

CMS 2010-11 School Boundary Options Public Engagement Meeting

New Johnston Oehler Road Elementary

**Meeting held at
Highland Creek Elementary School
April 13, 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 Johnston Oehler Road elementary school, opening 2010-2011 school year
 - Schools possibly impacted: Highland Creek, Mallard Creek, David Cox Rd. Elementary Schools

CMS Personnel Present:

Scott McCully, executive director, Planning Services & Student Placement
Christine Hamlett, planning specialist, Planning Services
Jennifer Dean, planning specialist, Planning Services
Rev. Tom Tate, School Board Member, District 4
Larry Gauvreau, School Board Member, District 1
Kaye McGarry, School Board Member, Vice-Chairperson, At-Large
Scott Muri, area superintendent, Northeast Learning Community
Kim Alexander, assistant Principal, Highland Creek
Heidi Copeland, assistant Principal, Highland Creek

Attendance: approximately 175

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 the administration and custodial staff at Highland Creek Elementary for their hospitality and assistance in getting ready for the meeting.

Each person attending received an informational brochure, a boundary workshop FAQ (frequently asked questions), maps of 3 boundary options for the 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 new Johnston Oehler Road elementary school was originally scheduled to open for the 2010-11 school year. The opening has now been pushed back at least one year because of financial situations. It could open for the 2011-12 school year so we are going ahead with public input meetings for the boundary. However, the boundary recommendation to the School Board may be delayed until next year because of the construction delay. This will give more time to gather information for creating the boundary.

A PowerPoint presentation explained the boundary options as shown by the maps provided. It was stressed that the maps are options, not proposals or scenarios. The maps and datasheets are provided as a starting point for discussions/options. 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 also submit comments/input by email to planning@cms.k12.nc.us

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:

- keeping communities together
- safety in the schools
- diversity
- High Creek community kept together
- minimize student travel time
- residential property value
- student achievement
- consistency
- keeping families together
- minimize mobiles
- fulfilling the core beliefs & mission statement as posted on the CMS website

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 are held during March and April. The next meeting for the new Johnston Oehler Rd elementary school will be held on April 23rd at Highland Creek Elementary.
- May 12th - Boundary recommendations report is presented to the School Board
- June 9th – Public hearing and School Board vote (note: the recommendation for the new Johnston Oehler Road elementary school may not be included in this year's recommendations and vote – it may be pushed back one year because of construction delays.)

Several questions were address before the participants broke up into small groups. Please see below:

Question: Do students who have transferred or choiced into Highland Creek get to stay here?

Answer: Yes, boundary changes do not affect students assigned to the school in those ways.

Question: How do you choose in?

Answer: Through the lottery, but it is mainly for assignments to magnet schools and schools with space so there should not be any students who choiced into Highland Creek. Transfers are granted for child of staff, medical reasons or hardship cases.

Question: Where is the school?

Answer: On Johnston Oehler Road next to Mallard Creek High School. The land is already purchased.

Question: Why is David Cox Road Elementary shown as impacted on boundary option 3 but not on the others?

Answer: Only this one discussion option affects the David Cox Road Elementary boundary. This school needs some relief also.

Question: Is boundary option 2 realistic? Two schools are only at 64/65 percent capacity.

Answer: As with the others, this option is just a starting point for discussion.

Question: How do you calculate growth?

Answer: We use past and current student enrollment history to project future enrollment.

Question: On most of the options, the Mallard Creek Elementary utilization is low. Do you expect it to grow to 100% in the near future?

Answer: There will be some growth, but we do not expect the school to be at 100% anytime soon.

Question: What indicates the new Ridge Road middle school boundary on the map?

Answer: Their attendance area encompasses all of Highland Creek and Mallard Creek, and a large portion of David Cox Road Elementary. It is indicated by the blue line on the map.

Question: Why did you bypass the Croft Community School attendance area – why were they not considered in the options?

Answer: Croft Community school opened in 2008 to help to relieve the overcrowding at David Cox Road and Mallard Creek elementary. The current building utilization is able to accommodate for future growth.

Question: What is the utilization of Croft Community School?

Answer: We will have to look that up. (Answer: 80% Building Utilization)

Question: Why is there no option to keep the Highland Creek neighborhoods together?

Answer: That would put Highland Creek Elementary at/over 100% capacity with no room for growth.