

**Community Engagement Meetings
Green Hope High School
Tuesday, October 25, 2005**

Comments from the Green Hope High School Community Engagement Meeting, Tuesday, October 25, 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:

- Would like to know why the year-round schools don't appear to have more children than traditional schools.
- Keep families together, we do not care which school they attend just keep siblings together. This is referring to the high school years.
- Families cannot support two schools; keep high school siblings at the same school.
- Parent would like to know if there would be students from Durham attending Panther Creek High? Small node, keep at Green Hope High. Would like to see better programs, curriculum, athletics, etc.
- Provide band program at Panther Creek High. Keep Cary Park at Highcroft until Cary Park opens. Keep our elementary and middle schools on the same year-round schedule.
- Open a middle school in Cary Park the same time as the elementary opens, so they can stay on the same year-round schedule.
- Have a marching band at Panther Creek, not every student is a jock and this would keep students out of trouble. This would also impact scholarships to colleges in the future.
- Why not hold developers accountable for providing school sites when they develop land. In two years Panther Creek will be at capacity, it would not be fair to bus students away when kids living further away are bused to Panther Creek.
- One of the myths is that busing is significantly contributing to overcrowding in some areas. It would be good to know how many students are in spot-nodes or bused for F&R balancing purposes.
- Your timing is too late, WCPSS needs to do a better job of planning reassignment moves well in advance. December/January is too late.
- Sunset Ridge needs to stay at Middle Creek High; it is the anchor at that school.
- West Lake Middle feeds into Middle Creek High-keep the "West Lake Heritage" alive for rising sophomores at Middle Creek-their roots are deep and healthy at Middle Creek-this would be devastating.
- With the growth, reassignment is needed, but rising 10th graders should not be reassigned. The high school years are one of bonding and team building that lasts for life. Lets use continuity to establish these bonds.
- Glad to see that rising 11th graders can remain at their current school; if this is impossible, please consider 11th graders with their own transportation to attend their current high school.

- Invest in a comprehensive, positive public relations campaign for the next year's bond referendum, not "doom and gloom"
- If considering year-round schools as a norm, evaluate the availability of staff for childcare during track-out times. If high schools are not year-round, it may be difficult for organizations to find enough staff to handle track-out times.
- Do not force year-round on parents, give us a choice, and fill year-round schools with students who apply. Do not leave empty due to F&R or diversity manipulations.
- Students who live within walking distance, able to see the school, see the baseball, football fields should be assigned to that school; neighborhood schools.
- Consider Panther Creek High as a modified calendar school, offer a two-track high school; this would help with the younger siblings who attend a year-round school.
- Need more buses, disappointed East Cary not opening for 2006-07; consider "CORE learning" approach.
- Major issue at the meeting was to sell the bond referendum. Developers should pay for schools; have only elementary schools on the year-round schedule, no middle or high.
- Siblings at the high school level should not be split, grandfather all siblings.
- Students who are highly involved in a school activity should be able to remain at that high school (band, drama, etc.).
- Making new schools year-rounds schools is great, good way to accommodate growth. WCPSS needs a year-round high school.
- Can hear the band, hear the games; you should be able to attend that school.
- Give parents the option to keep students together.
- Exceptions should be made for students in marching band to be grandfathered.
- Allow parents the right to opt out of year-round, if forced to attend year-round would have to suffer for years on different schedules.
- It is too costly to have two high school students at two different schools, keep students together.
- Make all schools year-round; provide a year-round high school.
- Keep 10th graders at current school, look at the dropout rate. It is vital for students to maintain a balance and belong to their "community" school. Move the building of Heritage High up. Give priority to those families requesting magnet/year-round seats if it helps alleviate crowding at the base school.