

October 24, 2016

Dear Redistricting Team,

I regret that I cannot attend a redistricting forum to voice my concern about the newest redistricting plan. I do hope this letter will be passed along to the redistricting team.

I agree with your first, and most important, agenda in redistricting which was to move the LEAST amount of students. However, it seems that since the initial proposal many others changes have been made and now many more students are affected.

On the original proposal, slide 19, only 76 children would be affected in changing schools. This did not include those attending Pearson. According to the September plan, slide 43, 312 children will be affected. I am not even sure this takes into account the most recent e-mail of revisions.

Many children adjust to change quickly. However, in some children, change causes anxiety, fear, and social issues. Children who have attended a school are familiar with the many procedures that school uses throughout the day, such as arrival, lunch time, and departures just to name a few. There is a comfort in knowing what is expected and what is going to happen. Children also become friends with other children in their classroom or grade levels that may not live in their neighborhoods. Attending a new school will cause children to lose friendships and have to form new ones.

Children also become familiar with teachers in a particular school. Teachers become knowledgeable about children and how to teach for their optimal learning. This information is often passed on to the next level teacher if necessary. Children who receive special services such as resource room, reading recovery, social work, speech, etc. usually see the same teachers throughout their entire elementary years. Those teachers have developed a rapport with the student and family over the years. It takes time to re-establish that knowledge and trust when moving to a new school with new teachers.

My concern with the new proposal, besides affecting more children, is the *lack* of "moving larger subdivisions to schools that are closer to them", as stated in slide 30 of the September plan. I do agree that students should attend the school that is closest to their residence.

Novi Meadows	3.4 miles to Hardy (currently)	Over 5 miles to Pearson
Old Dutch Farms	3.7 miles to Hardy (currently)	Over 5 miles to Pearson

According to the September plan and the recent e-mail revisions, Old Dutch Farms, Novi Meadows, Carriage Trace and Lexington Place will be attending schools that are further away. This concerns me for three reasons.

1. When children have to travel further, they will be on the bus longer. This will mean earlier wake up times and arriving home later. These young children are already at school 7 hours a day. The additional time on the bus only lengthens this.
2. Having the buses traveling further will cost the district more money on bus fuel and maintenance of the buses. The shortest route from Napier Road to Pearson Elementary would require taking dirt roads which may take longer to be plowed in winter.
3. In the case of an emergency at school, parents will have to travel further to school to attend to their sick or injured child.

From the chart below you can see that many other large neighborhoods are closer to Pearson than are proposed in the current redistricting model.

	Miles to Proposed schools	Miles to Pearson
Lexington Place	2.9 miles to Kent Lake	1.3 miles
Carriage Trace	2.2 miles to Kent Lake	1.2 miles
Pinehurst	2.2 miles to Sayre	2.3 or less miles
Trotters Point	1.7 miles to Bartlett	2.1 miles

I believe South Lyon Schools are great! I understand and support trying to keep the schools socio-economically diverse, but I don't think this should become the overriding factor. I would encourage the redistricting team to reconsider the importance of moving the least amount of students and attending the school that is closest to home. Some schools will naturally have higher free and reduced lunches because of the proximity of the neighborhoods to a school. I believe every district has that phenomenon. Moving Lexington Place, Carriage Trace, Pinehurst or Trotter's Point would be closer to Pearson than Novi Meadows and Old Dutch Farms. I believe that all the children in South Lyon will receive an excellent education, whatever school they attend.

I do hope that you will reconsider your current redistricting plans to move the least amount of children and keep children closer to home.

Thank you for your dedication to the families of South Lyon.

Karen Davenport

The proposal released October 14 (moving 13 subdivisions/areas from CMS to MMS and 1 subdivision/area from MMS to CMS) is reflected in the table below.

	Optimal Capacity	Enhanced Capacity*	Projected 2020-2021	Optimal %	Enhanced %	Projected 2021 - 2022	Optimal %	Enhanced %
CMS	1,064	1,092	976	91.7%	89.4%	998	93.8%	91.4%
MMS	1,344	1,456	1,127	83.9%	77.4%	1,162	86.5%	79.8%

*Computer labs converted to classrooms (1 CMS, 4 MMS).

The proposal could be modified to leave Pinehurst and the surrounding area at MMS. You can see the impact of that change in the table below.

	Optimal Capacity	Enhanced Capacity*	Projected 2020-2021	Optimal %	Enhanced %	Projected 2021-2022	Optimal %	Enhanced %
CMS	1,064	1,092	889	83.6%	81.4%	912	85.7%	83.5%
MMS	1,344	1,456	1,214	90.3%	83.4%	1,248	92.9%	85.7%

You can see that with the enhanced capacity, CMS and MMS are projected to be more balanced in 2021-2022, if Pinehurst (and the surrounding area) is left at MMS. You can also see that the optimal capacity differential would be similar (7.3% for the current proposal versus 7.2% without moving students from MMS to CMS). Making this change would do the following:

- It would allow for the movement of fewer students at this time.
- It would better balance capacity at both middle schools through 2020-2021, leaving the most flexibility to adjust/redistrict until the new school is operational.
- It would prevent Pinehurst (and the surrounding area) from being moved twice, in the event that they need to be moved when a third middle school opens. Being situated near the middle of the district population and on the middle school boundary line leaves them a prime target for movement in the future. The same holds true when high school redistricting becomes necessary...Pinehurst is on the high school boundary line and would be a candidate to be moved at that time.

Maureen Krause
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Good Afternoon,

My name is Jenny Kirshman and I am speaking on behalf of parents and students in the Lyon Garden subdivision. I would like to respectfully request the Redistricting Administrative Committee to reconsider the redistricting of the Lyon Garden area to Bartlett Elementary, and continue their education at Sayre Elementary.

On behalf of our subdivision, I am requesting this revision for the following reasons:

- We have developed relationships with the teachers, administration, and leadership of Sayre
- We have invested time and money to help Sayre become the best facility for our children
- We have an understanding of the mission, curriculum, and habits of mind that Sayre has developed for their students.
- We are active participants and volunteers of the events that are planned by Sayre PTO and Administration.
- Our children have, do, and will continue to benefit from remaining part of Sayre educational system (or syare culture)
- Our children have developed friendships with many students who will remain at Sayre Elementary.

Thank you for allowing me the time to present.

Regards,
Jenny Kirshman

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Sayre Mission:

The Sayre community will provide a safe learning environment where staff, students, and parents work together to motivate the highest achievement for every child. We are committed to fostering respect and acceptance, encouraging creativity, promoting critical thinking, and developing life-long learners.