

## WES PTA Update on BCPS 10 year plan for the SW Area

Several members of the Catonsville community including parents, administration and PTA board members met with Dr. Dance and Baltimore County officials on September 17<sup>th</sup>, as an ongoing attempt to engage the community in the feedback process regarding the 10-year plan. Below, please find information from that meeting.

The field assessment of the SW area schools is complete. A set of criteria was determined by the consulting group GWWO, BCPS leadership and county officials and resulted in a scoring process that helped determine feasibility of proposed sites. All buildings and proposed site solutions were given a weighted score based on various attributes including physical condition, functional use, net seat gain and funding.

Based on this scoring, the county proposes the following four-part solution, listed in no particular order, to be pursued in the same time frame (estimated completion - Fall of 2016):

1. Replace Westowne ES with a new 700-seat school on the same site. The new school will be built while the old school remains operational. The old school will then be demolished and that site used for school grounds.  
Estimated net seats: 197
2. Build a 200-seat addition to Westchester ES and enhance core facilities such as cafeteria and gym to accommodate growth.  
Estimated net seats: 201
3. Replace Relay ES with a 700-seat school on same site. The new school will be built while the old school remains operational. Then old school will then be demolished and that site used for school grounds.  
Estimated net seats: 295
4. Replace Catonsville ES with a 700-seat new school built either on the current school grounds or at the Bloomsbury recreational site. The county needs an additional 4-6 weeks to determine feasibility of each site taking into consideration the current facilities places on the historic registry.  
Estimated net seats: 295

The estimated cost of this project is \$70 million dollars and is being proposed to be included in the FY2015 budget, allowing construction to be completed around fall 2016. BCPS has received support from Baltimore County. Support from the community and advocating to the state level is encouraged to help secure funding at that level. A community meeting is set to occur in late October.

The plan is for redistricting to occur all at one time, once the proposals have been approved. Redistricting is done by special committee that consists of a consulting firm hired by BCPS and a group of stakeholders. Redistricting is a public process that involves community input.

Current policy reads that 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be grandfathered in to their current school. BCPS is pushing to include 4<sup>th</sup> grade students as well. As to whether families that include younger siblings will be included in this is to be determined during the redistricting process. Additional Information on redistricting can be found at <http://www.cropperGIS.com/redistricting.html>

BCPS and Dr. Dance both stressed that the Catonsville Middle School will not be moved due to the fact that there can be no state funding for such a project for the next 14 years and also because having 2 elementary schools next to each other causes very disruptive redistricting at the elementary school level. Any middle and high school redistricting that will occur in this area will be addressed in the 10-year plan. Input on this subject will begin starting next year with the redistricting committee.

You are encouraged to contact BCPS and Dr. Dance directly to provide feedback on this proposed plan. [ddance@bcps.org](mailto:ddance@bcps.org). Additionally, please visit <http://www.bcps.org/construction/southwest/> for updated information regarding the 10-year plan. It is important to note, that Dr. Dance reads all emails received. Questions are grouped according to trends and are answered in an FAQ format. It is also important to note that any rumor and innuendo will not be addressed by BCPS. Any information that is not discussed on the website can be considered rumor and can be disregarded.