



MEETING MINUTES

November 13, 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 6:08 PM. This was the fifth meeting of this committee. The minutes from meeting #4 were handed out. Due to not getting them in advance, no action was taken. An email vote to approve them will convene on Wed. 11/15/17.

Community Recap

Ms. Schmitt shared that between 100-150 people attended the Community Meeting on Nov. 8 in the Agnor Hurt Cafeteria. 22 people spoke. Surveys were being sent home/emailed out for public opinion. They are due by Friday, Nov. 17. The data collected will be shared with the committee.

Rosalyn then asked each member to take a moment to reflect on where they were with the redistricting process to ensure everyone's voices were heard.

- Greer rep – A larger county-wide redistricting is required if we want to make meaningful shifts in the demographics within our schools.
- Woodbrook rep – All of us are in this together! We shouldn't put any one school at a disadvantage. Agreed that a larger county-wide redistricting should be looked at. Wondered why ACPS isn't using pre-existing programs in our schools to attract people to the Urban Ring schools (for example – the World Language program at Woodbrook). Also questioned why we didn't have more specific pacing guides knowing how transient our population can be.
- Agnor-Hurt rep – Agrees with both Greer & Woodbrook that the redistricting needs to be more spread than just with these three schools. Including Agnor-Hurt doesn't solve the economic diversity sought. It is unnecessary to disrupt a whole school if we don't have too. Over ½ the Agnor Hurt community has signed a petition to be removed from consideration in this redistricting. Concerned that the term "urban ring" is limiting the scope because it should be a county-wide study
- Jouett rep – Nothing disruptive happens to Jouett with any of these options, but will strongly advocate any current Greer kids who are redistricted should be allowed to remain at Jouett.

- Burley rep – Would prefer a geographical redistricting so that the school boundaries make sense. Disappointed that more parents were unable to attend the community meeting, because the committee didn't hear from all communities being considered. Posed the question – what if Jouett and Greer swapped buildings? Would that make enough space?
- Equity & Diversity reps – Even at the community meeting, there is a large number of people believe a larger county-wide redistricting needs to occur. It also seemed that demographic balance was more important than contiguous boundaries from the community panel. It was clear that none of the Townwood community wanted to be sent to Broadus Wood because it would be a burden on families due to distance.
- At large rep – There is a need for better solutions – this is a band-aid for a much larger issue. In the meeting, people said to make the hard decision. The community didn't like the Broadus Wood option, so proposed that to be off the table. Question – are we taking Agnor Hurt off the table? If we keep it on the table, perhaps moving less kids would be less disruptive
- Long Range Planning – Last redistricting was 5 years ago, it's not an every year thing. In order to build a new school you have to be hundreds of kids over capacity. One trouble is that Charlottesville City sits right in the middle of our area. We are responding to the needs of the urban ring, but we are not obsessed on them. The bond referendum passed in 2016 was the first one since the 1970s. It takes time to make a big change.

Rosalyn reviewed points of agreements and disagreements from the community meeting. One key disagreement is whether Agnor-Hurt should be included or not. Rosalyn went over the pros and cons of keeping Agnor Hurt in the mix. She provided a recap of developments in the pipeline in the Agnor-Hurt district. Lastly, she provided clarification on Pre-K assumptions built into the numbers.

Scenario Discussion

Per the request of a member, Scenario D was presented to the committee – it includes Barracks West, and the surrounding communities. There was limited discussion around this neighborhood option. Rosalyn reminded the committee that the goal for today's meeting is to narrow the projections down to 2, that will be debated and discussed with Dr. Moran at the committee's final meeting. A committee member asked if we could first focus on whether Agnor Hurt is In or Out. The question was posed to each member – Why should Agnor Hurt be left in the redistricting discussion?

- It's close to capacity. Greer grew faster than expected, so Agnor Hurt needs to be relieved of some kids.
- It's right in between the two schools, and it just makes sense.
- Most of the proposed building is going to occur in the Agnor Hurt district
- It would be a longer term approach
- It would allow access for families to be part of the community (geographically)
- Keeping any school at or near capacity from day one doesn't make sense
- We are all in this together – we are one community, one high school, one sports team
- It gives us more options and better serves the community
- It's a good balance of instruction – multi-age and traditional single classrooms

Concerns from Agnor Hurt:

- Woodbrook is also doing multi-age, so that shouldn't be a pro or con in the discussion
- Just because it's ½ a mile between the schools isn't a reason to disrupt their community,
- It's only been 3 years with the multiage program, so disrupting it now would prevent them from collecting data needed
- It's not a focus schools anymore – worked really hard to get out of it

- Why disrupt an entire school community for just 14 students? The projections haven't been right for several years, so why are we so sure they'll be right this time?
- Why can't we leave Agnor Hurt alone for 1-2 years, and leave the county time to look at a broader redistricting for 3-5 years?

Rosalyn paused to point out that county-wide long term capital improvement plans are in the work, but no big picture redistricting is in the works at this point. She also noted the challenges and realistic feasibility of such a study.

The committee began to discuss which scenarios should be discussed further at the next meeting. The notes below reflect the outcome of the discussion of each:

- The committee agreed to remove the Broadus Wood option due to concerns about distance.
- The committee agreed to remove any options that included Whitewood due to its proximity to Greer.
- The committee agreed to remove Option A. While it made geographic sense, the free/reduced lunch numbers at Agnor-Hurt go up by 16% - which is a large number. It is also moves all the likely growth areas of Agnor-Hurt to Woodbrook but leaving the excess seats at Agnor-Hurt.
- The committee agreed to remove C2 & C3 due to the lack of demographic balance between Woodbrook and Agnor-Hurt as compared to Option C.
- Option C does not provide enough relief to Greer. Additional study was requested to modify this scenario.
- Option B2 provided adequate relief at Greer amongst other positives, so it was requested to be discussed further.

To recap – we will discuss further option B2 and C at the next meeting. Survey results will be shared as soon as it's complete. The findings can influence any of those scenarios to be reconsidered. If committee members have any additional thoughts/questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Rosalyn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Next Meeting:

The final meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 27th at 6:00 PM in the Media Center of Agnor Hurt Elementary School. Topic will include: finalizing the committee's recommendation for Dr. Moran.

Minutes Submitted by Jennifer Eddins