

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Verletta White ♦ Interim Superintendent ♦ 6901 North Charles Street ♦ Towson, MD ♦ 21204

November 5, 2018

Dear Dogwood Elementary School Families:

To provide capacity relief to Dogwood Elementary School, a boundary study will be conducted to explore potential new boundaries for Dogwood Elementary School and Featherbed Lane Elementary School. The boundary process will start in January of 2019 and a recommendation will be presented to the Board of Education for a decision in June 2019.

The boundary study committee will be identified this November and will convene in January 2019. Between January and April, the group will meet seven times, including hosting a public information meeting in February to share the group's work, talk with community members, and gather information. In May and June 2019, the Board of Education will consider and take action on the committee's recommendation, including holding a public hearing.

How can I get involved in the boundary study process?

- Let your principal know that you are interested in serving on the boundary study committee (contact your principal to express your interest no later than November 23, 2018).
- Participation is limited; schools may not be able to accommodate all requests.
- Committee members are asked to commit to serving the interests of *all* students and schools involved.
- A significant time commitment is required of all committee members.
- Starting in January, watch boundary study committee meetings online (live and recorded).
- Attend and observe boundary study committee meetings (meetings are open to the public; but participating in committee activities is limited to committee members).
- Attend the public information session in February to review the committee's draft recommendations and talk with staff and committee members about boundary change considerations.
- Participate in the online survey beginning in February to provide input on the committee's draft recommendations.
- Attend Board of Education meetings and participate in general public comment.
- E-mail the Board of Education and the boundary study committee to offer input.
- Attend the Board of Education's public hearing specific to the boundary change decision (in May).

Who serves on the boundary study committee and what is their role?

- The boundary study committee is appointed by the superintendent with input and recommendations from the community superintendent, executive director, and school principals. The committee has equal representation from all involved schools and is limited in size to one teacher and two representatives (parents and/or others from the

school community) from each school. Principals serve as nonvoting members and provide information to support the process.

- Committee members are asked to focus on the interests of all children that will be affected by the boundary process and to resist representing their personal interests.
- Members commit to attending four meetings. They spend time in and outside of meetings carefully considering information and providing relevant insight about the community.
- Members attend the community public information session to help explain the committee's work and engage in conversations about boundary change considerations.

Parents or teachers interested in participating on the committee should:

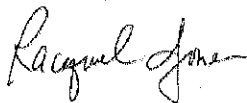
- Have interest in reviewing highly-detailed information.
- Be certain of their ability to commit to all meetings
- Demonstrate their care for our students across the region – and not simply advocate for their own community or family.

This information, along with Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), is posted on the BCPS Web site under the “What’s Happening” section (<http://www.bcps.org/construction/DogwoodES/>). This site will be updated throughout the boundary change process with new information, so please refer to it often.

To learn more about the boundary study committee, please contact your principal no later than November 23, 2018. Please remember, BCPS provides many ways to stay informed and to advocate for specific concerns as part of the overall process.

Thank you so much for sharing the school year with us.

Sincerely,



Dr. Raquel Jones
Community Superintendent
West Zone

af/kc

Copies to:

Ms. Verletta White, Interim Superintendent

Ms. Johari Toe, Principal, Dogwood Elementary School

Ms. Renee Johnson, Principal, Featherbed Elementary School