

## **PROPOSED ATTENDANCE AREA ADJUSTMENTS FOR NEW FACILITIES**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Of**

### **COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK**

#### **Socastee Area**

The Socastee Area has two new facilities being constructed, a replacement Socastee Elementary and a New Middle School. The New Middle School requires an attendance area be created and overcrowding at Forestbrook Middle be alleviated. The New Socastee Elementary, with its increased capacity, appears to provide some opportunities to realign and add some students from Lakewood Elementary to give that school some minor capacity relief.

District staff met with the Socastee Area Advisory Board, the Lakewood Elementary School Improvement Council (SIC), Socastee Elementary SIC, Forestbrook Elementary SIC, Forestbrook Middle SIC, and held 4 Public Drop-In meetings in the cluster.

Detailed comments from the various SIC's and Advisory Board are available. In brief summary, main points brought up at these meetings specific to the attendance area proposals were:

1. Concern about lack of economic/ethnic/special education diversity in the New Middle School Attendance Area by only taking Lakewood Elementary to the New Middle School. Suggested that we split Socastee Elementary between Forestbrook Middle and the New Middle School.
2. Concern that the current plan will reduce test scores at Forestbrook Middle since all of the Lakewood Elementary students would go to the New Middle School.
3. Concern that the proposed attendance area would create a similar situation as what happened at Black Water Middle and Ocean Bay Middle where the perception is that one school is better than the other.
4. Concern about why we are not opening the New Middle School with more students.
5. Concerns about District policy on transfers to out of zone schools.

In general, the Public Drop-In meetings were well received and we did get a chance to talk one on one with parents and help them locate their residence and school zone, explain the planning and process, and discuss with them any questions or concerns they had. Verbally the comments were positive overall. Some parents expressed disappointment they didn't get to go to the New Middle School.

### **Carolina Forest Area**

The Carolina Forest Area has one new facility being constructed, a New Middle School. The New Middle School requires an attendance area be created and overcrowding at Ocean Bay Middle be alleviated.

District staff met with the Carolina Forest Area Advisory Board, the Carolina Forest Elementary School Improvement Council (SIC), Ocean Bay Elementary SIC, River Oaks Elementary SIC, Ocean Bay Middle SIC, and held 1 combined Public Drop-In meeting in the cluster.

Detailed comments from the various SIC's and Advisory Board are available. In brief summary, main points brought up at these meetings specific to the attendance area proposal were:

1. Can the areas West of Hwy 501, including Burcale Rd and Arrowhead be shifted back to Socastee.
2. Why wasn't a split in CFE considered? It only seems fair that if the other two elementary schools are split, so should CFE.
3. Can a split from CFE (perhaps the area from Gardner Lacy Rd towards Conway) be shifted to Black Water Middle? Why wasn't this considered?

In general, the Public Drop-In meeting was well received and we did get a chance to talk one on one with parents and help them locate their residence and school zone, explain the planning and process, and discuss with them any questions or concerns they had. Verbally the comments were positive overall. Some parents expressed disappointment they didn't get to go to the New Middle School.