

Parent Liaison Committee

October 24, 2018

Parent Representatives Present:

FMHS
NFHS Ronald Dozier
BTMS Kim Robbins, Katie Zeanchock
FMMS Jennifer Bowman, Debbie Grudice
GHMS Auvis Cole
PKMS
SFMS Melissa Hampton
DBES Debbie Houser, Jenna Petri, Celia McCarter
FMES Sue Wakefield
GHES Laura Green, Torri Jackson
OPES Erinn Connelly
PKES Darla Cheski, Tyler Jaeger, Heidi White Finley
RVES Kendra King
SCES
SFES Dani Froom, Tracy Thomas
TCES Liz Duda, Barbara Little, Tammy Marks, Kellie Hoover (guest)

School Board Representatives:

Kristy Spears, Michele Branning

Administration:

Dr. Chuck Epps, Marty McGinn, Leanne Lordo, Dr. Mike Waiksnis, Brian Spittle, Joe Burke, Rich Todd, Tammy Welch

Dr. Chuck Epps

- Greeted everyone and welcomed to the meeting
- Gave highlights on upcoming high school redistricting. (Please see FMSD website for updates and current maps, PowerPoint, and feedback link). Showed presentation of Administration's recommendation to the Board of Trustees from Tuesday, Oct 23rd. Commented that the major consideration for any school attendance lines redistricting is longevity of the plan. He would like to see 10 years or more under this current plan so that we do not have to undergo this process again until if/when a new high school needs to be built. The current plan is 11 years old. The new modified C-1 recommendation took into consideration growth down Doby's Bridge Rd and left beginning attendance numbers at Catawba Ridge High School lower to accommodate this. Catawba Ridge has the most new house permits already approved for building. Recommendation also took into consideration all of the community input received from the online form. We had almost 2700 responses, 1500+ with comments. Traffic issues were considered but could not be a major factor in the decision making because the traffic is going to be challenging everywhere. The upcoming construction at the interchange of Gold Hill/77 and then following at 160/77 will pose short term traffic issues in the big picture if the plan lasts the 10 years expected. Based on the community feedback, Plan C was the most desired plan but all of them had comparable favorable percentage. There was not one clear best plan. Addressed that Walden Park and Creekside will move to Catawba Ridge due to safety issues walking along Hwy 21. Eventually, Hwy 21 will be a 5-lane highway and walking students from those neighborhoods will be considered a safety hazard. The administration believes the proposed and recommended Modified C-1 plan is best for district long term health. Encourages all to submit their feedback on current Modified C-1 online forum on the district website. Feedback link will be closed at the end of business on Wednesday, Oct 31.
- Discussed the upcoming school board elections on Nov 6th. There are 9 candidates running for 4 seats. Encouraged parents to get to know the candidates and to get out and vote.
- Addressed the weather make up day on December 21. Addressed the State of Emergency myth of forgiving weather make up days: Under South Carolina law the district is required to identify a minimum of three make-up days during the school year and must use those days to recover lost time for any reason before any days can be forgiven. The designation of a state of emergency has no impact on the requirement for the recovery of this time. The district is considering a half day for students on December 21 to alleviate some of the concerns about absences due to travel.
None of the York County districts are planning to use added days at the end of the school year to make up for lost time. FMSD along with the other districts does have designated weather make-up days at the end of the year but extending the school year is done as a last resort if we have exhausted all other options for recovering lost time.

- Also addressed how Superintendent cancels school for weather. His top concern is safety of students/staff and also trying to keep kids in school. The Board and Superintendent agree that waiting as long as possible to make decision gives them the most information to make appropriate decision. Our district is geographically smaller from the school districts around us so we cannot simply make a decision based on what our peers are doing.
- Football games planned for Friday night have been rescheduled to Thursday night due to rain.

Leanne Lordo

- No update on Impact Fee. Still waiting for response from State Supreme Court if they will hear the case.
- Have collected over \$3M in Impact Fees that are being saved in escrow account with the County.
- Addressed a question from a parent regarding PTO projects and who is responsible for paying upkeep on project initiated by PTO's. Response: PTO's are responsible for providing their own budget for upkeep on any project at their school. The district financial budget is not capable of incorporating these types of project maintenance.
- Announced there will be a PTO Financial Best Practices workshop held for elected leaders in PTO that will have any kind of financial responsibility. Training/Presentation scheduled for Tuesday evening, October 30 at 6:00pm at the District Office, room 209.
- Announced that the turf projects are in process for the elementary schools. The money allocated was "for turf or no turf". It needs to stay consistent for all schools.

Marty McGinn

- Discussed teacher redistribution for high schools. Final personnel for all three schools should be finalized by mid to late January. Any Growth positions will be finalized mid-February.

Kristy Spears:

- Addressed High School Redistricting. She emphasized that community input is NOT a *vote*; it is input. She reiterated that the Board has been and will be sensitive to the traffic issues when considering new attendance lines, but that no plan will fix the traffic issues. Every new house adds .194 students to the high school. Future projections in C1 will fill all high schools appropriately. If we choose Option C, FMHS will reach capacity within 2 years. We could tweak plan again if feedback provides something else necessary for decision. We need a distinct transition plan for those moving from established high schools to new high schools. "One community" needs to stay our focus. She believes that it is great to have split middle school feeders into the high schools to allow children to integrate with new students.

Tammy Welch:

- Announced that the FMSD Nutrition Department will have representation at the FARM to SCHOOL meeting being held at SCES on November 15th
- Beginning October 30th, 2018, the menu link on our school and district websites will be new and improved. We hope this change will make it easier for you to quickly view your student's breakfast and lunch menus. On that date, the link to meals on our district and school sites will point you to the Meal Viewer website. You'll find the site easy to use and self-explanatory. To download the school menu for print, [click here](#). Click on your school to view and print the month's menu. If you have any questions or issues navigating Meal Viewer, please email the student nutrition department at pattersonm@fortmillschools.org or call 803.548.1968.

Tom Buckley:

- Answered questions about bell times for next year to help alleviate bus delays and transportation issues. Transportation will meet with all the Principals to decide how to approach bell schedules for the upcoming year. Need to figure out how to provide more time during arrivals and departures. Want to improve utilization of equipment efficiency by making adjustment to bell schedules. Flipping middle school and high school start/stop times may help alleviate transportation congestion. Will have some public involvement for input.