

**Community Engagement Meetings
Leesville Road High School
Thursday, November 3, 2005**

Comments from the Leesville Road High School Community Engagement Meeting, Thursday, November 3, 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 appreciate all your efforts in Growth Management; I strongly believe, from personal experience and research, that multi-track year-round schools are not a good situation-cause problems and there are negative consequences. Magnet, year-round and charter have a place in the school system. I observed them as abused in the WCPSS, while academic numerical targets appear to be met the quality of community is progressively degrading as sub communities are forced to fragment. No mandatory year-round schools!
- I find it difficult to understand why WCPSS continues to repeat mistakes in estimating what capacity will be needed at each school. The city planning department certainly know what population density based on zoning. The way Wake County has grown has been a hodge podge of leap frogging subdivisions for the past 20 years. This can be planned for and accommodated without having to reassign students. When schools are located and built the full capacity of the geographic region is already known. Schools should be built in such a way that they could be added on to as the area population increases. Temporary mobile units can be used until permanent additions to existing schools can be completed. Problems arise in situations such as the land swamp situation where former Durham County property was annexed into the city of Raleigh, without plans for where the new families would send their students to school, and so forth.
- Leesville Elementary was not on the crowded list, but it IS very crowded. Permanent capacity of 540, current numbers over 930. Middle school modular and mobiles on playground space. Teacher assistants being run ragged trying to serve all classrooms with limited budget for TA's.
- Can you design the new elementary schools in such a way that they can be converted into a 5th/6th grade center or a middle school, if necessary?
- If a high school is a 102% capacity and you state that you are "not real worried" about these schools, why would you consider moving students from that school to fill Panther Creek? Also, you are taking performing arts, sports programs, and other activities into consideration when shuffling 9th and 10th graders? These are very important factors to the emotional well being and future plans of high school students.
- Students in the same family should never be forced to attend different schools, especially high school.
- Will Leesville Middle School become a year-round school in the future?

- Why did you not comment on the charter school question? You addressed other questions.
- We have a child at Broughton High as a magnet student, another child at Daniels Middle. We want to make sure the sibling will be eligible to be a magnet student at Broughton their 9th grade year-to continue in the IB Program.
- Capacity should list two percentages: a) brick and mortar and optimum mobiles b) brick and mortar actual. This allows us to see true nature of crowding.
- Wake County needs to plan better for growth with better zoning, impact fees, and/or real city planning. Look at the growth around Phoenix as an example of good planning. The school districts there don't have to deal with this because the local government does. Families should not be split; younger siblings should have the option of attending the same school.
- I am very concerned that my rising 10th grader will have to move, if I had known this last year, I would have looked into alternate schools. Let us continue at our school.
- The F&R% at Carroll Middle School is significantly higher than other middle schools in Planning Area A. It is also under enrolled, due mainly to it renovation. When renovations are completed, will you reassign non-F&R nodes to Carroll to bring the F&R more in line with other middle schools? Will you consider making Carroll a magnet school; this would make Carroll more attractive. I think parents would "clamor" to get their children into an existing magnet program in North Raleigh.
- For those of us residing further out, we appreciate your attempts and efforts to continue to keep us at Hilburn Elementary and Leesville Road Middle and high school. Thank you!
- Do not split families across multiple high schools. Let's hope that the new school board members bring more common sense and business sense to this whole re-assignment process.
- Has anyone considered having the over crowded high schools work on a shift program. This would keep families together and allow juniors and seniors to work as they do. Travel to distance schools is expensive and dangerous-2 hours on a bus or car is rude and uncalled for. This time could be used for studying or working or sports.