

**Community Engagement Meetings
Athens High School
Thursday, October 27, 2005**

Comments from the Athens Drive High School Community Meeting, Thursday, October 27, 2005.

Generally, the notes are written as the parents wrote them. Some information that might identify a child's unique situation was not included in this report:

- Use permanent seat capacity when using and presenting data to municipalities.
- Audit free and reduced lunch populations.
- Have concerns regarding academic impact of high school level switches on students-especially when high school students are being moved to a brand new school. Past experiences with new school start-up indicates that the first year is fraught with challenges (textbooks, media center, etc.)
- Consider reducing the F&R percentage at Athens High to more healthy percentages. Other high schools close to where we live are much lower.
- Consider moving our node 424.6 to Middle Creek High; Athens High is 30-40 minutes from our neighborhood.
- Why is the attendance at Community Engagement Meetings so low, most parents feel that the school system is going to do what ever they want-these meetings are just for "SHOW".
- Your outreach efforts are commendable.
- Has there been any thought to coordinating with the excellent post-secondary institutions to offer advanced placement courses exclusively for Wake County or any local high school students on site at the universities.
- Move node 424.6 to Middle Creek High, we are less than 2 miles from that school. The traffic flow to Athens High is horrible in the morning, making us add 20 minutes to our commute. We came to this meeting to express our concerns; lots of people do not attend because they do not care—"WE CARE".
- Have serious issues with converting to year-round, will have students on two different schedules, we enjoy having the summers off. I understand your need to create all schools in WCPSS as equal, but I have a hard time seeing the F&R numbers in Western Wake Schools as compared to other elementary schools in the county. Of course, the schools with lower F&R will have higher test scores. That doesn't seem fair and equal!
- How do we accommodate families with students on two different schedules, year-round and traditional. There are no middle school seats to move middle school kids.
- The year-round program has changed the % of F&R at the base schools in the Western part of the county. It has not functioned as a magnet in terms of socioeconomic diversity. It would put the schools on a more equal footing if nodes or all magnets (in diverse areas) were year-round. Have Career Centers (for advanced courses) or Vocational Tech. Center-would allow high schools to offer appropriate courses.
- Last year at the Community Engagement Meetings you gave much information regarding the planned opening of new schools in 2007 (including the new Holly Springs elementary

school). Appears much time and effort was spent “planning” ahead. I question why no information was compiled similarly for possible affects if Holly Grove Elementary School was opened as year-round. This would have been “true planning”. Who dropped the ball? This is one example of many exhibiting the WCPSS inability to “plan” ahead for more than 6 months. The school board looks to the Office of Growth Management for detailed information to support or deny the plan. Last year WCPSS reassigned students to Turner Creek YR that would be better going to the new Holly Grove YR (as far as distance goes). An unnecessary, poorly planned reassignment. It is absurd and presumptuous to think that families should apply to the year-round program, not having any say in what actual school (location) that they would be assigned to. There is absolutely no reason year-round families should not be confident in the actual school they are to attend, just as traditional.