

SOUTH LYON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
345 South Warren
South Lyon, Michigan 48178

COMMUNITY FORUM

October 25, 2016
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

- Mrs. Baker welcomed those in attendance, introduced the Redistricting Administrative Committee (RAC) and reviewed the purpose of the meeting.
- She shared that this is the final Community Forum and that the proposed redistricting plan will go to the Board for information on November 7th. The November 21st meeting is scheduled for action. The proposal and related data will be posted to the district website by the Friday before the meeting (November 4th)
- Mrs. Baker read aloud a letter which had been submitted by Karen Davenport regarding an alternate proposal for elementary redistricting. (Posted online)
- Maureen Krause, Pinehurst subdivision, presented an alternate proposal for middle schools. (Posted online)
- Jenny Kirshman, Lyon Gardens, also shared a letter regarding the desire to remain at Sayre. (Posted online)

Questions and Comments (summarized)

Q: Have the high schools been looked at for future redistricting?

A: *RAC will be looking at this after elementary and middle school plans are finalized. East High School will reach capacity more quickly. However, it was also planned so that there is room to build additions to the building.*

Q: If current 6th and 7th grade students elect to stay at their current middle school next year and not move, will there be transportation provided by the district?

A: *We will be recommending use of a transfer bus for the two year transition period.*

Q: When developing these plans, was consideration given to whether students had been moved previously?

A: *This was not a specific consideration.*

Comments: Two speakers shared concerns that Pinehurst is the only area from Sayre going to CMS.

Comments: In response to the letter from Karen Davenport, the speaker was in favor of the current plan which would move Old Dutch Farms and Novi Meadows to Pearson while moving Copperwood and Lyon Ridge back to Hardy. A second speaker echoed this position. They also indicated that the current proposal should help alleviate drop off traffic at Hardy. A third speaker shared support for moving Copperwood to Hardy.

Q: Can the Board make their own changes to the final proposal?

A: *Yes. While the charge to RAC was to bring only one proposal for redistricting, the Board has 7 members and they could vote to change the final proposal. There will be two steps – information on November 7th and action on November 21st.*

Q: Is School of Choice (SOC) still open?

A: *While 105/105c is closed to new out of district students, those who are already in SLCS may remain. We are not recommending any changes to intra-district SOC. However, based on numbers, there could be a lottery.*

Comment: Mrs. Baker shared that the final proposal and maps will be shared online and via Skylert. If RAC would make any more changes, then that would also be shared via Skylert.

Comments: A speaker shared that they believed in the last round of redistricting that the decision was more emotional. They stated that they felt the Board looked at data, but then made their own decision. Mrs. Baker explained that, during this current process, there has also been a Redistricting Executive Committee which included 3 board members and they have been kept informed throughout. Additionally, Mrs. Baker has shared information about the process with the rest of the Board members.

Q: Has the district considered opening SOC for middle school and high school?

A: *This year SOC was opened for students wanting to go to MMS. This was done as a "transition" year before redistricting. The philosophy underlying no high school SOC is that we don't want one school to become known as the "band school" or the "baseball school," etc.*

Q: How good are your projections? How often will you have to keep redistricting? How far out are you looking?

A: *We are using builder data to project growth and use statistics from "comparable" subdivisions in the model. We will continue tracking data. At this time, we do not foresee the need for a new elementary school expected to be not prior to 2020-21 and a new middle school not prior to 2022-23. We do not plan to redistrict again before the new schools would be built.*

Comment: Jim Graham explained the district's goal to project "build out" of the district based on zoning. We want to make sure that we don't "overbuild," although that possibility will not happen for a long time.

Q: Are SOC students grandfathered during redistricting?

A: *Current policy allows for grandfathering of 5th grade students during redistricting.*

Q: How can we give input to board members?

A: *You can email them. Additionally, there is always time for public comments at Board Meetings.*

Q: What is the timeline for the decision? What if the Board representation changes after the November election?

A: *Except for one position, the Board seats up for election would be filled in January. Currently, the proposal is scheduled for action at the November 21st meeting. Of course, the Board could ask for more information, or changes to the proposal, or could adjust the timeline.*

Comment: A Copperwood resident indicated that they supported the current proposal based on proximity to Hardy.

The meeting ended at 6:35 pm.