

## Agenda Item 11. Redistricting Update

Subject: Redistricting Process	Date: <u>February 24, 2005</u>
Policy Reference <u>FB</u>	Enclosures: <u>1</u>
	REASON FOR CONSIDERATION:
	Action _____ Information <u>X</u>

### **Background**

The School Board heard from Dr. Castner at its August 16, 2004 Board Meeting that the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) recommended the redistricting process be initiated to address identified split feeder pattern issues, to plan for straight feeder patterns countywide where appropriate, and to populate current and planned facilities K-12 with a phased in implementation as buildings are ready. Dr. Castner then solicited applications for Redistricting Committee Members based on the recommendation from the LRPC to have the additional members from each of the magisterial districts and two at-large members. The sixteen-member committee with the support of staff began their work on October 26, 2004. The committee has held a total of nine meetings to discuss and plan for K-12 redistricting.

### **Administrative Consideration (Rationale)**

On February 15, staff convened the LRPC prior to the Redistricting Committee meeting and asked them to pause the redistricting process and reconsider the decision that was made last summer to build a 400 student Southern Urban Elementary School. The LRPC agreed to pause the redistricting process and reconsider whether to increase the size of the Southern Urban Elementary or to expand the facilities of Cale, Red Hill, and Scottsville. The Redistricting Committee then agreed to make recommendations for a Phase I redistricting process that would only include changes that could be implemented in the fall of 2005 without the possibility of families being affected in the next phase of the redistricting process. Dr. Castner has received the recommendations in the form of a memo (attachment 1) and is scheduled to present his recommendations to the School Board on March 10. After receiving the recommendations from Dr. Castner, the Board will need to determine if they accept the recommendations and allow time for public testimony prior to approving the Redistricting Plan. In order to prepare families and staff for any changes that will be occurring for the fall of 2005, Board approval is requested by the end of April.

The LRPC will reconvene in March to reconsider the Southern Urban Elementary School and any proposed changes will be brought to the Board in April. As soon as the School Board approves a revised Capital Improvements Program, the Redistricting Committee will be reconvened to finish its task. It is anticipated that recommendations for redistricting for fall of 06 and beyond will be given to the Superintendent in August.

### **Budget Implications (Short and Long Term)**

There are not budget implications at this time.

### **Recommendation/Future Direction/Time Line**

Receive for information.



# Albemarle County Public Schools

## Memorandum

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**DATE:** February 16, 2005

**TO:** Kevin C. Castner, Superintendent

**FROM:** E. Diane Behrens, Executive Director of Support Services

**RE:** Redistricting

The Redistricting Committee met on the following dates: October 26, November 9, November 16, November 30, December 14, January 4, January 11, and January 18 to discuss information and plan for K-12 redistricting. A proposal was developed and put forth for public testimony on February 8. The committee planned to have a final proposal to you after the February 15 meeting.

Prior to the February 15 meeting, I requested the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) meet and I asked them if we could pause the redistricting process and revisit our Capital Improvement requests. Enrollment changes and information that has been developed over the last three months have pointed to three major reasons for staff to make this request. They are:

- The enrollment increase at Cale from 474 students to 530 occurred this fall. The kindergarten class this year has 124 students as compared to an average of 81 in all other classes. The growth we anticipated at Cale was significantly weighted to the area that will be redistricted to the Southern Urban Elementary.
- Once we defined the boundaries for the Southern Urban Elementary School, the socioeconomic and ethnic make up of the population appears to be more diverse than what is desired and the 400-student school is over populated.
- The plan leaves Cale and Stone Robinson under populated.

The LRPC agreed to reconsider the decision and evaluate whether or not to increase the size of the Southern Urban Elementary School or to expand Cale, Red Hill, and Scottsville. After making the decision, the Redistricting Committee focused on what would be Phase I of the process, which moved children to alleviate overcrowding or define boundaries for new developments. The committee's recommendations are changes for fall of 2005 and include:

- Transferring Camelot subdivision from Hollymead to Baker-Butler affecting 44 students;
- Designating Brownsville Elementary instead of Crozet Elementary as the elementary school for Old Trail and Foothill Crossing where currently there are no students; and
- Transferring twenty-five students from Milton Road, including Auburn Hills and Milton Hills subdivisions, from Walton to Burley Middle School.

It is further recommended that all rising fifth grade students be allowed to complete their fifth grade year at their current school and all middle school students affected be allowed to finish their current middle school.

I anticipate the LRPC meetings will take place during the month of March with a recommendation for any changes to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to the School Board in April. If the Board approves the changes in the CIP, I will reconvene the Redistricting Committee in May and work through the summer to have a plan to you early in the school year.

While some committee members are disappointed that we were unable to complete our charge, this pause allows us flexibility as we move forward in the best interests of our students.

Prior to the first Long Range Planning Committee meeting in March, I would request answers to the following questions in order to give clear direction to the members:

- What is the maximum size that would be allowed at Albemarle High School and Cale Elementary School? Our current maximum standards for new schools are 600 for elementary, 900 for middle, and 1500 for high schools. Albemarle High School has always exceeded this standard.
- Are we willing to maintain current and create additional elementary splits to maintain diversity and take advantage of capacity?
- Our current structure is K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 schools. Do we wish to continue that structure?