

# **CMS 2010-11 School Boundary Options Public Engagement Meeting**

## **New Mint Hill High School New Robinson Church Road Elementary**

**Meeting held at  
Butler High  
April 2, 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- (2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting for new Mint Hill high and new Robinson Church Road elementary)

- new Mint Hill high school, opening 2010-2011 school year
  - Schools possibly impacted: Butler, Independence, East Mecklenburg High
- new Robinson Church Road elementary, opening 2010-2011 school year
  - Schools possibly impacted: Hickory Grove, JH Gunn, Windsor Park Elementary

CMS Personnel Present:

Scott McCully, executive director, Planning Services & Student Placement  
Jennifer Dean, planning specialist, Planning Services  
Christine Hamlett, planning specialist, Planning Services  
Dennis LaCaria, planning specialist, Facilities Planning & Real Estate Development  
Nancy Bartles, area superintendent, East Learning Community  
Carol Owen and other East Learning Community staff  
Ken Gjertsen, CMS School Board Member, District 6  
Theresa Hopkins, principal, Butler High  
Andrew Brooks, assistant principal, Butler High

Attendance: approximately 200

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 Mint Hill and Matthews town staffs for their help in providing planning information from the towns.

Each person attending received an informational brochure, a boundary workshop FAQ (frequently asked questions), maps of 3 boundary options for the “new Robinson Church Road” elementary school and 5 boundary options for the “new Mint Hill” high school. Each option included demographic datasheets. Each table received a worksheet to be completed by small groups and turned in at the conclusion of the meeting.

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. Several questions were asked to clarify boundary options and to help understand the maps. Feedback provided by participants will be evaluated and incorporated into updated boundary options as appropriate. These options, in addition to at least one community option will 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](mailto: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:

- Town boundaries
- Community schools
- Allow high growth areas to grow
- Middle school feeders
- Have equal free reduced lunch percentages for schools in same area
- School capacity
- Stability in elementary, middle and high school feeder pattern
- Don't divide towns into three high schools
- Minimize commute time
- Keep siblings together

Several questions were asked....

**Question:** Why is a school not considered full at 100% capacity instead of 133% capacity?

**Answer:** 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.

**Question:** Do the enrollment numbers on the demographic sheets include 12<sup>th</sup> graders?

**Answer:** Yes, to reflect the total enrollment of new high schools, 12<sup>th</sup> grade is included in enrollment figures. However, during the first year new high schools do not have a 12<sup>th</sup> grade class. Twelfth graders remain at their current high school.

**Question:** Can you explain how to read the school splits? For example, Crown Point elementary on the maps states Crown Point (East) and Crown Point (West).

**Answer:** Currently, the Crown Point elementary school boundaries feed into two high schools. Crown Point (East of Williams Rd) attends Butler high and Crown Point (West of Williams Rd) attends East Mecklenburg high school.

**Question:** Are you splitting families, can you explain the sibling guarantee?

**Answer:** The past practice has been that there has not been a senior class at the new school for the first year of operation – seniors stay at their current assigned school. Furthermore, younger siblings are assigned to the new school; there is not a sibling guarantee to remain at the current school with the rising senior sibling.

Participants then reviewed the options for each school individually and discussed 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 table worksheet. Those wishing to receive emailed updates of the boundary process were asked to include their email address on the comment card provided.

The process timeline was shared --

- Public engagement meetings are held during March and April. The next meeting for these new schools will be on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at Butler High School.
- May 12<sup>th</sup> - Boundary recommendations report is presented to the School Board
- June 9<sup>th</sup> – Public hearing and School Board vote