

**CCPS Redistricting and School Closing Committee
Public Hearing at South Carroll High School**

Meeting Minutes—(Approved 6/14/18)

May 31, 2018 (6pm)

Committee Members Present:	Dr. David Lever, Michael Hardesty, Denise Beaver, Christina McGann, Erin Yeagley, Vaughn Paylor, Margaret Pfaff, Jon Weetman, Rita Misra, and Robert McCarthy
Recording Secretary:	Michael Hardesty (live at meeting)/Kim Gold (from recording)

Dr. Lever welcomed the community to the meeting. He explained why the committee was created by the Board of Education. The objective of this committee is to develop a plan (given broad criteria) to provide recommendations to the board in September. There have been four meetings of this committee and one public hearing at the end of April at Winters Mill High School. At this point the only decisions that have been made are procedural ones for the committee. The RSCC committee does not have the authority to supersede the county government's decisions with respect to already closed schools. Any questions or comments on those schools should be directed to the county government. Dr. Lever then briefly discussed current growth trends in the county and projections for the coming years, the utilization percentages of schools at a county-wide level, and the average-facility age county-wide. He then asked for the community members to come forward and share their comments for up to three minutes and the committee will listen and take notes regarding the issues but will not make any comments.

Stephanie Alderson

Freedom Elem. parent with future attendance to Liberty High (LHS). Chose neighborhood due to proximity to LHS. Remember the children – families still hurting in North Carroll High communities. Represent communities. Why is redistricting and closures still an option? What hasn't been fixed? What is the problem we are trying to solve? Look at county-wide data, differences in districts, e.g. south county vs. north county; look at developments, and district specific information. Will real estate data be assessed? Use 5 year enrollment data, 10 year data is not accurate and shouldn't be weighted as high as 5 year data.

Patrick Rockinberg (Mayor, Mt. Airy)

Thanks for pausing in the process. Please look at the broader picture of economic development. Mt. Airy was #1 in county growth in 1997. The same homes will be re-populated again. Brittany Manor and Greentree communities will see growth. The downtown master plan is a model for development and will strengthen the tax base. Any school closure will trigger the adequate public facility ordinance restrictions and will shut down growth. Challedon, Falling Green, Dove's Landing contribute greatly to the town's growth. Mt. Airy is in a unique location and situation. To further divide the town through redistricting will hurt the area. There is no unifying high school. Model elementary model with Parr's Ridge/ Mt. Airy Elementary, which serve as social centers of the community (see document attached for more detail)

Jen Weitzel

Mt. Airy resident. Thanked the committee and agreed with prior comments. Mt. Airy is an attractive location with a small town charm. The k-2/ 3-5 elementary grade model works well. Referred to the BAC's recommendation to close Mt. Airy Elem. – part of town would be outside the MAE boundary splitting the community. Urged for a comprehensive approach and to look at future growth areas. Keep children in their communities. Proceed with caution. We have a long history of overcrowded schools. There are new developments in the pipeline. Birth rates are increasing, housing sales are up, universal pre-k is on the way, and there is growth in the special education population. Does not want to see portable classrooms again. Students benefit by attending schools close to their home- reduced ride time. There's a long list of capital needs that needs to be prioritized with new funds. Clean up the feeder patterns. Do a cost/ benefit analysis and look at all options.

Bill Butts

Resident of Mt. Airy, member of the Town Planning Commission, and a former educator. Long term vision and strategic planning are needed to spur economic growth. Carroll County is in a similar position to Mt. Airy currently. We lack numbers. Hindsight shows Mr. Airy was fastest growing community in the 1990s and early 2000s. We now have a problem of backfilling the school capacity built. Birthrates are now increasing which will lead to more enrollment. The cost of housing prevents some households from moving into the county. A consent decree by the Md. Dept. of Environment caused cutbacks in Mt. Airy development. This is a county-wide issue. Must maintain capacity where public infrastructure exists. Keep younger children in their communities. 2/3 of residents commute out of the county and they enjoy the quality of schools. Changes in school boundaries and bus routes make for longer bus ride times. Look at other national models and look at options other than bricks and mortar. Suicide to close schools where population growth can be expected. Adequate public facilities plan – Md. Dept. of Planning good source of information. Cutting school capacity will kill future growth. Tax revenue: Direct relationship with potential for future growth; outlying county areas with ability

to grow will send revenues to Westminster. Consider bigger picture. Use a pragmatic approach.

Robert Bodner

Woodbine resident—part of the Linton Springs/Sykesville Middle/Century High School districts. Please consider families who don't want children separated (concern that older sibling attends CHS with younger sibling possibly being redistricted to a different high school).

Mary Dupin

Mt. Airy resident, South Carroll High School parent, candidate for School Board. Use sound educational practice, considering the impact on academics and children's social needs in making recommendations. She has visited every school site in Carroll County and she wants to make sure that the sub-committee on grade reconfiguration acknowledges the preference for current 6-8 grade middle school model.

Raymond Littleton

Has a child currently in Winfield Elementary and will has a couple of other younger children who will also go to this school. Came to Carroll due to school districts. Overcrowded conditions in Baltimore County. Left environment of crowded classrooms. Lower class sizes are important. Daughter doing well at Winfield with the smaller class sizes, but she's a kindergarten student in a classroom designed for 2nd grade. Thanked teachers.

Jill Magen-Ferare

Mt. Airy resident, has a Parr's Ridge Elementary student. Land planner by profession. Surprised Mt. Airy Elem. was on closure list in prior BAC recommendations. Doesn't seem like a dying community--8 kindergarten classes this year. Currently projecting enrollment increases. Children are at the heart of community. Mt. Airy a unique geographic area. Bedroom community between Baltimore, D.C. and Frederick. Mt. Airy area is an economic driver for Carroll County. Closing an elementary school would be a dagger in the heart of the community.

Amy Bomieh

Eldersburg resident and wants to echo all the comments made by the Mt. Airy speakers. Moved from Howard County 4 years ago where they were redistricted three times. Sense of community is important. \$, facilities, teachers leaving for other jobs. Great teachers here—here for the students. Closing schools + redistricting = loss of more residents and teachers.

Kim Mulholland

Liberty High parent--2 current students and one recent graduate. From New England area. Younger children more adaptable, tougher for older children to adjust to different high school. Keep LHS open. Good success there. Use portables if necessary – the 3 high schools in the area are close to full capacity.

Dr. Lever thanked everyone for coming and reiterated that all comments will be taken into consideration by the committee as they work to make their recommendations to the board in September.