

**Central Area Education Advisory Council
Pot Spring Elementary School
November 20, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.**

- Meeting Minutes recorded by Sharon Elliott
- Question and Answer Session with Lyle Patzkowsky
- Central Area Attendees: Laura Mullen, Sharon Elliott, Lyle Patzkowsky, Frank Thomas, Jan Thomas, Laurie Taylor-Mitchell, Donna Sibly

Opening

- introduction of attending Council members and the Council Coordinator, Jasmine Shriver

Primary Presentation: Question and Answer Session with Lyle Patzkowsky

- assisted by: Jennifer Mullenax, Assistant to the Area Assistant Superintendent
- refer to handout with questions and answers

- noted the office of strategic planning and their charting of student population projects by school
- 4 schools with concerns: Hampton, Riderwood, Rodgers Forge and Stoneleigh Elementary Schools
- would be 880 over capacity w/projections
- first step to solution—451 to new West Towson Elementary School
- second step to solution—200 seat addition each to Stoneleigh and Hampton Elementary Schools
- Office of strategic planning is generally accurate in projections (Chris Brocato)
- Lutherville, Pot Spring and Timonium Elementary Schools are another area of concern but not as bad a cluster as the first four mentioned elementary schools

Question: Are the additions to Stoneleigh and Hampton Elementary Schools 200 seats or 300 seats the state requested funding for; Concern – increase capacity too much

Concern: Lutherville, Stoneleigh and Pleasant Plains over capacity because Cromwell Elementary School is a magnet school with no catchments (100% lottery); should change school back to local school

Lyle: Cromwell successful magnet; no discussion of changing magnet status; would require changing boundaries of Stoneleigh, redistrict for new school 11/2009 (deliberation start date)

Question: Why Hampton 100 extra seats for addition which is greater than over 10% capacity

Question: Who is involved in redistricting?

- redistricting public process with committee including Board, schools, parents (suggest options and choose); Jennifer Mullenax: spoke on redistricting process

Question: How is the committee formed?

- There is a definite process noted in Board policy.

Comment: Cromwell is successful but what is the greater good?

Question: Is the Board/School System considering more private school kids coming back to public schools due to the economy?

Question: Is Lutherville Lab a regional magnet?

- has local catchments then lottery

Question: Is there any reason why the magnet at Cromwell is in the Central Area?
No, The program can be in any area of the County.

Question: Could they maybe move the program?

Question: Can Cromwell ever use trailers?

- associated comment: feel the pain like everyone else

Question: How will Ridge Ruxton's summer program be affected by construction?

Question: Has BCPS anticipated funding for additions?

- approved and going through process at State level

Questions: Will the additions include more area for common spaces?

Comment: Hampton Elementary wants additions that are smaller; are advocating for this

Information on Question Four of Lyle's handout

- 2 years ago State said students had to maintain 2 credits in senior year; no longer the case; have credits can go
- parallel enrollment; students opting to take course or two at high school then go to college classes
- so 1800 population in a school doesn't mean that is the number in a given school all day, every day
- also internships and work study takes kids out of the high schools

Question: What are those numbers? want proof ; has to be a legal place for these high school students to be; can it be documented---it should be

- Carver also being increased to 1000 students with building expansion

Information on Question Five of Lyle's handout

Comment: dispute that Question 5 does enough

Comment: Will additions and new school change elementary school boundaries; change middle school boundaries?

- probably not too much if at all; most still go to Dumbarton

Question: do any numbers project private return to public; large number of central area generally go private

Question: When will Hampton/Stoneleigh get definitive answer as to how will be handled?

- high likelihood getting additions
- approved; will present when have something
- suggest come to Board meetings; write letters to Board if opposed/have comments

Comment: Stoneleigh group sent letters and got form letter in response about Cromwell idea; want more of a parent/system partnership

Question: Are these large seat schools good for kids?; diminishing returns to economies of scale? scores have not been the driving influence

Comment: if dollars a problem lets talk about it; school system needs to put more pressure on County to get what need

Comment: Community and Hampton Associations against addition

Question: Why not build another new elementary school in addition to Towson West?

- no land available in area in need; investigated 24 sites last year

Question: guidelines/rules for schools with regard to amount of open area or cafeteria has to be certain size for number of students?

Question: What determines what the school system can ask for from the County? How do you get smaller requests in?

- consider all requests and then make decision of what is reasonable given all else
- county executive – priority list then based on money/need

Comment: County Executive dictating to school system; overstepping and deciding instead of system

Question: Is Hampton/Stoneleigh coming from County Executive?

- no-through BCPS

Question: Is there a list of elementary schools just waiting for deferred maintenance such as chillers for a/c?

- a/c being given consideration for future to schools without; study coming out in December 2008

Question: How does board get priorities?

- through M. Sines office in terms of process

Comment: Discussions are wonderful but would like to see more Board members make the effort to come to these meetings. The tone is lost in written notes. (Fran was supposed to come to this meeting but could not.)

Comment: communication problem with Dept. of Facilities; Mr. Sines doesn't respond.

Question: Is there a priority list of schools who got windows meant for a/c so can get funding in order when its available?

Comment: Stoneleigh PTA President submitted questions to Board in September (see handout); response was a lot of words but said nothing

Comment: Hampton would like new school that borders both districts.

Question: Is there any way the school system will introduce kindergarten aids into budget again?