


Dr. Boyd J. Michael, III
Superintendent of Schools

TO: Board of Education Members

FROM: Boyd J. Michael, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools 

DATE: March 19, 2019

REFERENCE: **Report to the Washington County Board of Education
from the Superintendent of Schools – Recommendations for a
New Sharpsburg Elementary Attendance Zone**

Introduction:

At its April 3, 2018, public business meeting, the Washington County Board of Education (the "Board") issued a Charge to its Facilities and Enrollment Advisory Committee (FEAC) to "develop a new attendance zone for the anticipated opening of the Sharpsburg Elementary Replacement School which includes recommendations for long-term enrollment relief at Boonsboro Elementary School and other adjacent schools as needed."

The Work of the FEAC:

In order to discharge its responsibilities for this part of the Charge, the FEAC met six (6) times over 10 months, reviewed eight (8) possible attendance zone realignments for Washington County Public Schools (WCPS), and presented a progress report to the Board on November 13, 2018. Following the November 13, 2018, presentation, the FEAC met on December 12, 2018, and reached unanimous consensus to recommend three (3) attendance zone realignments. The FEAC presented their recommendations to the Board on February 19, 2019.

I have carefully reviewed the document provided by the FEAC entitled, "Recommendations for a New Sharpsburg Elementary Attendance Zone." The FEAC members reviewed each of the required factors set forth in Board Policy JCA and followed the Charge provided by the Board.

I have set forth below, the comments and the rationale provided by FEAC in support of their recommendations.

	RECOMMENDATION	COMMENTS
1.	<p><i>Boundary realignment for the Boonsboro Elementary and Sharpsburg Elementary attendance zones Effective 2020-2021 School Year</i></p> <p>Establish a new Sharpsburg Elementary attendance zone by reassigning a western portion of the Boonsboro Elementary attendance zone as defined by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the existing Sharpsburg Elementary attendance zone to the west; ▪ properties to the north of Hardwood Lane to the north; ▪ properties to the east of Hardwood Lane and Coffman Farms Lane to the east, and; ▪ Shepherdstown Pike (MD 34) to the south. <p><i>Recommended by the FEAC 12-12-18</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reassigns approximately 11 K-5 Boonsboro Elementary students to Sharpsburg Elementary. • Reduces enrollment at Boonsboro Elementary from 122% of SRC in 2021 to an estimated 100% of SRC in 2021 in conjunction with Recommendation #2. • Free and Reduced Meal student rate at Boonsboro Elementary projected to change from 15.4% in 2017 to an anticipated 16.7% in 2021 in conjunction with Recommendation #2. • Enrollment at Sharpsburg Elementary projected to increase from 61% of SRC in 2021 to an estimated 89% of SRC in 2021 in conjunction with Recommendation #2 and Recommendation #3. • Free and Reduced Meal student rate at Sharpsburg Elementary projected to change from 34.4% in 2017 to an anticipated 26.0% in 2021 in conjunction with Recommendation #2 and Recommendation #3.

	RECOMMENDATION	COMMENTS
2.	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Boundary realignment for the Boonsboro Elementary and Sharpsburg Elementary attendance zones Effective 2020-2021 School Year</i></p> <p>Establish a new Sharpsburg Elementary attendance zone by reassigning a western portion of the Boonsboro Elementary attendance zone (the Town of Keedysville) as defined by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shepherdstown Pike (MD 34) to the west and the north; ▪ properties to the east of Main Street, Mount Hebron Road, Hoot Owl Court, Antietam Drive, Stonecrest Drive, and Turkey Tract Place to the east, and; ▪ the existing Sharpsburg Elementary attendance zone to the south. <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Recommended by the FEAC 12-12-18</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reassigns approximately 101 K-5 Boonsboro Elementary students to Sharpsburg Elementary. • Reduces enrollment at Boonsboro Elementary from 122% of SRC in 2021 to an estimated 100% of SRC in 2021 in conjunction with Recommendation #1. • Free and Reduced Meal student rate at Boonsboro Elementary projected to change from 15.4% in 2017 to an anticipated 16.7% in 2021 in conjunction with Recommendation #1. • Enrollment at Sharpsburg Elementary projected to increase from 61% of SRC in 2021 to an estimated 89% of SRC in 2021 in conjunction with Recommendation #1 and Recommendation #3. • Free and Reduced Meal student rate at Sharpsburg Elementary projected to change from 34.4% in 2017 to an anticipated 26.0% in 2021 in conjunction with Recommendation #1 and Recommendation #3.

	RECOMMENDATION	COMMENTS
3.	<p><i>Boundary realignment for the Pleasant Valley Elementary and Sharpsburg Elementary attendance zones Effective 2020-2021 School Year</i></p> <p>Establish a new Sharpsburg Elementary attendance zone by reassigning a western portion of the Pleasant Valley Elementary attendance zone as defined by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the existing Sharpsburg Elementary attendance zone to the west; ▪ properties to the north of the intersection of Nick Lane and Chestnut Grove Road to the north; ▪ properties to the east of Chestnut Grove Road, Solomons Gap Lane, Bobcat Ridge Lane, and Rocky Road to the east, and; ▪ the existing Sharpsburg Elementary attendance zone to the south. <p><i>Recommended by the FEAC 12-12-18</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reassigns approximately 18 K-5 Pleasant Valley Elementary students to Sharpsburg Elementary. • Reduces enrollment at Pleasant Valley Elementary from 109% of SRC in 2021 to an estimated 100% of SRC in 2021. • Free and Reduced Meal student rate at Pleasant Valley Elementary projected to change from 26.8% in 2017 to an anticipated 28.2% in 2021. • Enrollment at Sharpsburg Elementary projected to increase from 61% of SRC in 2021 to an estimated 89% of SRC in 2021 in conjunction with Recommendation #1 and Recommendation #2. • Free and Reduced Meal student rate at Sharpsburg Elementary projected to change from 34.4% in 2017 to an anticipated 26.0% in 2021 in conjunction with Recommendation #1 and Recommendation #2.

Superintendent's Report:

I am pleased to accept the Report provided by the FEAC. I fully endorse the Report and FEAC's recommendations #1 through #3 listed below. It is imperative that WCPS provide our students with the very best learning environment. The assignment of students from schools that are over-enrolled to a school that will have available enrollment capacity allows for an improved teacher-to-student ratio and may provide opportunities for future pre-kindergarten program expansion. Such action will benefit our students.

- Boundary Realignment Recommendation #1: Reassign approximately 11 K-5 students from the Boonsboro Elementary attendance zone to become part of the new Sharpsburg Elementary attendance zone. This realignment is recommended to take effect at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year and in conjunction with the opening of the new Sharpsburg Elementary.
- Boundary Realignment Recommendation #2: Reassign approximately 101 K-5 students from the Boonsboro Elementary attendance zone to become part of the new Sharpsburg Elementary attendance zone. This realignment is recommended to take effect at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year and in conjunction with the opening of the new Sharpsburg Elementary.
- Boundary Realignment Recommendation #3: Reassign approximately 18 K-5 students from the Pleasant Valley Elementary attendance zone to become part of the new Sharpsburg Elementary attendance zone. This realignment is recommended to take effect at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year and in conjunction with the opening of the new Sharpsburg Elementary.

Superintendent's Request of the Board:

The next step in the process is to arrange for the dissemination of a hard copy of the Superintendent's Report and the FEAC's Report to the schools affected by the proposed changes in the attendance zones (Boonsboro Elementary, Pleasant Valley Elementary, and Sharpsburg Elementary) and to direct principals to make the reports available to parents, students, and community members for their review. Additionally, I will request the Communications Officer to use available electronic means to provide access to the reports as well. The Communications Officer will additionally use the local newspaper, social media, WCPS' website, and other means to provide public notice of these proposed changes.

A public hearing needs to be scheduled by the Board to receive comments from parents and residents with respect to this report and the FEAC's Report. Board Policy Regulation JCA-R requires that the Board vote for any change in attendance area(s) to

be made and announced at least ninety (90) days prior to the effective date of implementation. In order to provide affected students and residents sufficient time to prepare for any potential changes, I am proposing the following schedule for your consideration for both the public hearing and potential vote on the recommendations:

Public Hearing

Date: April 16, 2019
 Time: 6:00 p.m. (Policy KD paragraph (C)(2) provides for 2 ½ hours; the hearing can end sooner if all speakers are provided with an opportunity to speak)
 Location: Boonsboro Middle School Auditorium
 1 J-H Wade Drive
 Boonsboro, Maryland 21713

Vote of the Board on Realignment Recommendations

Date: May 7, 2019
 Time: 6:00 p.m.
 Location: Center for Education Services Auditorium
 10435 Downsville Pike
 Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

Closing:

I commend the members of the FEAC that volunteered many hours to this process without compensation. Their dedication of time and effort to this important process is greatly appreciated. I also want to thank the Board for their input into the process to this point and I look forward to working with you as the process proceeds.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or if you are in need of any assistance.

Copy: Members of FEAC

Dr. April Bishop, Deputy Superintendent
 Dr. Peggy Pugh, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
 Mr. Jeffrey Proulx, Chief Operating Officer
 Mr. Robert Rollins, Director of Facilities Planning and Development
 Mr. Chad Criswell, Senior Project Manager and Planning Supervisor
 Dr. Jana Palmer, Executive Director of Elementary Education and Early Learning
 Dr. Richard Akers, Executive Director of Secondary Education and Student Services
 Ms. Erin Anderson, Communications Officer