

Attendance Balancing Committee

Committee Meeting

October 26, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Dr. Carl L. James

Community Members: John Carl, Robert Cook, Duane Crosby, Kathy Fisher, Carrie Freeman, James Graves, Margaret Harned, Robert Jepson, Erin Matthews, Vaughnery Oliver, Lisa Stalsworth, Roscoe Woods; York County School Division (YCSD) Staff: Aaron Butler, Ed.D., Kelly Denny, Jennifer Goodwin, Christina Head, Carl James, Ed.D., Mark Kirk, Gwendolyn Wallace

Absent: John Anderson, Willene Brown, Tanya Deckard, Beatriz Huptich, Allison Lucas, Carrie Prinz, Cynthia Scaturico, Ebru Sorensen, Tiffany Washburn

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the October 19, 2017 meeting were distributed via email prior to the meeting date and were available at the meeting. A motion was made to approve minutes as presented and the motion carried.

Discussion of Additional Meeting Dates:

It was agreed that it was more important to take the time needed for making the right recommendations than to rush to a decision. The consensus of the group was to continue the Thursday meetings on November 9 with a possible meeting Monday, October 30, if all information needed by the committee is available by that date.

Analysis of Plans A, B, C and D:

A motion was made to discount the possibility of a new school in the analysis of attendance zone balancing plans as the committee moves forward in its recommendations to the Board. The motion did not pass. (Vote: 15 nays, 1 yea and 1 abstain)

At the completion of the review of attendance zone changes recommended by the consultant, the committee agreed not to move students from Dare Elementary School to Seaford Elementary School. More information was requested regarding the students impacted by the Plan A move of students from Yorktown Elementary School to Seaford Elementary School prior to making that recommendation.

The numbers of students affected by the changes

Questions from the Committee to Staff:

Has this approach been used before? Yes; It has been used for large scale rezoning.

What will the report to the School Board look like? A summary of the committee's work will be formatted into a final report and a PowerPoint presentation, like the March 15, 2017 presentation to the Board. The final report and presentation will describe the attendance zone changes recommended, identifying streets and the number of students impacted by the changes.

Can the committee recommend a move from Grafton Bethel Elementary School (GBES) to Coventry Elementary School (CES) without moving CES to Tabb Elementary School (TES)? Yes; The committee needs to look at capacity and socio-economic changes as this recommendation is made.

In looking at the “checkerboard” area in the Tabb area, it was agreed that Jamestown Village could not be accommodated at Coventry Elementary School.

Recommendation for Balancing Elementary Attendance Zones

The committee requested the number of children affected, by street, in each of moves suggested by the consultant and how the moves impact the socio-economic balance of elementary schools.

Committee consensus was reached on the following:

- make no attendance zone changes to Magruder and Waller Mill Elementary Schools at this time,
- construct an addition at Waller Mill Elementary School to include more classrooms, and
- find an area park buses in the Bruton zone instead of the Magruder Elementary School campus.

Closing Remarks:

A lot of data has been requested by the committee. Dr. James will compile the information but will not be able to complete it by Monday, October 30.

Committee members will return in 2 weeks to consider the requested information and make final recommendations to realign school boundaries and prioritize each of the recommendations.

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday, November 9, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Rooms A and B at the School Board Office.

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgia R. McQuigg