

**2020 Student Assignment & Boundary Planning Forum Feedback
Parent and Household Responses to DPS Presentation Information**

Research Objective

Review public understanding of the complex issues being addressed, the process for problem solving, and viable solutions to the issues of overcrowding at Creekside Elementary and Githens Middle School.

Access

Respondents were prompted to fill out the online feedback form at the end of the DPS Presentation on Student Assignment & Boundary Plan Recommendations. 50% of respondents took the online form, and 50% used paper-based feedback forms at the events between 10/14-10/18.

Population

28 Respondents over a three week open response period: 10/14 – 11/2

Results

Q1: Does your child attend Durham Public Schools?

A: 27/28 = Yes | 96% Yes

Q2: If yes, which school does your child attend?

**A: Githens
Forest View
Lakewood
Spaulding
Jordan
Hope Valley**

Q3: Does the recommended plan impact your child?

A: 17/28 = Yes | 61% Yes

Q4: Do you feel you understand the problems DPS is trying to solve?

A: 28/28 = Yes | 100% Yes

Q5: Do you feel you understand the process that DPS has gone through to arrive at recommended solutions?

A: 24/28 = Yes | 86% Yes

Q6: Do you feel you understand the timeline that DPS is working with to share recommendations with the public and the Board of Education?

A: 22/28 = Yes | 79% Yes

Q7: Do you feel you understand the recommendations that DPS is making at this time?

A: 21/28 = Yes | 75% Yes

Q8: Are there other solutions that you feel DPS should consider that were not presented yet?

Parent / Household Answers

I strongly support Magnet Schools increasing enrollment temporarily or permanently to help address this overcrowding.

Use median class sizes across grades on an annual basis to set class sizes in magnets. Magnets should not be the only schools that have appropriate sized classes or where teachers and administrators have control over class size, they should be placed for curricular focus or non size-based instructional strategies.

Yes. My family supports DPS completely but I am worried about something. There are only a handful of streets that will be newly affected by this plan. Ours and just a few others that are currently zoned for Githens that would be changed to Brogden even though our kids go to Forest View. My son has been at Forest View since K and has many supportive friends and community there. This plan would drastically alter his MS experience by separating him from the community he has built. I would like to ask that you please consider keep the boundary on 751 instead of moving it to Cornwallis because it will affect only a few kids but it will affect them tremendously. This new plan says that Forest View is one of the 4 feeder schools for Githens and I would like to ask that you keep it that way for those few of us whose children have been a network of friends at Forest View. Please keep them together with their friends at Githens. I would fully support my son going to Brogden, by the way, if more of the Forest View community were also moving there. It sounds like a wonderful place. It's just that he would be separated off from his friends. Thank you!

I feel that with the rate that individuals move into the Durham area that the District should consider additional measures to ensure their initial plan if approved will be effective. For instance this particular area has a high rental rate therefore if we are looking at decreasing 6th grade enrollment by only 100 children but not placing an enrollment cap there is the potential to have 100 additional children be zoned for Githens this making the temporary measures ineffective. I would like to commend the District for not wanting to move children already in the schools as they pointed out 6-8 grade years are extremely critical. However, with overcrowding already an issue we would have essentially 1 year to address this change as the 7th grade classes (which are currently overcrowded) will be entering high school thus the problem continues. I would suggest since the presenters pointed out the city would not stop approving new developments until the entire district is over capacity place enrollment caps on specific schools as they are highly desired which would then force the city to reevaluate their approval process if parents can't purchase homes and their children attend the school they are zoned for. Finally, a possible increase to the enrollment caps for the current magnet schools may provide a larger impact at a faster rate when done in conjunction with an enrollment cap. Finally, we will have a child entering Elementary shortly so I do not want there to be an assumption we are only focusing on the current state of the Middle School. We have concerns for all students however, the teachers at Githens do not have enough resources especially technology for the students. We currently advise our children that if another student does not have access to a computer after hours that they forgo completing their online assignments until they are home since we have access. I'd be happy to speak further if anyone would like to discuss further as we recently relocated from an area that also faced similar issues. We recognize the fix would be money in the budget to build the additional schools however we want to ensure that a contingency plan is in place that will benefit the students, administrators and let us not forget the Educators who have an increased workload.

Open up schools with capacity, including magnets, to Creekside students. Encourage volunteers. Divert incoming students, the way in which this has been carried out seriously undermines efforts to restore confidence in neighborhood schools.

Year round schools and disbanding magnet school program

Our neighborhood (Arrowhead) is not on the list and your proposal splits our neighborhood up. It would be better to stick with highway/freeway corridors to minimize that impact.

I would urge DPS to consider building a new middle school. Also, what actions are you taking to alleviate overcrowding at Jordan?

Safety! Trailers are not safe. Forest View is over crowded and trailers are not the answers. Additionally, have they looked to move carrington line south and brogden line further East. This would increase the numbers and brogden and carrington and decrease the numbers at Githen's.

Yes. The current solution does not grandfather K-2. I propose that DPS consider grandfathering K-2 to Creekside, so that present students stay, and expanding the adjustment to cover a larger geographic area to still achieve the objective of moving ~50 students, to reduce overcrowding. The current adjustment area is selected to align to the Lowes Grove boundaries. However, this elementary/middle school alignment is temporary, and from my view arbitrary, as boundaries will be realigned with the new school on Scott King. There are neighborhoods on the eastern side of the proposed boundary that will almost surely be assigned to Scott King. By assigning their rising kindergarten students to Parkwood over Creekside, then assigning to Scott King, there is no significant difference for them, they will be at one or the other existing school for the same amount of time regardless, and have no current relationship. However, the current proposal will have significant impacts on the children that have already started attending Creekside, and will be moved to Parkwood, and then moved again to Scott King. These transitions are difficult at this age, and so few are moving with this first transition that they will have very few prior relationships. I don't know how we will explain DPS's current proposal to my 2nd Grade and Kindergarten children, tearing them from a school that they truly love and that we as a family have invested so much in time and resources. Using this alternative proposal can still accomplish all of the same numerical objectives and achieve the same solutions that DPS is trying to accomplish, but doesn't disrupt the current children, who have currently chosen you, the public school system, in a significant way. I know you are striving to serve and build a future for these children, and you see them as real people with young tender emotions, rather than numbers, which is why I hope you consider this alternative, for their sake, avoiding disrupting their and their families' trust and love of DPS, while still accomplishing the solutions that need to occur for the benefit of the schools.

Multiple tracks for year-round schools

Add more year-round; build more schools

Increasing the capacity at magnets. I think the magnets should carry some of the burden.

Did not go into detail about school construction

Are they considering changing magnet schools to traditional?

Increase enrollment at magnet schools, eliminate magnets and make them neighborhood schools

Up the capacity at magnet schools

Magnet lottery; addin additional spaces at some magnet schools

Asked about my comprehension, not whether I agree - need more public forums. Time to talk about High School.

No