

## Durham Public Schools Board of Education Public Hearing Boundary Planning: Questions Posed and Ideas Shared

November 7, 2019 at Spaulding Elementary School

### *Questions*

#### **Question 1: Did DPS engage parents that could not make the Public Forum events?**

DPS staff utilized a variety of traditional and modern community engagement techniques to ensure that parents and school families were notified of the potential for re-assignment.

These efforts include:

- **Location Choice, Childcare:** Hosting Public Forum events directly at the most impacted schools (Lakewood and Spaulding Elementaries) with on-site childcare.
- **Print Flyers:** Detailed bilingual flyers were sent home with individual students impacted by the recommended student assignment and boundary plan.
- **Phone Calls:** In addition to automated calls in English and Spanish inviting families to the Public Forum events, DPS placed calls and spoke with parents in Spanish, Arabic and Punjabi to provide information about the boundary plan in instances where English was not the primary language spoken at home
- **Follow-up Meetings** to address issues beyond boundary planning were held at Githens and scheduled with the Lakewood PTA.

Staff also acknowledges the outreach efforts of members of the school communities, including principals, PTA members, and PAAC organizations who provided further grassroots outreach.

DPS staff are designing a more robust and comprehensive community engagement process for the broader boundary planning, student assignment and school construction initiative to begin in January 2020. An online platform hosted by community engagement experts Bang the Table will enable robust information sharing that will also empower community organizers and organizations to provide outreach from the kitchen table outward.

#### **Question 2: Will there be capacity issues assigning portions of Creekside to Parkwood?**

“Given that approximately 50 students are projected to move from Creekside to Parkwood, won't there be capacity issues that arise at Parkwood in the near-term?”

#### ***DPS Planning Considerations & Response***

The overall Built Capacity of Parkwood Elementary is 578 students, and the Core Capacity is 784 (taken as the Food Service Area divided by 14 Square Feet per student over three lunch periods). Unlike Creekside, Parkwood is positioned to accommodate additional Mobile Classrooms if necessary due to the additional Core Capacity remaining after the boundary adjustment. As of November 2019, DPS projects 531 K-5 students to attend Parkwood with existing boundaries, and 575 students with the proposed boundary adjustments.

## *Ideas*

### **Idea 1: Move 50+ incoming Kindergarten Students from Creekside to Parkwood**

This would expand the impact zone (more neighborhoods) so that, of the incoming 170 Creekside Kindergarteners, 50 would be reassigned to Parkwood.

### ***DPS Planning Considerations & Response***

The expected 2020-21 cohort of incoming Kindergarten students at Creekside is 170 students. Expanding the impact region to take in more rising Kindergartners in 2020-21 (from 12 to 50) would also impact the overall class and enrollment size at Parkwood for 2021-22. Moreover, this would relocate one-third of Creekside into Parkwood, which does not have the capacity to accommodate the total students that this would impact beyond 2020-21.

### **Idea 2: Increase the Campus Capacity at Creekside Elementary w/ More Mobiles**

This would increase the number of classrooms at Creekside by bringing additional mobile classrooms onto the campus, thus temporarily mitigating the need to adjust the Creekside Boundary until Elementary School C is constructed.

### ***DPS Planning Considerations & Response***

The overall Built Capacity of Creekside Elementary is 684 students, with a Core Capacity of 729 (taken as the Food Service Area divided by 14 Square Feet per student over three lunch periods). The total number of mobile classrooms on the Creekside Campus is presently 8, with an additional two mobiles serving as exterior restroom facility. There are 898 enrolled Creekside students in 2019-20, and more projected for 2020-21 and beyond. Adding more mobiles onto the site would further overcrowd the school that has exceeded the Built Capacity by 204 students and the Core Capacity by 169 students, which would induce greater instructional and operational challenges - from stretching times that students eat lunch to earlier and later in the day to scheduling specialty course offerings in art, music and technology less frequently.