

Summary of MCPS Elementary Schools Presentation at the 15 February EBCA meeting:

- Bruce Crispell, MCPS Director Division of Long Range Planning, described the boundary change implementation and answered community questions. The below outlines what I captured as MCPS plans to implement the elementary boundary change, and information provided on how MCPS is likely to implement the middle school boundary change given current policy. I know many of you were at the meeting so please let me know if you had a different understanding from Bruce's presentation.
- MCPS has addressed some of the transition concerns EBCA raised but has not resolved some other transition issues. EBCA will continue to lobby for flexible transfer options.

Elementary Boundary Change:

- East Bethesda reassignments from Rosemary Hills Elementary School (RHPS) to Bethesda Elementary (BE) School begins in the 2013-2014 school year with Grades K–1, and ends in the 2014-2015 school year with Grades K–2.
 - Consistent with BOE policy, transfers from RHPS to BE for East Bethesda kindergarteners next school year (2012-2013) will only be granted for proven unique hardships, or an older sibling in Grades 1 or 2 at Bethesda Elementary School.
 - MCPS has responded favorably to our request and Mr. Viggiano (RHPS Principal) is amenable to considering grouping some of the East Bethesda community students together when he and his staff form class placements. Consideration to gender, race, academic levels, and enrollment will have to be given to all class assignments. Mr. Viggiano asks that after the kindergarten orientation programs, parents requesting consideration to have their child placed with another child(ren), to forward the request in writing to him.
 - Please contact East Bethesda parent Rebecca Fayed rebecca.fayed@gmail.com if you will have a kindergarten student in the 2012-2013 school year and would like to meet other East Bethesda kindergarteners.
 - Consistent with BOE policy, transfers from RHPS to BE for East Bethesda 2nd Graders in the first year of phase-in (2013-2014 school year) will only be granted for proven unique hardships.

Rosemary Hills: Phasing out of Option for Grade 2 Students:

- MCPS is discontinuing the option to choose Chevy Chase (CCES), North Chevy Chase (NCC) or BE after 2nd grade at RHPS as a part of the boundary change. This year's kindergarten group at RHPS is the last that will have a choice of schools after they attend RHPS for Grade 2 in the 2013-14 school year.
 - In an 8 February 2012 memo to the BOE on the B-CC elementary boundary changes Dr. Starr outlined the timing of the phase-out of the current flexible transfer for Grade 2 students at Rosemary Hills ES. East Bethesda students that exercise the flexible option to

attend CCES and NCC will be provided with transportation through completion of elementary school. A copy of the memo is included on the local education web page.

New Middle School Boundaries:

- In spring, 2016 MCPS will form a Middle School Boundary Committee to help determine which elementary schools communities will be reassigned from Westland Middle School to the new B-CC MS #2 in August 2017. It is unlikely there will be split articulation from a single elementary to two middle schools.
 - Consistent with BOE policy, phasing for reassignments from Westland Middle School to MS #2 will begin in the 2017-2018 school year with Grades 6-7, and end in the 2018-2019 school year with Grades 6-8.
 - 6th grade at Chevy Chase (CCES) and North Chevy Chase (NCC) schools will be discontinued in the 2017-2018 school year and 6th graders will be assigned to Westland or MS #2 for the 2017-2018 school year.
 - All East Bethesda residents will be assigned to the BE assigned middle school beginning in 2017-2018 as per the phase-in including East Bethesda residents attending NCC or CCES.
 - Consistent with BOE transfer policy, If NCC and CCES are not assigned to the same middle school as BE, transfers for East Bethesda students to attend the NCC and CCES assigned middle school will only be granted for proven unique hardships.

Sibling Transfers:

- BOE policy does not allow sibling transfers when there has been a boundary change.
 - Elementary transfers to attend BE, NCC and CCES will only be granted for proven unique hardships beginning in the 2013-2014 school year.
 - Middle school sibling transfers will likewise be suspended, except in case of proven unique hardship, beginning in the 2017-2018 school year for Westland and MS#2.

MCPS Change of School Assignment (COSA) Information:

- Excerpts from the MCPS transfer page on the current RHPS/BE paired school sibling transfer policy and an MCPS definition of hardships are included below. See the education web page for a link to the MCPS transfer page.
- Is the transfer process the same for paired schools?
 - Paired elementary schools are considered one school for Change of Assignment (COSA) purposes and so students are approved from the lower elementary grades school to the upper grades school. Each pairing has unique characteristics that can impact implementation of transfers. For example, Rosemary Hills Elementary School Grades K–2 is paired with Bethesda Elementary School Grades 3–5. Requests to transfer from Rosemary Hills Elementary School to Bethesda Elementary School for Grades K–2 will be approved only for unique hardship or an older sibling in Grades 1 or 2 at Bethesda Elementary School.
- What is a unique hardship?
 - Unique hardship depends on the family’s individual and personal situation. Problems that are common to large numbers of families, such as issues involving day care or

program/course preferences, do not constitute a hardship, absent additional compelling factors. Documentation that can be independently verified must accompany all hardship requests, or the request will be denied.

- Also, see the local education web page for:
 - A graphic from MCPS with East Bethesda Elementary Grade Level Assignments, by Year.
 - A graphic decision aide on East Bethesda articulation with both an elementary and middle school boundary change to see the articulation path for their child(ren).