December 12, 2019

Dear Four Seasons Elementary School Families:

I have received a number of inquiries since the December 4, 2019, Board of Education meeting regarding a redistricting proposal put forward by Board Vice President Melissa Ellis, and am writing to you to provide you with as much information as I have so that you can better understand the issue.

Board Policy JAA and Administrative Regulation JAA-RA, Redistricting and Attendance Areas, provide that the Superintendent establish a redistricting committee consisting of representatives of potentially impacted schools to study and provide a recommendation to the Superintendent on redistricting. That is what has occurred throughout the fall with regard to schools in the Broadneck cluster, and Superintendent George Arlotto delivered his recommendation to the Board at its December 4, 2019, meeting. Regulation JAA-RA, however, also provides that “At the meeting when the Superintendent presents a recommendation, or at any meeting thereafter but before the end of January, the Board may propose that a school or schools be redistricted.”

That is what occurred on December 4, when Ms. Ellis put forth an unaffiliated proposal to redistrict approximately 56 students scheduled to attend Piney Orchard Elementary School next fall to Four Seasons Elementary School effective in September 2020. Those students live in a community known as “county planning unit 1038C” in the newly constructed Villages of Waugh Chapel. These students had been redistricted from Crofton Elementary School to Piney Orchard as part of the Board’s establishment of attendance boundaries for the new Crofton High School during its deliberations in April 2019.

It is important to know that Ms. Ellis’ proposal is, at this time, just that. The Board must first agree to take the proposal to a public hearing and then conduct such a hearing before it can consider adoption of the proposal. Neither of those steps has yet occurred.

I also want you to know that I am not a part of the process Ms. Ellis has proposed. I have not had any conversations with her or any other Board member regarding this or any other redistricting proposal. As a principal, I have no formal role in the redistricting process. My role as principal is to lead our incredible team here at Four Seasons as we educate all of the children in our care.

It is my understanding that the next step in any redistricting process will occur in January, when the Board will consider what proposals to move to a public hearing. Anne Arundel County Public Schools’ Communications Office emails the Board’s upcoming meeting agenda along with a link to a description of key items on that agenda on the Friday prior to each Board meeting. That information includes how to access documents related to Board meeting agenda items. The Board’s meeting calendar can be found here.

I would simply encourage you to keep up to date as this process moves forward and become involved to whatever extent you feel is warranted. If you have questions you think I can answer, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Regina Passwaters
Principal

RP/bm