

REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE

Notes – Meeting 4

December 14, 2009

Discussion:

Distributed notes from last week's meeting, agenda, facilities plan, and bi-state agreement.

When we start adjusting boundaries, Dave Reeve will come in from transportation to help us determine if there are more walkers or riders. Bruce Ford will be invited in if there are any additional questions or things we need to address.

Regarding the bi-state agreement, Delmar is considering what some options might be in regard to opening up a wing to take 5th grade so that Delaware and Maryland 5th graders would go to Delmar Middle/High School in order to relieve some of the population "pressure" on Delmar Elementary.

Loretta Savoy – Free and Reduced Meals (FARM)

- Distributed handouts for PowerPoint presentation
- FARM is a federally funded program that provides free and reduced meals to qualifying students based on number of family members and income
- Parents complete free/reduced meals application and are given guidelines for qualification
- Students who receive food stamps or are homeless, migrants, or runaway children automatically qualify for FARMS without application process (specific code in database)
- Foster child completes application but is considered a family of one
- Reduced - \$0.40 lunch, \$0.30 – breakfast, \$0.15 snack (but grants have been helping with providing snacks)
- FARM percentages impact funding and determine allocation of Title I funds (schools are identified based on the rank order)
- Scholarships for sports programs, summer schools, and SAT testing all consider FARM
- Students who qualify for FARMS automatically qualify for summer school (meals served)
- Judy Center – program that provides early learning services to students in Beaver Run and Pemberton districts
- FARM percentage this school year is 49.01% (viewed FARM percentages at all schools)

Bob Carlisle - ELL/ESOL

- Distributed handout and reviewed PowerPoint presentation
- ESOL - English for speakers of other languages, ELL – English language learners, LEP – limited English proficiency
- Language Assessment System (LAS) – an assessment Maryland adopted as a placement test to identify new comers and test progress in the spring
- Wicomico County has the largest number of ELL students east of the Bay bridge
 - 381 ELL students (students represent 29 countries)
 - serve 4 students at St. Francis de Sales through Title III funding (serve ELL students in any private school)
 - All schools currently have ELL students (except for Northwestern Elementary)
 - Secondary students attend Bennett Middle and James M. Bennett High
- Takes approximately two years for a student to learn to have a conversation in English, but it takes seven to ten years for student to be proficient with curricular vocabulary
- Middle School Assessments (MSA) – ESOL/ELL students are only exempt from the first year of reading assessment, but still have to take the math assessment
- No exemptions for the High School Assessment (HSA)
- Special accommodations may be implemented to ELL students – accommodations must be done daily, not just during assessments
- Instructional programs: elementary schools – pullout sessions in small groups; middle schools – team teaching in RELA classes, etc, after school tutoring or STARS participation
- High school – inclusion model in class support; scheduled ESOL classes; tutoring during the day in the media center; sheltered instruction - students are grouped together to accommodate them best

Bonnie Walston – Special Education (SPED)

- Distributed handout and reviewed PowerPoint presentation
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a federal law that states that we are required to provide children with disabilities with non-disabled peers in their home schools
- Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) – begins with general education classroom
- Twelve percent of total student population receive special education services (1, 706 students, ages 3-21, 12% does not include Infants & Toddlers program)
- We are responsible for providing transportation to a public/private separate day school and have to pay for public/private residential school
- Individualized Education Program (IEP) team meets to determine placement of child in least restrictive environment
- If students are determined eligible, they receive a free service.
- Currently, special needs students are transported to Pinehurst, Prince Street, Pemberton, and Beaver Run elementary schools; Salisbury, Wicomico, and Bennett middle schools; and James M. Bennett and Wicomico high schools

- Specialized transportation has increased due to placement outside of the home school.
- The further you move the student away from the general education classroom, the more costly it becomes to educate a student with disabilities
- The greatest challenge is federal funding

Susan Jones - High Performance and Instruction

- Distributed handout
- Thinking and Doing (TAD) students have been identified at each elementary school with Grades 3-5 and receive services
- TAD students are the highest performers and have been identified to be highly skilled
- The Magnet program has students at North Salisbury and Pemberton elementary schools who also receive services
- Currently, there are twelve teachers at North Salisbury and nine teachers at Pemberton

Susan Jones/Kim Miles - Balancing and Grouping Considerations

- Distributed handout
- Reviewed a demographic summary of schools including percentages for mobility, FARM, race/ethnicity - Asian, Hispanic, White, African-American, SPED, ELL, and enrollment
- The mobility percentage represents the numbers of entrants and withdrawals during the school year.
- Note: high numbers of mobility could be driven by high turn-over rental (single bedroom or low-cost housing, etc.)

Upcoming meeting dates

Dates: Monday, December 21, 2009
Tuesday, January 5, 2010,
Monday, January 11, 2010
Thursday, January 21, 2010

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Annex 2, Rooms 1 & 2