

# **CMS 2009-2010 School Boundary Options Public Engagement Meeting Southwest Region**

**Lake Wylie Elementary  
September 30, 2008**

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, answers questions and clarify boundaries. Parents and community residents will share perspectives, ideas and reactions to the boundary options.

Discussion: boundary options for-

- new Youngblood/Steele Creek Road, opening 2009-2010 school year and York Road/Red Fez Club Road Elementary, opening 2010-2011 school year
  - Schools possibly impacted: Lake Wylie and Winget Park elementary schools
- new Dixie River Road, opening 2009-2010 school year
  - Schools possibly impacted: Berryhill and Steele Creek elementary
- new Belmeade Middle, opening 2009-2010 school year
  - Schools possibly impacted: Coulwood, Sedgefield, Wilson and Kennedy middle schools

CMS Personnel Present:

Scott McCully, Executive Director, Planning Services & Student Placement  
Dr. Elva Cooper, Area Superintendent, West Learning Community  
Tom Tate, District 4, School Board Member  
Acquanetta Edmond, Principal, Lake Wylie  
Gina Smith O'Hare, Principal, Steele Creek  
Christine Hamlett, Planning Specialist, Planning Services Department  
Jennifer Dean, Planning Specialist, Planning Services Department

Attendance: approximately 70

Welcome: Scott McCully opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and expressing appreciation for their participation in the boundary process.

Each person attending received an informational brochure, 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.

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. It was explained that several things are taken into consideration when creating the boundary options: natural boundaries, contiguous boundaries, student stability, and the student data file.

The process timeline was shared —

- Public engagement meetings are held during September & October
- October 14 - Boundary recommendations report is presented to the School Board\*
- November 12 – Public hearing and School Board vote\*

Warm-Up Exercise: Participants were asked: What are Important Criteria when developing boundaries? The following responses were given:

- Keeping neighborhoods together
- Minimizing overcrowding
- Diversity
- Travel/Proximity to school
- Available facility; removing mobiles
- Options available
- Preserve community
- Recognition of future growth
- Feeder patterns
- Keeping population of community in school

Participants were then asked to review the 3 options for each school:

Option 1 – new Mt. Holly-Huntersville Road Elementary – in this option, the new school will relieve Paw Creek Elementary and Paw Creek would relieve Mt. Island Elementary.

Option 2 – new Mt. Holly-Huntersville Road Elementary – in this option, the new school will relieve both Paw Creek and Mt. Island Elementary schools.

Option 1 – new Dixie River Road Elementary – in this option, the new school will relieve both Berryhill and Steele Creek elementary

Option 2 – new Dixie River Road Elementary – in this option, the new school will relieve both Berryhill and Steele Creek elementary

Option 1 – new Belmeade Middle – in this option, the new middle school relieves Coulwood and Wilson Middle schools, Kennedy Middle relieves Wilson Middle.

Option 2 – new Belmeade Middle – in this option, the new middle school relieves Wilson Middle and Coulwood Middle, Sedgfield Middle relieves Wilson Middle.

The maps and data sheet materials and further discussed the differences in the 2009 and 2010 opening timeline and capacities for new Youngblood/Steele Creek Road and York Road/Red Fez Club Road.

Questions:

Several questions were asked by participants regarding the map options:

Question: How is the FRL percentages calculated?

Answer: FRL percentages are calculated based on 2008-09 20<sup>th</sup> day information available for the current students who attend and/or reside in the proposed boundary change area.

Question: Are these the only options for new Youngblood/Steele Creek Road and York Road/Red Fez Club Road and Dixie River Road elementary and new Belmeade middle?

Answer: The options before you are starting options, we are here tonight to gather your feedback and receive new ideas that you may comment and mark on your individual and table group worksheets and maps.

Question: How is building capacity calculated?

Answer: A ratio of students to teachers is used to calculate the building capacity number related to the number of classrooms present.

Question: What is the transfer process for students?

Answer: Families can request a reassignment or transfer to another school for one of the following reasons: child of staff, medical or extreme hardship.

Question: What is meant by “stability” when creating boundary options?

Answer: This means that boundaries are created with a consistent feeder pattern for students from elementary school, thru middle school, to high school.

Question: Explain the process for family address change during the year?

Answer: If a student moves during the year they may remain at the current placement for the current school year without transportation, or attend the new school with transportation. The student will be assigned to the new home school for the next year.

Question: How do you account for future “non-enrolled” students who will enter the school population in the next year or future years?

Answer: A number of tools are used to account for future students such as a growth rate calculated using the history of enrollment for the past five years; future subdivision information, etc.

Question: What happens when a school is overcrowded, are students sent elsewhere?

Answer: A student has a guaranteed seat at their home school.

Question: What is the typically size of an elementary school?

Answer: Elementary school is typically 39 classrooms of about 90,000 square feet in size and middle school 54 classrooms of approximately 130,000 square feet and high school at 100 classrooms of about 260,000 square feet.

Question: Do you plan to open schools overcapacity? Why do so many schools have mobiles? Is it true that mobile may be needed in a few years at new schools?

Answer: The long range master plan has planned locations for new schools to relieve overcrowding; however in the interim sometimes mobiles are used to provide relief.