

**Community Engagement Meetings  
Garner High School  
Wednesday, November 2, 2005**

Comments from the Garner High School Community Engagement Meeting, Wednesday, November 2, 2005.

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

- I believe in neighborhood schools. I strongly oppose busing children across town to meet specific numbers or alleviate overcrowding. Build more schools! Some children have a difficult time adjusting to school; one positive force is to see neighborhood children in class and in the hallways. Seeing familiar faces helps tremendously. Because it is a neighborhood school, parents can volunteer, this helps children adjust. Thank you for holding the meeting so that we could voice our concerns and get answers to our questions.
- Leave rising juniors in the schools they are currently attending. Open new high schools with 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades.
- The health of a school is important. I am more concerned about stability. Students excel at Timber Drive Elementary. I believe this is because of the discipline and structure in place at this school. I hope that the board will consider leaving a school that, based on your standards is healthy, alone.
- Students attending Timber Drive Elementary should stay at that school. It would affect them adversely if moved.
- Smith Elementary needs attention. Garner schools does not deserve to have over 67% of its students sitting at free and reduced level. Many parents are begging to stay at their school. I am begging for you to put forth an extra effort and look once again at Smith Elementary.
- One of the big advantages of the year-round school system is staying with the same class of students each year and developing strong friendships and support groups. I would like to have the option to stay at Timber Drive Elementary versus being pulled to Barwell Road Elementary, since we went through the application process to get into Timber Drive. We should be able to "opt out" of Barwell Road and stay at Timber Drive.
- I think we should have an option of staying at Timber Drive Elementary or going to Barwell Road. Change some current elementary schools to year-round in this area. Keep their base area the same.
- I would like to request that our children, currently enrolled in Timber Drive, be allowed to remain at Timber Drive.
- The majority of parents are in favor of year-round. When reassignments are done, the schools should be populated by those who live closest to the school and work outward from there.

- If they are not already, builders/developers should be required to contribute to building new schools per capita.
- Consider transforming the traditional schools to year-round.
- We would much rather go to year-round schedule than move our children to another school. If you could just keep the neighborhoods on the same track. Everyone would be happy.
- I do not think students in Timber Drive who had to apply to go there should have to leave. And busing is already bad and you want to make it worse and keep children on buses longer.
- I do not think students who have painstakingly gone through the application process to enter a year-round school (Timber Drive) should be jerked out of their school! It is not fair to the students in elementary school. They are too young to change schools that frequently. We should have the option to stay at Timber Drive!
- I went through the application process to get my child into Timber Drive. It would be a shame for him to be moved away from the stability of his friends and the YMCA program. This would be undue stress on students. We want to stay at Timber Drive.
- We applied for Timber Drive Elementary and by luck (lottery) we were accepted. I believe children who were accepted at the school should be allowed to stay or opt to leave for their base school. I understand traditional schools do not have that option, but they did have the option to apply for Timber and chose not to. Again, children at Timber should be allowed to stay if accepted. Please look at grandfathering, in addition to, allowing students a choice. Thank you and please continue these meetings so parents have a VOICE.
- With years of busing, why are there still schools with an F&R lunch ratio of 5-10%? Of course, their school's scores are better. Where is the balancing?
- Instead of spending money to outfit Holly Springs High for K-5, what about modular to use for one year and then move to another location instead of "throwing away" up fit monies?
- With all of this high school redistricting, my hope is: a) my child does not pass by neighborhoods between our home and the school that did not get redistricted as we were. b) My child is not bused 20 miles (30 minutes) from our home when our current high school (Middle Creek) is 7 minutes from our home. Gas is at a premium and Wake County needs to conserve and save my tax dollars.