

CMS 2010-11 School Boundary Options Public Engagement Meeting

New Bailey Road High School New Stumptown Road Elementary

**Meeting held at
Hopewell High
March 31, 2009**

Purpose: to obtain meaningful feedback from parents and community residents on boundary options. CMS staff will present boundary options and the reasoning behind the options; listen and record input; answer questions, and clarify questions about boundaries. Parents and community residents will share perspectives, ideas and reactions to the boundary options.

Discussion: boundary options for-

- new Bailey Road high school, opening 2010-2011 school year
 - Schools possibly impacted: Hopewell, North Mecklenburg, West Charlotte High
- new Stumptown Road elementary, opening 2010-2011 school year
 - Schools possibly impacted: Torrence Creek, JV Washam

CMS Personnel Present:

Scott McCully, executive director, Planning Services & Student Placement
Christine Hamlett, planning specialist, Planning Services
Jennifer Dean, planning specialist, Planning Services
Dr. Monique Gardner-Witherspoon, area superintendent, North Learning Community
North Learning Community staff
Dennis LaCaria, planning specialist, Planning & Real Estate Development
Dr. Louise Jones, principal, Hopewell High School
Penni Beth Crisp, principal, Torrence Creek Elementary School

Attendance: approximately 80

Welcome: Scott McCully opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and expressing appreciation for their participation in the boundary process. A special word of thanks was expressed to Mayor Jeff Tarte of Cornelius, Mayor John Woods of Davidson, and Mayor Jill Swain of Huntersville for meeting with him prior to the public engagement process to get their input on the new boundary options. Appreciation was expressed to Dr. Louise Jones and the Hopewell High staff for their hospitality and assistance with the meeting.

Each person attending received an informational brochure that includes contact information and the website address for the CMS Planning Department, a boundary workshop FAQ (frequently asked questions), maps of 3 boundary options for each new school and demographic datasheets for each option. Each table received a worksheet to be completed by small groups and turned in at the conclusion of the meeting.

The boundary process for new schools opening in 2010-11 is somewhat ahead of schedule. An early start is warranted because 2 of the schools are high schools. High school boundaries are more involved and the process normally takes longer to complete. At this time, we do anticipate that the high schools will open on schedule; that financial conditions will not affect them. However, opening of the elementary schools has been pushed back to 2011-12 because of finances. (Boundary development for all schools will continue.)

A PowerPoint presentation explained the boundary options as shown by the maps provided. It was stressed that the maps are options, not proposals. The maps and datasheets are provided as a starting point for discussions/options. Maps of current school boundaries and how schools feed into the next grade level school were included in the presentation. When viewing the maps, dots indicate current CMS students, colored lines are current boundaries and shaded areas are new school boundary options. Tables include current school year data, 2010-11 data, and demographics for each school after the boundary option change is applied.

Several questions were asked to clarify boundary options and to help understand the maps. Feedback given at public input meetings will be evaluated and incorporated into updated boundary options as appropriate. These options will then be posted on the Planning Services Department website for public viewing. Anyone wishing to do so may submit comments/input by email to planning@cms.k12.nc.us

This is the second meeting to receive public input on the school boundaries for the new north area schools. The first meeting was held on March 19th at North Meck High School.

Parents and community members present were asked to share what matters most to them when boundaries are created; what are the most important considerations. Answers included:

- creating a community school
- students' proximity to closest school
- reducing overcrowding
- keep neighborhoods together
- continuation in feeder patterns
- equality between all schools impacted
- don't overburden one school with socio-economically disadvantaged children

Several questions were asked....

Q- Why is a school not considered full at 100% capacity instead of 133% capacity?

A- For middle and high school, 133% is using a building to its fullest capacity. Teachers in secondary schools have a planning period in which their classroom is empty. Other teachers have no permanent classroom – they “float.” Schedules are made so that all rooms are utilized every hour of the day, thus giving the 133% use capacity.

Q- Do rising seniors have to go to the new school?

A- No, rising seniors remain at their current schools. There is no 12th grade at the new high school during its first year. However, data presented tonight includes a count for 12th grade. This gives more accurate data when looking at population projections.

Q- Do any middle school boundaries change in these options?

A- No, we have no plans to change middle school boundaries.

Q- Explain how you get growth figures.

A- Historical data in the area is researched and used to project growth in population.

Q- Will the new Bailey high school open in 2010-11?

A- Yes, funding is already set aside for this school and it will open on schedule. It will not be used as swing space.

Q- Why do you use 20th day enrollment numbers instead of today's count?

A- 20th day data is the official student count for the school year. To have consistency in data being studied, the 20th day data is always used.

Q- There are rumors that the Northstone subdivision will be assigned to Alexander Middle beginning in 2010-11. Is this true?

A- No, Alexander has a projected student population of 650 students for that school year. There is no room to add more students. CMS is looking to renovate or replace that building, so no assignment changes have been proposed.

Q- Does capacity utilization on the charts reflect new classrooms being built at North Mecklenburg?

A- Yes.

Participants were then asked to review the 3 options for each school individually and discuss the options with their table/group. Planning Services staff was available to answer questions and discuss options with individuals and small groups as needed. Participants were encouraged to provide feedback by completing their individual comment card. (Parents wishing to receive emailed updates of the boundary process were asked to include their email address on the comment card.) Each small group submitted their worksheet sharing input on the boundary options.

The process timeline was shared —

- Public engagement meetings for all new schools opening in 2010-11 are being held during March and April.
- May 12th - Boundary recommendations report is presented to the School Board
- June 9th – Public hearing and School Board vote