

**COMMENTS FROM CEM – GREEN HOPE HIGH SCHOOL – WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 21, 2005**

Generally, the notes are shown as parents wrote them. Some information that might identify a child's unique situation was not included in this report. Thanks for the positive comments about the efforts of Growth Management:

- I think it is important to have community schools. Please consider this.
- We love year-round school – we have attended Oak Grove and West Lake – maybe you could consider switching Middle Creek to a modified schedule as well.
- Converting to year-round is a good short term solution. There should be after- school programs also.
- Designate new schools as overflow schools for existing overenrolled schools, rather than doing reassignments. This way new students coming into the area can be moved to an overflow school, if needed.
- Please provide more details regarding plans for new schools in Cary Park. The lack of a proposed timeline, information regarding size and type of school makes what is supposed to be a public system seem a little too “cloak and dagger.”
- I would be in favor of year-round schools if there were some assurance that all of the students in a family were on the same schedule – including high school students. Please try to establish feeder patterns so that year-round elementary schools feed into year-round middles that feed into year-round high schools.
- Since the idea behind a program magnet is that students willing to travel to an under enrolled older, poorer quality facility would be “compensated” with additional programs (more money spent), why then does WCPSS continue to spend money on renovating these older facilities and when they are renovated they are still magnets and students are still compensated for attending them! Close some of these older facilities and spend the money on building schools where the students are living.
- Think about consistent feeder patterns for students not the ill-conceived feeder patterns you now have.
- WCPSS model school capacity rates do not make sense. Why are some school renovated and are smaller than before they were renovated?
- I support increased property taxes to fund school operating costs and additional construction.
- New Subdivision Rules: Consider if a contract is signed for a new house to be built that the student could go to the school for that new house no matter if it was going to take more than the currently accepted 45 days.
- **(Multiple comments about allowing rising 11th graders to remain at their current school):**
 - Many reasons being stability with friends and teachers, extracurricular activities, and college bound friends. Advanced courses may not be available at the new school
 - By the time a student is going into the third year of high school they have established their course of student, circle of friends, and extracurricular activities.

Comments from CEM at Green Hope High on 9-21-05

- Any high school reassignment should be voluntary. I am concerned that the honors and AP course would not be available at a new high school. What about high school courses offered online? Never YR high schools!
- The builders of new developments need to participate by also building schools for their developments. Stop moving kids against parent wishes. There may be parents who don't care about moving – move them
- Keep students that went to elementary, then middle school together when they go to high school – don't split up middle schools to 2, 3, or 4 high schools
- Year round works well at elementary level but it is not available for high school. What happens when the current year-round young kids mass exit year round because siblings are reaching high school age?
- I think one of the quickest solutions to the crowding while maintaining the quality of education is year round. One way to do this would be to open all new schools as year round. The cluster concept would allow more people to have their preferred schedule.
- NO mandatory year round schools – use as a choice option only
- Give rising 10th graders the option to grandfather, this is a hard transition.
- Consider: YR magnets by choice; YR elementary by choice; YR middle and high schools are not a good idea.
- Full day or half-day kindergarten should be based on what is best for a 5-year old kid, not based on childcare situations. If kindergarten were switched to _ day, maybe less people would think their kids aren't ready and need to be held back.
- Middle school in western Cary: only 2, Salem and Davis; with new elementary schools coming on line what the plans once the bond is approved
- Families should not have to have children on different calendars without some choice.
- I support the half-day kindergarten because it is better for children.
- Send neighborhoods to new schools together so children don't seem to have to go alone to a new school.
- Regardless of what you do, it will be painful in the short term but I do urge you to look at options that will have long-term impact.
- I would urge you to strongly consider base year round schools with traditional schools as magnets. Make Panther Creek a modified calendar school.
- Please strongly consider this option: All schools base year round, then you can apply to go to a traditional calendar. Basically this would be the opposite of the current situation. You could use the current proportions.
- Make Highcroft a year-round school
- Johnson County has been reported to have accurate enrollment estimate using a private firm. Why doesn't Wake County do that?
- Why not use existing buildings like Lufkin?
- How will diversity be affected? I like the way we are currently doing it.
- Are we building schools that are too big?
- Is the 42% increase in construction costs self-inflicted – more technology, more space, new health requirements?
- Isn't this increase a bubble caused by baby bust and won't we have unused space after the bubble passes?
- I am disappointed with “rich” areas like Preston and Cary Park buying a school so that they can avoid having exposure to outsiders.

Comments from CEM at Green Hope High on 9-21-05

- Please do not split neighborhoods among several elementary schools
- Mandatory year-round schools should only be used if absolutely necessary.
- How can you justify sending children from the same family to schools on different schedules?
- Starting pay for teachers is too low.
- When will parents know if they are going to be assigned to one of the new high schools?
(IT IS PLANNED TO HAVE A DRAFT PROPOSAL OUT IN DECEMBER BUT THE VOTE ISN'T TAKEN UNTIL LATE MARCH/EARLY APRIL)
- I am strongly opposed to mandatory year-round
- In some states kindergarten children go to school on alternate days. This would eliminate the need for double bus runs.
- Mandatory year-round schools must be used as an option.
- Be sure voters know what the alternatives are when you present the bond issue for a vote.

SEPTEMBER 21
GREEN HOPE HIGH SCHOOL
PARENT INPUT

- ❑ Work more closely with developers to assess needs; ask developers for help
- ❑ Strong support for voluntary YR; strong dissent for mandatory YR
- ❑ Why not build up to increase capacity
- ❑ County Commissioners should fund operating expenses adequately
- ❑ Strong dissent for 11th grade reassignment
- ❑ Use external source for projecting student enrollment
- ❑ Use existing buildings to convert to schools; make larger capacity schools
- ❑ Restrict building permits
- ❑ Support for diversity; school district's diversity policies
- ❑ Establish "safe area" close to school – would not be reassigned
- ❑ Open new schools as YR; do not convert existing schools to YR
- ❑ WCPSS has tough decisions to make
- ❑ Retain lower class sizes
- ❑ Try to accommodate proximity to schools
- ❑ Appreciate tonight's format
- ❑ Congratulate planning department
- ❑ Against assigning low-income to YR as mandatory
- ❑ Plan B in case bond referendum does not pass
- ❑ Meet the demands for new teachers
- ❑ WCPSS has an outstanding web site
- ❑ Frustration with application process to YR
- ❑ Commend for continuing Community Engagement Meetings
- ❑ Need longer window of insight for reassignment
- ❑ Would support more taxes
- ❑ Wants reassignment for rising peers
- ❑ Expand magnets
- ❑ Do not want Ramey's job
- ❑ Realize the difficulty of reassignment plan; meeting growth needs
- ❑ Survey parents regarding YR
- ❑ Take the whole family into account when considering YR, i.e. high school students
- ❑ Oversize core facilities in constructing new schools

- Reexamine transportation costs
- Crowding at Highcroft
- Moving forward with Cary Park school
- Family feeder patterns – all children in the family to attend the same elementary, middle, and high as they age through the system
- Feeder patterns – elementary schools feed to a middle school; three middle schools feed to a high school
- Good to have parent choice
- Favor the cluster system
- Morrisville/Carpenter Village k-2/3-5 combination
- Need longer window of planning; multi-year parent notification
- Keep kids together with peers
- Half-day kindergarten OK
- Current node lines are illogical; use water boundaries/neighborhoods
- WCPSS doing good job with situation it has
- Do not reduce educational quality
- Need for additional middle school in this area
- Build bigger elementary schools that could convert to middle schools
- Have learned much from Community Engagement Meetings
- Have YR base and apply to attend traditional school
- Thursday teacher workdays seem like poor planning