



MEETING MINUTES

October 30, 2017

6:00 PM

Agnor-Hurt Elementary School

In attendance:

Committee Members:

- Jennifer Schaeffer
- Rachel Lyle
- Malva Mangan
- Jennifer Smith
- Rachel Boston
- Thomas Corsall
- Symia Tabron

Staff Members:

- Jane McBrian
- Grant Duffield
- Chris Smith
- Andrea Mejia
- Sidney Griffin
- Kimalee Dickerson

Rosalyn Schmitt
Renee DeVall
Dean Tistadt

Welcome/Minutes

Rosalyn Schmitt called the meeting of the Redistricting Advisory Committee to order at 6:05 PM. This was the fourth meeting of this committee. Rosalyn introduced Jane McBrian, a Jouett representative, to the committee. Jane was appointed by Dr. Moran to replace Katherine Martin, who resigned from the original committee. The minutes from meeting #3 were reviewed. There was no additional discussion needed, so the committee approved the meeting minutes unanimously.

Feedback to Date - Discussion

The committee reviewed the study objective and guiding principles set forth by the school board to ensure their work aligned with their task. There was a concern voiced by a committee member that we were not giving the kids in Albemarle County the best opportunities for learning because in each redistricting over the past 10 years we have focused on the same schools and communities. Again, the conversation about schools outside the urban ring (and within 10 miles of the original school) with open seats should be considered. One committee member wondered why it was ok to transport preschool students from Greer to Broadus Wood, but not redistrict some older Greer students there. Staff clarified that the preschool situation is temporary, and the plan is for those students to return to Greer after redistricting occurs.

If the committee wanted to consider an option that would include Broadus Wood, Rosalyn presented an option that would redistrict about 50 Greer students from Townwood, Squirrel Path and Roslyn Heights neighborhoods to Broadus Wood. Distance those students traveled to school would increase from 1.59 miles to 7.55 miles, and the ride would be longer, but it would still fall into the guidelines for elementary students of 60 minutes or less. A concern was raised by the committee that parents would have more difficulty getting to Broadus Wood if their child were sick, or to participate in school events. Committee members who participated in the last committee, recapped feedback from parents the last time expressing similar concerns.

Next, the committee representative from Agnor-Hurt presented over 100 signatures from families asking that they be removed from the redistricting conversation, as they are not at full capacity this year as expected. They didn't feel disrupting their multi-age program as it is now was fair when the problem was that Greer was overcrowded.

Community Meeting - Discussion

The community meeting to gather feedback and input on this redistricting will be held on Wed. Nov. 8 at 6:30 PM in the Agnor Hurt Cafeteria. There will be translators available for those who need it. The committee members will all attend to listen to what the community thinks of all the scenarios and hear their questions and concerns so that they can better understand the impact of their recommendation. Tonight the committee is tasked with narrowing down the scenarios to three, which will be presented to the community at that meeting.

One committee member suggested that we hear reasons from all three elementary schools, as other families probably also have valid arguments about why they should be allowed to stay, and what makes their school so great. Knowing how families feel about their current school helps the committee understand the big picture impact on this decision. Another committee member suggested someone from the Instructional team attend, as there were questions being raised about the multi-age programs, and the middle school feeder pattern. In addition, the committee hopes to hear from parents about the possibility of being redistricted to Broadus Wood, over Agnor Hurt or Woodbrook for the families that might impact.

Presentation of Scenarios and Discussion

Staff recapped scenarios presented to date as well as a recap of the committee's feedback on each. Rosalyn also presented modifications of each in response to the feedback or other requests from members. Below is a brief recap of each scenario and the committee's reaction to each:

Recap Scenario A –

PROS – geographically makes the most sense; more proportional middle school split

CONS – less relief to Greer; impacts the most students; Woodbrook is projected to be at capacity within 5 years; limited economic diversity

NEW - Scenario A1 – modified version of A that moves Carrsbrook/Still Meadow from Woodbrook to Agnor-Hurt

CON – lowers the F/R % at Agnor Hurt from 72% to 69%, but that is still a huge increase from the current 56% which is not ideal

Recap Scenario B –

PROS – greatest relief for Greer; slight improvement in socio-economic numbers; Belvedere makes sense as the next move to Woodbrook

CONS – doesn't geographically make sense for kids to be bused past Agnor-Hurt to attend Woodbrook; Woodbrook would be at capacity almost immediately (no room for growth)

NEW B1 – no kids moved from or into Agnor-Hurt; simply moves all the Greer students to Woodbrook

CON: Agnor Hurt is at 100% capacity within five years (no relief); students being bused past an elementary school on their way to a different one

NEW B2 – moves about 20 kids from Agnor-Hurt to Woodbrook; moves all the Greer students to Woodbrook

PRO: room to grow at each school (all between 90-96% capacity within 5 years)

CON: Woodbrook's F&R % goes up from 55% to 63%

RECAP Scenario C –

PROS – leave room at all 3 schools (within 5 years); least number of kids move

CONS - doesn't geographically make sense for kids to be bused past Agnor-Hurt to attend Woodbrook; Middle School split would be an issue; not as much relief for Greer

NEW C1 – leaves Townwood/Squirrel Path at Greer, and takes Whitewood/Oak Forest to Agnor-Hurt

PRO: more balanced/consistent free and reduced lunch % at each school; doesn't move the Townwood area which was redistricted in the last round of changes from Agnor-Hurt to Greer

CON: Whitewood Road is in close proximity to Greer

C2 – leaves Minor Ridge at Agnor Hurt, but takes Belvedere to Woodbrook

CON: increases Agnor Hurt's free and reduced lunch % from 56% to 66%

C3 – leaves Townwood/Squirrel Path at Greer, and takes Whitewood/Oak Forest to Agnor-Hurt AND leaves Minor Ridge at Agnor Hurt, but takes Belvedere to Woodbrook

PRO: leaves Townwood from being redistricted again; allows Minor Ridge to stay geographical with Agnor-Hurt

CON: increases Agnor Hurt's free and reduced lunch % from 56% to 66%

Committee took a few minutes to reflect on their own while looking at the demographics, ELL and 5 year projected capacity of each of the nine options.

Middle School Scenarios

Rosalyn presented two middle school feeder pattern options. One was to keep the Middle School boundaries unchanged which creates a split between Jouett and Burley at both Agnor-Hurt and Woodbrook. The second idea was to redistrict the middle schools so that no school has to split – perhaps using 29 as the dividing line for Jouett or Burley.

General Discussion

There was discussion between the committee members about whether the focus should be creating/maintaining contiguous boundaries between the schools, or focusing on diversity in each school. Both were in the guiding principles and in the task assigned by Dr. Moran at the first meeting. It was stated by a committee member that no one school was more important than another, and that moving kids out of the urban ring simply dilutes the problem. Resources are in place currently that ensure all students needs are being met. They agreed that about diversity and geographic regions should be considered, but that it would be important to hear from the community about what they most want to see in this redistricting.

Community Meeting Preparation

The committee was then charged the task of narrowing down the scenarios from nine viable ones, to three that would be presented at the community meeting next week. After some discussion, B and B1 were removed because Woodbrook and Agnor Hurt would both be at 99-100% capacity within five years. A1 was removed because it didn't make sense to increase Agnor-Hurt's free and reduced lunch percentage, or send the Carrsbrook community across 29 again.

At 8:00 PM the committee opted for a five minute break. The meeting reconvened at 8:05 PM.

A committee member suggested that options A and C be presented in their original form at the community meeting. Those options would allow feedback that could help them determine whether the modified options were actually viable. Another committee member suggested the third option include using Broadus Wood and Woodbrook (but not Agnor-Hurt). This would be a modified version of B1. All members agreed to move forward with those three options at the community meeting.

The committee wants to ensure the public knows that in option 3, Agnor Hurt would be at 100% capacity because no students are moving from there. In addition, the free and reduced numbers at Woodbrook will increase if Agnor-Hurt is not utilized in the redistricting.

Rosalyn will forward a survey to the committee for feedback. The survey will be sent out electronically to all families. Paper copies will be available in each school, and at the community meeting to gather input from those unable to attend the meeting. The presentation will be available for the public to see by the end of this week, so everyone has a chance to give feedback about the options presented.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 13th at 6:00 PM in the Media Center of Agnor Hurt Elementary School. Topics will include: reflecting on community feedback, reviewing scenarios, middle school

Minutes Submitted by Jennifer Eddins