

## Agenda Item 11. Proposed Redistricting

Subject: Redistricting	Date: March 8, 2007
Policy Reference: <u>FB</u>	Enclosures: 3
Strategic Plan Goal Reference: 5	REASON FOR CONSIDERATION: Action _____ Information <u>X</u>

### **Background (Purpose)**

On November 29, 2006, the School Board revised the timeline of four projects and indicated that it would be necessary to redistrict students in order to alleviate overcrowding at Crozet. At the December 14, 2006 School Board meeting, the following projects that have an impact on this redistricting were approved:

- Brownsville Addition – This project was moved forward to begin design in 2007/08. The Board decided to authorize a change in boundaries for Crozet students to use existing capacity at Brownsville and Meriwether Lewis in order to reduce the overcrowding at Crozet next year.
- Crozet Addition – The project was replaced by Brownsville and moved to the out years of 2012/14 except for \$440,000 in needed site work to separate car and bus traffic as well as provide new and replacement parking, which is scheduled to begin design in 2008/10.

After the meeting in December, staff began work to develop a proposal for moving students from Crozet Elementary School to other elementary schools in the western feeder pattern. Principals from Crozet, Meriwether Lewis, and Brownsville met with staff to discuss the process and helped with getting informational letters and newsletters to their communities. On February 12, an informational meeting was held at Crozet Elementary School where staff shared their recommendation and answered questions for the community. Enclosure 1 details the questions that were submitted and the answers given by staff.

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

Staff met to review data and discuss issues regarding capacity of each of the three elementary schools, Brownsville, Crozet, and Meriwether Lewis; the numbers of elementary students in areas of proximity to Meriwether Lewis and Brownsville; and the projected enrollments for the next several years. The goal of staff was to make a recommendation that could be justified.

After reviewing the data staff considered several options for the fall of 2007. They include:

- Moving Highlands or Gray Rock to Brownsville would have overcrowded Brownsville because each contained too many students.
- The Crozet District north of White Hall was considered to be moved to Meriwether Lewis. Very long bus rides would be made longer and push the ride times to the maximum standard.
- Staff considered removing Western Ridge from Brownsville and transferring it to Crozet while removing everything north of Jarmans Gap Road to the railroad tracks and sending them to Brownsville. This caused more disruption than necessary to accomplish the task at hand and complicated future redistricting.

The options above were not acceptable to staff and therefore, only one option was presented as the recommendation to the Crozet community. Staff recommends the following students be transferred for the fall of 2007:

- Transfer students from Crozet Elementary to Meriwether Lewis Elementary who live on Browns Gap Turnpike and Garth Road, from White Hall to Albemarle Lake Road. Currently there are 24 students in that area (enclosure 2).

Distance – Lake Road @ Garth Road

Crozet = 5.56 miles  
Meriwether Lewis = 4.85 miles

Browns Gap Turnpike @ Jones Mill Road  
Crozet = 5.78 miles  
Meriwether Lewis = 7.36 miles

- Transfer students from Crozet Elementary to Brownsville Elementary who live on the south side of Jarmans Gap Road and Crozet Avenue, from Jarmans Gap Road to Route 250. Currently, there are 29 students in that area (enclosure 3).

Distance – Crozet Avenue @ Brownsville Road  
Brownsville = .56 miles  
Crozet = 1.70 miles

Crozet Avenue @ Tabor Street  
Brownsville = 1.66 miles  
Crozet = .61 miles

Lanetown Road @ Jarmans Gap Road  
Brownsville = 2.60 miles  
Crozet = 2.00 miles

In addition to transferring students, staff is also recommending designating the following new developments to specific elementary schools:

- Designate the area east of the Western Ridge Entrance to Highlands on the south side of Three Notched Road (Rt.240) which includes one property where no children live and the new development of Wickham Pond I and II to attend Brownsville Elementary School. The three recommended areas share a boundary with Western Ridge, which is currently in the Brownsville District and will make it a contiguous district.
- Designate all of West Hall to attend Crozet Elementary School. Ten of West Halls lots are shown partially or all in the Brownsville district while the rest of the subdivision goes to Crozet. The original boundary follows a small stream that indicates that these lots should be in another district; therefore, we need to move the school boundary to the eastern lot lines of this area which will then designate all of West Hall to attend Crozet.

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

The plan ultimately adopted by the Board could have budget implications for transportation, staffing, and/or other programmatic needs.

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

Receive the Superintendent's recommendations for information.

[Enclosure 1](#)  
[Enclosure 2](#)  
[Enclosure 3](#)

## February 12, 2007 Elementary Redistricting

**At the February 12 informational meeting the following written questions were submitted from individual tables. If the same or similar question came from more than one group, the question was only answered once.**

### **1. Why were there not more than one option presented for this redistricting?**

Staff was asked to look at projected numbers of students, capacity of the three schools, and numbers of elementary students in areas that were in proximity to Meriwether Lewis and Brownsville to create options that could be justified. Staff came back with only one option in their opinion that could be justified.

Many other areas were considered for Phase I redistricting. Three major examples include:

- Moving Highlands or Gray Rock to Brownsville would have overcrowded Brownsville because each contained too many students.
- The Crozet District north of White Hall was considered to be moved to Meriwether Lewis. Very long bus rides would be made longer and push the ride times to the maximum standard.
- Staff considered removing Western Ridge from Brownsville and transferring it to Crozet while removing everything north of Jarmans Gap Road to the railroad tracks and sending them to Brownsville. This caused more disruption than necessary to accomplish the task at hand and complicated future redistricting.

### **2. Will 4<sup>th</sup> graders be grandfathered?**

Because of the small number of students that are identified to be moved in the fall of 2007, staff has not recommended grandfathering. There are 9 students in the fourth grade that are identified and 4 of the 9 have siblings.

### **3. Will the siblings be grandfathered?**

Staff has not recommended that siblings be allowed to stay at Crozet.

### **4. Is there a commitment to not move those children again?**

The goal is to move students only once during their elementary career.

### **5. What happens if 50 more children then come to Crozet?**

In the last five years Crozet has grown by 88 students, with 33 of those coming last year; therefore, it is not very probable that a 50 student growth will occur in one year. The proposed redistricting transfers 53 students; therefore, if a 50 student growth were to occur it at Crozet we would have the same student population that it has this year and the current trailers could accommodate it.

**6. Will they keep the trailers at Crozet Elementary or need more?**

The mobile units will be left at Crozet because Crozet will remain over capacity until the additional students are moved out in the fall of 2009.

**7. What is going to happen at Crozet after the move?**

If the proposed redistricting is approved Crozet will have a projected enrollment of 398 in the fall of 2007, which is still over capacity by 56 students. After the Brownsville addition is completed and the second phase of redistricting occurs we anticipate that the enrollment at Crozet will fall below the capacity and all students will be housed inside the building.

**8. Can families volunteer to go to a particular school?**

Usually families are not interested in doing this but it is an idea that we heard about at the meeting and it appears that we have interest in having staff go ahead and identify the areas that are likely to be moved in 2 years and give the parents in those areas the option of moving now if there is room at Brownsville. Staff will discuss this with the Superintendent and School Board.

**9. Do parents have the option to pay tuition to send child to a certain school?**

Currently, if you reside in Albemarle County you must attend school in the district in which you reside unless you are granted a waiver as detailed in School Board policy JC.

**10. How much of decision is driven by capacity at the other two schools?**

The capacity at the other two schools is considered when trying to decide the numbers of students to move from Crozet at this time. Crozet is overcapacity and the decision to add on to Brownsville and use part of its current excess capacity and not add on to Crozet means that boundaries have to be redrawn.

**11. Did they consider how many seats are currently available at Brownsville Elementary and not moving any students to Meriwether Lewis Elementary?**

Yes, this was considered along with our anticipated growth at Brownsville. We could only add about 30 students from Crozet at this time to Brownsville and in order to move a sufficient number of students from Crozet, we needed to move students to Meriwether Lewis. This proposal allows us to utilize available seats at both schools.

**12. Why were the families chosen from more established neighborhoods as opposed to the newer additions?**

Staff looked at areas that were contiguous to the existing Meriwether Lewis and Brownsville districts and selected areas that would not likely be redistricted in the near future.

**13. What about the White Hall neighborhood?**

As we often do in rural areas we used a road as our boundary line. Garth Road and Browns Gap meet at White Hall; therefore, the houses west of the intersection on Browns Gap were not included. We will discuss extending the Meriwether Lewis boundary a few hundred yards west.

**14. Is redistricting going to adequately alleviate the crowding at Crozet?**

The overcapacity issue at Crozet will not be completely resolved until the addition is completed at Brownsville and 90 additional students are moved to Brownsville in the fall of 2009. Moving 53 students to other schools will certainly help Crozet for the next two years.

**15. Has any thought regarding the stability of individual children being moved been considered?**

We are very concerned about the disruption that redistricting creates to schools and the individual student; therefore, we try only to recommend it when a very compelling situation exists. Each school will have a transition plan for the students that will be moved and each child will be helped through the process as we try to provide as much stability as possible.

**16. How will students in Special Education be acclimated to new staff?**

There will be transition activities for all families. For special needs students, teachers who serve the children at Crozet will meet with their new teachers and plan for a smooth transition.

**17. Is there flexibility in the plan that allows you to adjust without affecting the continuity of student learning?**

The transition plan established by each school will certainly address and insure the continuity of student learning.

**18. Crozet is our neighborhood school, how long it the bus ride if my child attends Meriwether Lewis Elementary? Will the bus go down Garth Road?**

From Lake Road at Garth Road the distance to Crozet is 5.56 miles and to Meriwether Lewis is 4.85 miles. From Browns Gap Turnpike at Jones Mill Road the distance to Crozet is 5.78 miles and to Meriwether Lewis is 7.36 miles. Bus routes are developed in the summer of each year based on where the students are located. Depending on where the route starts the first student on the route may ride an additional 15 minutes each way.

**19. What is an acceptable length of time on a bus for an elementary student?**

The goal is to have elementary students ride no more than 60 minutes one way and middle and high school students no more than 90 minutes one way. This means the first student on the bus may ride for 60 or 90 minutes but not all students.

**20. Has there been any discussion about how the lines will be drawn in two years?**

Staff has discussed the probability of moving the Highlands and the Church Hill area to Brownsville and potentially the portion of Gray Rock that is adjacent to Jarmans Gap Road, plus Waylands Grant, Bargamin Park, and the north side of Jarmans Gap road from Lane Town Road to Gray Rock. No Phase II proposal is being made at this time, but we will discuss this with the Superintendent and School Board.

**21. Would a subdivision be split?**

Our practice has not been to split subdivisions unless there is a natural boundary such as a lake.

**22. How do you plan for future growth?**

We have a Capital Improvements Program (CIP) that is developed by our Long Range Planning Committee and presented to the Superintendent. Many factors are considered and three major ones include:

- 1) Current and Projected Residential Development
- 2) Five year Enrollment Projections
- 3) Total student capacity of each school and unused capacity

**23. Are specific grade numbers being looked at in redistricting?**

We have not considered the specific grade enrollment in this proposal. Staffing is based on student enrollment and will follow the students to the new schools.

**24. How are projections developed?**

The projections are developed by using a computer model based on a cohort survival model. Growth is captured by using three, five and seven year enrollment averages in which we pick the average that best matches the anticipated residential growth in the individual school district. The annual live birth data for the county is also used to project kindergarten enrollment.

**25. Is the Board aware that the formula is flawed?**

The board is fully aware of the limitations of the process. Although our projections for individual schools can sometimes be less accurate than we want, the overall county wide projections have been very accurate. One of the biggest variables that we deal with is the live birth data that is reported on a calendar year. Students born after October 1 are enrolled the following year. In addition, the information is not reported by address; therefore, we must assign kindergarten students based on a school past history and our knowledge of the new development in the area, not the actual address of the student. Kindergarten enrollments have naturally been our most inaccurate by school.

**26. Is Henley Middle set up to handle all this growth? Could some go to Jouett Middle?**

As growth occurs in the Crozet area, Henley students that live near Jouett and Burley will need to be redistricted. Both Burley and Jouett have excess capacity to accommodate the students.

**27. When will growth at Henley Middle and Western Albemarle High be affected?**

It is anticipated that in 5 years Henley will reach its capacity of 900 students and redistricting will need to occur. Selected areas near Charlottesville will need to be redistricted to Jouett Middle School and Albemarle High School and to Burley Middle School and Monticello High School.

**28. Where did the growth come from? Is it all isolated geographic area?**

Our student growth comes primarily from new single family housing. Crozet is designated as a growth area; therefore, our student enrollment will continue to show steady growth. The county general population is growing at about 2% per year, but our student enrollment is growing less than 1% per year.

**29. Can the Crossroads Waldorf school building be utilized that would keep people in the community?**

No. Staff has looked at this multiple times and the available land is not enough to add classrooms and infrastructure to address the needs.

**30. Does current building capacity include mobile classrooms?**

Building capacity does not include mobile classrooms. The capacity for the mobile units is listed separately.

**31. Why the Brownsville Elementary addition instead of Crozet Elementary?**

The school Board chose to enlarge Brownsville because they were concerned over bringing the enrollment to a point of maximizing the infrastructure (gym, library, cafeteria and other support spaces). Brownsville has always been considered a regional school and is better suited for the model of a 646 student school. The desire was to leave Crozet at its current capacity until a decision is made to build a new school if growth warrants it prior to adding on to Crozet. Enlarging Crozet to a maximum capacity standard presents unique challenges to maintain good interior circulation and program continuity.

**32. My child won't be able to ride the bus to grandmother who does after school care if moved to Brownsville Elementary. What do I do then?**

Childcare is an issue for many families. Our Extended Day Enrichment Program is available at each elementary school until 6 p.m.

**33. Do the Brownsville parents know and understand the over crowding issues? Is the school board preparing these parents?**

Parents at Brownsville have voiced concern about moving too many students there prior to the addition being constructed. It is anticipated that even after the redistricting the fall of 2007 and the fall of 2009, there will be 85 seats remaining. All of our numbers are based on the projections given to us.

**34. Where is the 2009 target Brownsville Elementary growth area?**

Old Trail and Wickham Pond are the primary developments that will provide Brownsville additional students over the next two years.

**35. How many houses are going into Wickham Pond?**

Wickham Pond I was approved for 107 dwelling units consisting of single family houses and townhouses.

Wickham Pond II was approved for 106 dwelling units consisting of single family houses, townhouses, condos and apartments.

**36. How many elementary students do you estimate will come from Wickham Pond I&II?**

Given the mixed type of housing units that will be built in the two developments, we would expect about 31 elementary students when the project is completed.

**37. Will Brownsville Elementary be over crowded in 2009?**

Assuming 50% (which is over 5 units per month which is very aggressive) of the development is completed by the fall of 2009, we would expect about 16 elementary students. Thus, 16 students would not overcrowd Brownsville.

**38. Any Planned changes with Murray Elementary?**

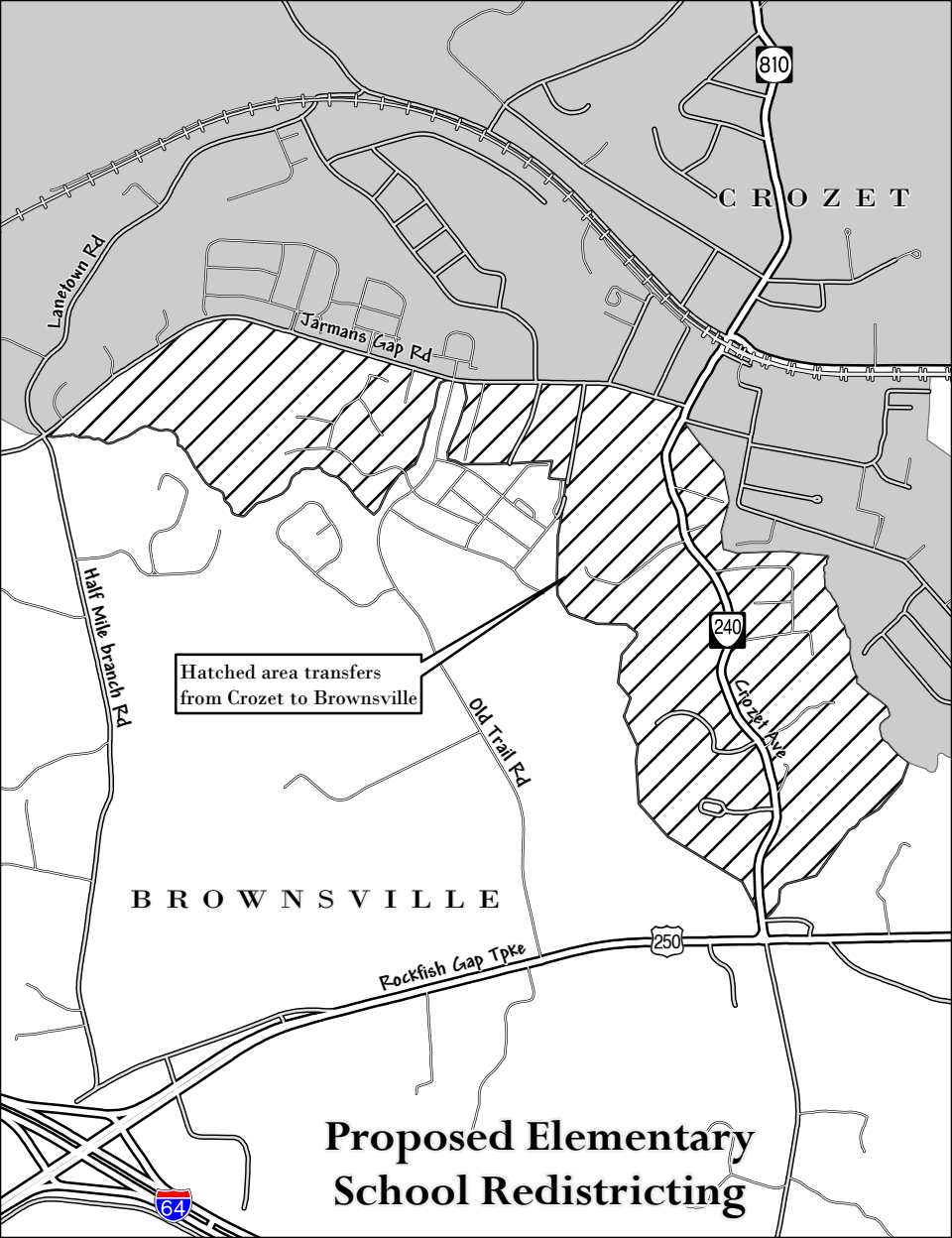
At this time there are no planned changes for Murray Elementary School.

**39. Is the education compromised by school being in trailers?**

We do not feel that attending a class in a trailer compromises a student's education.

**40. Can the projection numbers be available for the other schools in the county?**

We have projected enrollment for each school. These numbers are used to project staffing needs prior to the development of the budget.



810

CROZET

LaneTown Rd

Jarmans Gap Rd

Half Mill branch Rd

Hatched area transfers from Crozet to Brownsville

Old Trail Rd

240

Gap Rd

BROWNSVILLE

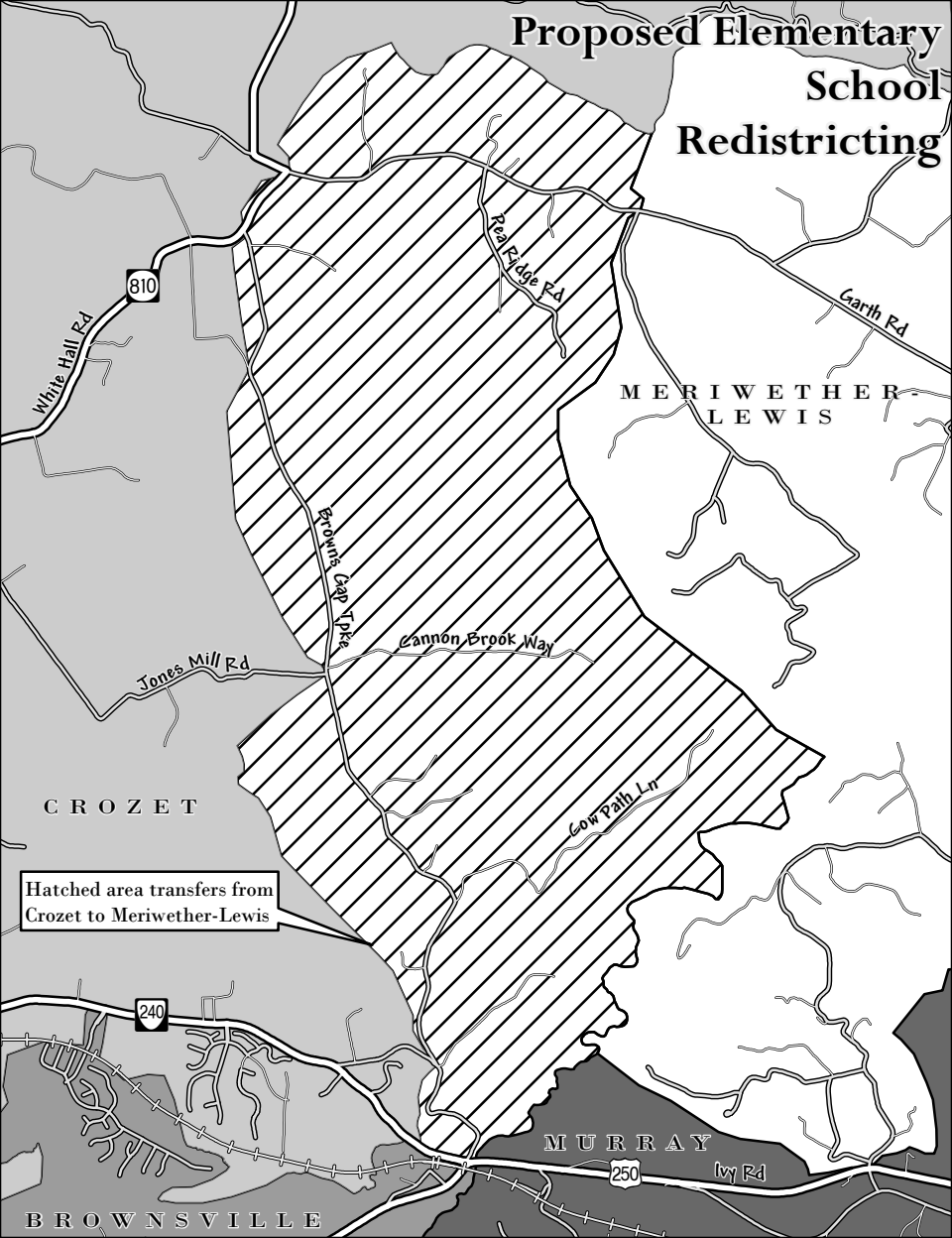
Rockfish Gap Tpke

250

# Proposed Elementary School Redistricting

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MERIWETHER-LEWIS

CROZET

MURRAY

Hatched area transfers from Crozet to Meriwether-Lewis

BROWNSVILLE