

1. WES PTA has:

- Attended both Spring BCPS meetings on this issue
- Conducted a survey of its members on these issues including overcrowding and sent results to BCPS
- Created a WES PTA position memo on this issue and sent it to appropriate people
- Appointed a BCPS 10 year Liaison to monitor the situation
- Met with the SW Advisory Chairperson for BCPS
- Will be attending the special meeting regarding this issue with Dr. Dance in late August
- Will be attending the Fall Stakeholders meetings that BCPS will conduct later this Fall

Regarding the meeting with the SW Advisory Chairperson for BCPS; several members of the PTA Board, as well as the 10-year BCPS Plan Liaison, met with Beverly Coleman, Chairwoman of the SW Education Advisory Council, this past week. WES PTA met with Ms. Coleman to better understand our advocacy role in terms of the 10-year plan. Ms. Coleman is the liaison between the community in the SW area of Baltimore County and the BCPS Board of Education. Ms. Coleman provided us with valuable information about the SW Advisory Council as a whole, as well as answered specific inquiries about the overcrowding issue and the BCPS 10 year plan for the SW Area. Regarding the overcrowding, Ms. Coleman confirmed that no decisions have been made and the plan remains that proposed solutions would be addressed at the fall BCPS Stakeholder Input meeting(s). BCPS has used the summer to review all proposed sites in order to provide us with solutions that will address the overcrowding. She stated that it is also important to remember that the 10-year plan includes many other capital projects for the area such as air conditioning, parking lots and general maintenance. Because of this, the proposed timeline is necessary for the school system to truly evaluate the needs of all schools in the area before it can give us actual proposals. Ms. Coleman also wanted parents to remember that the entire SW area is being taken into consideration, not just Catonsville - all communities will be given due consideration. The 10 year plan has to address not only **overcrowding in some areas but also under-used schools in other communities**. She reminded us that BCPS and the Board of Education value our input but the final say will be made by the Board of Education. She stressed that as with any community, when a new school (such as the planned Catonsville area elementary school) is built to address overcrowding then naturally a certain amount of redistricting will follow. You cannot have one without the other. Ms. Coleman suggested that input from both WES PTA and WES parents as individuals would be the best way to show BCPS that we are

interested and want to be involved in the 10 year plan. Therefore, WES PTA encourages parents to get involved. Listed below are ways that YOU can become involved:

1. Email the Board of Education with your concerns. It is now possible to email the Board of Education directly, and our Representative, Michael Bowler by visiting the Board's page at <http://www.bcps.org/board/> and hitting "contact us"

2. Community Meetings: Dr. Dance will be attending the SW Advisory Council's community forum on 9/19 at Lansdowne High School. While the meeting is centered on the Common Core Standards, this is an opportunity to address Dr. Dance directly regarding all happenings in the SW Area, including the overcrowding issue. Visit this website for this and additional meeting dates and times - http://www.bcps.org/community/edu_advisory_council/Southwest.html

3. Contact Beverly Coleman at coleman.beverly@gmail.com to get added to the SW Advisory Council's Google Group: Southwest Area Overcrowding Group.

4. Continue to check the BCPS Construction site for new information about the 10-year plan including community forum dates and times

<http://www.bcps.org/construction/southwest/>

5. Keep up to speed at these websites:

<http://deliberateexcellence.wordpress.com/2013/05/>

<http://www.bcps.org/construction/LongTermPlanning/>

6. BCPS accepting nominations for inaugural Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council at <http://www.bcps.org/news/articles/article4333.html> Deadline is September 6th.