

TO: Mr. Karl Cender, President and Members of the Board of School Trustees of the Valparaiso Community Schools

FR: Dr. E. Ric Frataccia, Ed.D. Superintendent, Valparaiso Community Schools

RE: Redistricting considerations for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019

DATE: 10/17/16

Dear Colleagues,

The intent of this communication is to apprise the Board of the work that has been done over the past several months by Mr. Pat Hubbard, Transportation Director and the Central Office Administrative Team to create a redistricting plan that corresponds with the estimated dates of completion of our new elementary school and the renovations/additions to our remaining elementary schools. The tentative redistricting plan was developed with a sensitivity to the following variables:

1. Adherence to the "neighborhood school" ideal that was frequently emphasized prior to and during the referendum process;
2. Establishing student populations that will enable schools to grow and also reduce the amount of intra-district transfers of students from their "home schools" to a "partner" school;
3. Reduce the amount of times that we transport students over railroad tracks and high traffic roadways.

As noted previously the tentative redistricting plan is comprised of two stages in order to be implemented in a manner that corresponds with the estimated completion of our new school first and the completion of the renovations/additions to our remaining schools second.

The current and the projected maps of the VCS elementary school boundaries are provided for your study and for purposes of comparison.

2017-2018 Stage #1 Redistricting Plan

The primary goal of this stage is to populate our new elementary school with students who reside south of 30. Utilizing current student enrollment data and assuming no gain or loss in student population we estimate that the student population at our new school will be approximately 484 students.

The 484 students will be comprised of 270 students from Hayes-Leonard who reside south of 30; 122 students from Central who reside south of 30 and 92 students from Parkview who reside south of 30. Please refer to the "projected Boundary/Redistribution map for our new elementary school and Table 1 for the estimated student populations at each of the elementary schools for the 2017-2018 school year.

In an effort to reduce the number of students that we move in consecutive years and to establish a student population that enables a school to grow and thereby reduce the amount of intra-district transfers that we currently do, we propose redistricting a portion of Central Elementary's current

boundary to Parkview Elementary School. This will impact approximately 31 students from Central Elementary School who will move from Central to Parkview.

The current Central Elementary School boundary comprised of the east side of College Avenue from the Canadian National Railroad on the north extending south to Route 30 will be redistricted to be a part of the Parkview Elementary School boundary. The resulting student population at Parkview Elementary School for the 2017-2018 school year is noted in Table 1.

Currently, Northview Elementary School has a number of intra-district transfer students and a large number of these students have been transferred to Cooks Corners Elementary School. Additionally, most of the students from Northview who have been transferred to Cooks Corners currently reside in an area that is just southwest of Cooks Corners Elementary School.

This area just southwest of Cooks Corners Elementary School is estimated to have approximately 61 students, and as previously noted many of these students currently attend Cooks Corners Elementary School as intra-district transfer students from Northview Elementary School. This area is comprised of: north of Ransom Road; west of Goodrich Road; east of 175 and south of 550.

The redistricting of this area to Cooks Corners from Northview Elementary School will result in the estimated student population of Cooks Corners to go from approximately 240 to 300 students in 2017-2018, while simultaneously enabling the student population at Northview Elementary School to remain at 301 students. This move is intended to enable the amount of intra-district student transfers from Northview to decrease considerably in the future, and Cooks Corners has the room to accommodate 61 students. Stage #1 also enables Northview to reduce population to a more suitable number for its building.

In summary, stage #1 of the redistricting plan populates our new school and replaces a portion of the students that Parkview loses to the new school with students from Central, thereby enabling both schools to have student populations that can accommodate future growth and thereby further inhibiting intra-district transfers of students.

TABLE 1

2017-2018 Elementary Estimated Student Count by Grade and School.							
SCHOOL	Kdg. (estimate)	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Total
Central Elementary (Hayes Leonard)	30-Cen 15 H/L	32-Cen 11-H/L	36-Cen 13-H/L	26-Cen 11-H/L	26-Cen 17-H/L	29-Cen 21-H/L	179-Cen 88-H/L 267 total
Cooks Corner Elementary	38-CC 11-NV	37-CC 12-NV	43-CC 10-NV	42-CC 7-NV	39-CC 10-NV	40-CC 11-NV	239-CC 61-NV 300 total
Flint Lake Elementary	93	103	80	80	95	107	558
Memorial Elementary	56 9 transfer	56 11 transfer	51	58 11 transfer	60 1 transfer	62 1 transfer	343 33 transfer
New School Elementary	45- H/L 20- Cen 15-PV	43-H/L 14-Cen 20-PV	43-H/L 24-Cen 19-PV	54-H/L 22-Cen 10-PV	45-H/L 25-Cen 14-PV	40-H/L 17-Cen 14-PV	270-H/L 122-Cen 92-Pv 484 total
Northview Elementary	55	57	52	45	41	51	301
Parkview Elementary	33-PV 5-Cen	35-PV 7-Cen	33-PV 6-Cen	37-PV 5-Cen	29-PV 3-Cen	32-PV 5-Cen	199-PV 31-Cen 230 total
Thomas Jefferson Elementary	50	42	60	44	58	46	300
All School Totals	475	480	470	452	463	476	2816

Assumptions:

1. No change in student population/grade level and school
2. Implement only boundary change from Northview to Cooks Corners (@57 students)
3. Implement only boundary change from Central to Parkview (@31 students)

Table 1

2017-2018 Projected Elementary School Boundaries

Central Elementary:

The current 2016- 2017 boundary will attend the Hayes Leonard School building with the following exceptions: The east side of College Ave from the Canadian National Railroad to Route 30 will attend Parkview Elementary and the current 2016-2017 Central Elementary boundary south of Route 30 will attend New School.

Cooks Corner Elementary:

The current 2016-2017 boundaries with the addition of the west side of Goodrich Rd from the south side of 550 North to the north side of Ransom Rd and the east side of 175 West and 150 West from the south side of 550 North to the north side of Ransom Rd (2016- 2017 Northview Elementary students).

Flint Lake Elementary: No changes to current 2016-2017 boundaries.

Hayes Leonard Elementary:

The current 2016-2017 Hayes Leonard Elementary boundary south of Route 30 will attend New School. The current 2016-2017 Hayes Leonard boundary north of Route 30 will attend the Hayes Leonard School building.

Memorial Elementary: No changes to current 2016-2017 boundaries.

New School:

The current 2016-2017 boundaries for Central Elementary, Hayes Leonard Elementary and Parkview Elementary south of Route 30 will attend New School.

Northview Elementary:

The current 2016-2017 boundaries with the deletion of the west side of Goodrich Rd from the south side of 550 North to the north side of Ransom Rd and the east side of 175 West and 150 West from the south side of 550 North to the north side of Ransom Rd (adjustment to 2016/17 Cooks Corner Elementary boundary).

Parkview Elementary:

The current 2016-2017 Parkview boundary south of Route 30 will attend New School. The current 2016-2017 Parkview boundary north of Route 30 will attend Parkview Elementary along with the east side of College Ave. from the Canadian National Railroad on the north extended south to Route 30 with an imaginary line (2016-2017 Central Elementary students).

Thomas Jefferson Elementary: No changes to current 2016-2017 boundary.

2018-2019 Stage #2 of the Redistricting Plan

The primary goals of stage #2 of the tentative redistricting plan are:

1. To develop elementary school boundaries that:
 - a. Adhere to our patrons' desire to establish and maintain "neighborhood" schools;
 - b. Reduce the amount of intra-district transfers of students by establishing and maintaining student populations that will accommodate future of growth;
 - c. Reduce the amount of times that we transport students over railroad tracks and high traffic roadways.
2. To achieve a greater balance in the total student populations at each of our Middle Schools and to reduce the amount of splitting 5th grade students to attend different middle schools.

Once again the current and the projected maps of the VCS elementary school boundaries are provided for your study and for purposes of comparison.

The tentative redistricting plan for 2018-2019 impacts all of our elementary schools except our new elementary school. The map of the 2018-2019 elementary school redistricting plan results in the student populations noted in Table 2. Additionally both Table 2 and Table 2.1 reveal not only the estimated total student population/elementary school but also how the student population was derived. That is, each elementary school maintained students from previous year enrollments and each school received students who formerly attended other schools (relocated from) and students who left to attend other schools (relocated to).

We believe that the 2018-2019 redistricting plan achieves the goals that we previously noted and which we believe that our patrons emphasized throughout the referendum process.

Middle School Redistricting 2018-2019

You may recall that at our first redistricting-related meeting in February, 2016, the elementary school redistricting ideas were very well received and we have since continued to receive positive responses from our patrons about the elementary school redistricting plan. The challenge that we found at the February, 2016 meeting were almost all related to what was presented to redistrict the middle school boundaries to achieve a more favorable balance in the student populations at each of our middle schools.

We have devoted considerable attention to this issue and we believe that we have developed a plan that achieves a greater balance in the student populations of our two middle schools and also keeps most of our 5th graders together to attend the same middle school.

Please note the middle school "projected boundary" map. The major change on the projected middle school map is that Northview 5th graders are slated to stay together and attend Thomas Jefferson Middle School (TMJS). You will recall that the practice has been for a percentage of Northview 5th graders to split from their peers to attend Ben Franklin Middle School (BFMS). Now they are together and attending TJMS.

Note also that 5th graders from Cooks Corners will also no longer be split from one another. The Cooks Corners 5th graders will be expected to attend BFMS together.

The 5th graders who attend our new school will be split. 5th graders who reside in the former school boundary of Parkview Elementary School previously attended TJMS. They will continue to attend TJMS. The remainder of the 5th grade population previously attended BFMS and will continue to do so as well.

In general, redistricting has the dual ability to be both difficult to do and relatively unpopular. If there are better ideas we are certainly open to them; however, in my experience most folks believe that they have better ideas hence the angst that seems to accompany efforts to redistrict.

Finally, I believe that the Board needs to move fairly quickly on the elementary redistricting plan; however, if the Board chooses to wait on the middle school plan then I believe we may delay this for a period of time pending enrollment of BFMS.

I hope that the Board finds this plan to be rigorous, suitable and able to be modified if needed.

Table 2

Elementary School Redistricting Projected Student Numbers

2018-2019 School Year

New School:

Students relocated *from* Hayes Leonard- 283

Students relocated *from* Central- 133

Students relocated *from* Parkview- 93

Total= 509

Projected Enrollment/ Capacity

509/550

Memorial Elementary:

Students Relocated *from* Hayes Leonard- 93

Students relocated *from* Northview- 67

Students relocated *from* Central- 31

Students *to* Cooks Corner- 122

Students *to* Northview- 40

Students *maintained from* Memorial- 220

Total= 411

Projected Enrollment/Capacity

411/450

Cook Corner Elementary:

Students relocated *from* Memorial- 122

✓ Students relocated *from* Northview- 57

Students *maintained from* Cooks Corner- 248

Total- 427

Projected Enrollment/Capacity

427/450

Parkview Elementary:

Students relocated *from* Thomas Jefferson- 42

✓ Students relocated *from* Central- 40

Students relocated *to* New School- 93

Students *maintained from* Parkview- 183

Total- 265

Projected Enrollment/Capacity

265/305

Central Elementary:

Students relocated *to* New School- 133

Students relocated *to* Memorial- 31

✓ Students relocated *to* Parkview- 40

Students maintained *from* Central- 156

Total- 156 **Projected Enrollment/Capacity 156/180**

(Move to Hayes Leonard during construction/renovation 2017/2018).

Northview Elementary:

Students relocated *from* Flint Lake- 35

Students relocated *from* Memorial- 40

✓ Students relocated *to* Cooks Comer- 57

Students relocated *to* Memorial- 67

Students maintained *from* Northview- 223

Total- 298 **Projected Enrollment/Capacity 298/305**

Thomas Jefferson Elementary:

Students relocated *from* Flint Lake- 44

Students relocated *to* Parkview- 42

Students relocated *to* Flint Lake- 29

Students maintained *from* Thomas Jefferson- 228

Totals- 272 **Projected Enrollment/Capacity 272/305**

Flint Lake Elementary:

Students relocated *from* Thomas Jefferson- 29

Students relocated *to* Thomas Jefferson- 44

Students relocated *to* Northview- 35

Students maintained *from* Flint Lake- 480

Totals- 509 **Projected Enrollment/Capacity 509/600**

✓ = This was accomplished in 2017-2018

TABLE 2.1**Elementary School Redistricting Ideas- 2018-2019 School Year****(Also, please refer to the current and proposed elementary school boundary maps)**

Elementary School Redistricting Ideas for School Year 2018-19	Current Enrollment/ Current Capacity	Projected Enrollment/ Projected Capacity
“Heavilin” Elementary ✓ Students relocated from Hayes Leonard = 283 ✓ Students relocated from Central = 133 ✓ Students relocated from Parkview = 93 Total 509	368*/368 *(HLES)	509/550
Memorial Elementary: Students relocated from Hayes Leonard=93 Students relocated from Northview = 67 Students relocated from Central = 31 Students relocated to Cooks Corners = 122 Students relocated to Northview = 40 Students maintained from Memorial = 220 Total = 411	305/305	411/450
Cooks Corners Elementary: Students relocated from Memorial = 122 ✓ Students relocated from Northview = 57 Students maintained from Cooks Corners = 248 Total = 427	260/270	427/450
Parkview Elementary: Students relocated from Thomas Jefferson = 42 ✓ Students relocated from Central = 40 ✓ Students relocated to “Heavilin” = 93 Students maintained from Parkview = 183 Total = 265	264/280	265/305
Central Elementary: ✓ Students relocated to “Heavilin” = 133 Students relocated to Memorial = 31 ✓ Students relocated to Parkview = 40 Students maintained from Central - 156 Move Central to Hayes during construction/renovation in 2017-2018 Total = 156	368/368	156/180
Northview Elementary: Students relocated from Flint Lake = 35 Students relocated from Memorial = 40 ✓ Students relocated to Cooks Corners = 57 Students relocated to Memorial - 67 Students maintained from Northview = 223 Total= 298	305/305	298/305
Thomas Jefferson Elementary: Students relocated from Flint Lake = 44 Students relocated to Parkview = 42 Students relocated to Flint Lake - 29 Students maintained from Thomas Jefferson= 228 Total = 272	280/305	272/305
Flint Lake Elementary: Students relocated from Thomas Jefferson=29 Students relocated to Thomas Jefferson = 44 Students relocated to Northview = 35 Students maintained from Flint Lake = 480 Total = 509	560/600	509/600

Middle School Student Estimated Count 2018 through 2023

SCHOOL YEAR	Ben Franklin Middle School	Thomas Jefferson Middle School	Total
2017-2018 Current 5,6 and 7 grades	717	682	1399
2018-2019 Current 4,5 and 6 grades	695	721	1416
2019-2020 Current 3,4 and 5 grades	723	720	1443
2020-2021 Current 2,3 and 4 grades	687	702	1389
2021-2022 Current 1,2 and 3 grades	689	691	1380
2022-2023 Current k,1 and 2 grades	687	712	1399
EAST / WEST 2018-2019		NORTH / SOUTH 2018-2019	
Ben Franklin	Thomas Jefferson	Ben Franklin	Thomas Jefferson
Cooks Corners	Flint Lake	New School	Cooks Corners
Memorial	Northview	Memorial	Flint Lake
Central	Thomas Jefferson	Central	Thomas Jefferson
New School:	Parkview	Parkview	Northview
(west of Smoke Rd., Current)	New School:		
	(east of Smoke Rd., Current)		