ATTENDANCE AREA
UNDERSTANDING THE MAPS!

• The black outline represents the current district boundary.

• The solid color areas represent the proposed district. The color of the school icon is the same as on as the color for the district on the countywide map.

• Colored areas **OUTSIDE** the black boundary lines represent areas being **RECEIVED** from adjacent schools.

• Colored areas **INSIDE** the black boundary lines represent areas **LEAVING** the existing attendance area.

• Some parcels are colored gray. These are parcel anomalies. This means that no one person owns the parcel. This includes right-of-ways for highways, utilities, and developments. It also includes parks such as Susquehannock.

• Maps are oriented to fit the page. In some cases, this means that north is not always the top of the page. Check the compass rose to make sure.

• The majority of roads are labeled. A few smaller ones may not be if the label overlapped with a main road.

• Student data (not seen on the map) is from September 15, 2009. This will be updated with the current students (September 15, 2010) within the next few weeks.

• A computer program did not generate the proposed attendance area boundaries!
CRITICAL ISSUES FOR BOE TO DECIDE

1. GRANDFATHERING
   - 5TH GRADERS ONLY
     • W/TRANSPORTATION?
     • PARENTS PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION?
   - 5TH GRADERS AND SIBLINGS
     • W/TRANSPORTATION?
     • PARENTS PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION?
   - NO GRANDFATHERING
   - IMPACT ON TRANSPORTATION/SENDING/RECEIVING SCHOOLS
   - COST IMPACT TO THE SYSTEM

2. BOUNDARY EXCEPTIONS
   - LIBERAL IMPLEMENTATION
   - REVISE CURRENT CRITERIA
   - HOLD BOUNDARY EXCEPTIONS IN ABEYANCE FOR 1-2 YEARS EXCEPT FOR EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES
ACCESS TO INFORMATION

• HCPS WEBSITE
  – UPDATED AND REFORMATTED
  – PROPOSED PLAN HAS BEEN POSTED TO INCLUDE EACH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREA
  – E-MAIL ADDRESS ESTABLISHED TO SUBMIT COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, PROPOSALS
  – F.A.Q. SECTION PROVIDES ANSWERS TO ALL QUESTIONS ASKED

• ALL FOCUS GROUP PRESENTATIONS HAVE BEEN POSTED ON THE WEBSITE

• BOE PRESENTATION WILL BE POSTED TO THE WEBSITE

• VARIOUS PUBLIC HEARINGS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED BY THE BOE IN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS
QUESTIONS,
COMMENTS