

Unity Area Boundary Study Boundary Advisory Committee Meeting #2



January 11, 2017

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/unityarea.aspx



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Schedule

Meeting	Date	Topic
✓ #1	December 22, 2016	Committee charge, overview of process, timeline, review of zones to build options, development of criteria to evaluate option. Review of community requested option and projected condition with no change.
--	Due 1/24/2017	<i>School PTA and other meetings to share options and gather feedback</i>
✓ #2	January 11, 2017	Feedback on option. Committee members submit option evaluations and schools submit PTA position papers (if needed).



January 18, 2017
 January 24, 2017
 February 1, 2017
 February 15, 2017
 February 27, 2017
 March 9, 2017
 March 30, 2017
 September 5, 2017

Community-wide meeting to present option and get feedback.
 Backup meeting date. **Deadline for position papers and evaluations.**
 Boundary Report submitted to superintendent and BOE
 Superintendent's recommendation to the Board of Education
 Board of Education boundary work session
 Board of Education public hearing
 Board of Education Action (subject to change)
 Plan implemented if approved by BOE



Agenda

- Roll call
- Ground rules
- Review committee packet and background materials.
- Present information requested at the last meeting.
- Review committee criteria.
- Share feedback.
- Review draft report narrative.
- Hand in option evaluations and position papers. (Due 1/24)
- Discuss next steps and fill out feedback forms.
- Address questions and comments from observers.



Ground Rules

1. Be true to the charge
2. Share openly
3. Participate enthusiastically
4. Give and receive constructive feedback
5. Appreciate everyone's ideas
6. Suspend judgment
7. Limit discussions to the topic
8. Do homework and be prepared
9. Abide by decisions made by the facilitator
10. Cell phones—turn off, vibrate, or answer on first ring
11. Start and end meetings on time



Feedback from previous meeting

This session was most helpful at:

- Identifying criteria and addressing potential concerns with boundary change
- Discussing the expectations of the process
- Setting criteria



This session was least helpful at:

- Presenting accurate data points
- Try to frame conversations to BOE policy and DLRP best practices (i.e. the board sees anything less than 5% as 5%)
- Talking equally- Unity community vs. Rosa/Sherwood area; seemed a bit less talking by Unity folks
- Keeping personal stories at bay



Suggestions for future sessions

- Provide pertinent background/supporting information
- Talking circle- no main speakers
- Only committee members sit at the round table discussion. Others sit on outside table
- Ask visitors to “fish bowl”



Information Requested

From December 22, 2016 meeting



A.M. Bus Route Information for Unity Area

Gaithersburg Cluster Schools

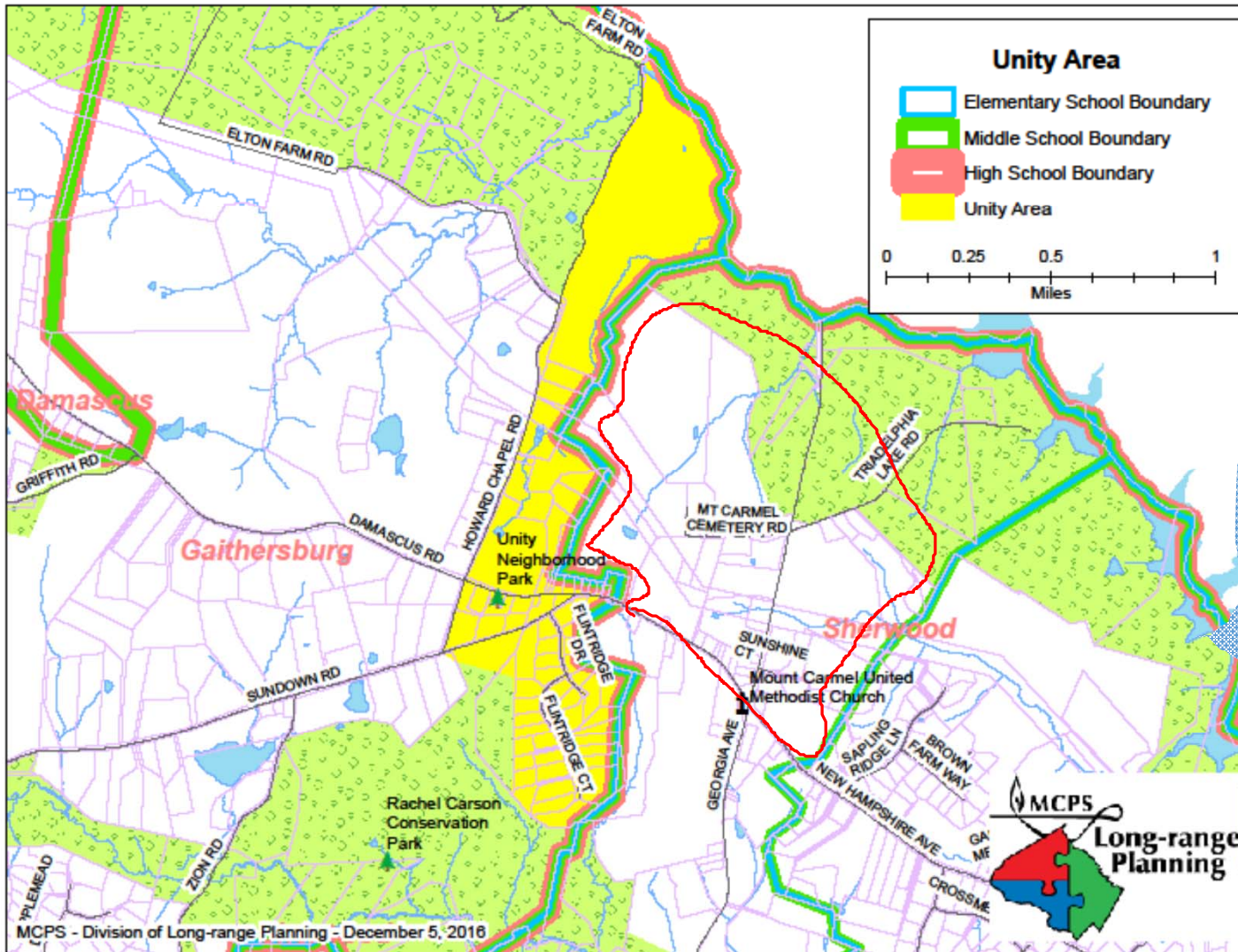
Laytonsville ES (Tier 2, 9:25 a.m. to 3:50 p.m.)	Route 4114 First stop 8:31 a.m.	49 minutes
Gaithersburg MS	Route 4109 First stop 7:02 a.m.	58 minutes
Gaithersburg HS	Route 4107 First stop: 6:21 a.m.	56 minutes

Sherwood Cluster Schools

Greenwood ES (Tier 1, 9:00 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.)	Route 3315 First stop 8:40 a.m.	34 minutes
Rosa Parks MS	Route 3310 First stop 7:20 a.m.	40 minutes
Sherwood HS	Route 3310 First stop 6:35 a.m.	30 minutes

Routes currently serve Howard County Line area including Mt. Carmel Cemetery Rd., Sunshine Ct., Gregg Rd.





Activity Bus information

- Activity busses serve Gaithersburg HS and Gaithersburg MS 3 days a week
- The stops vary due to the rural nature of the routes
- Buses drop off students along the following roads on both sides:
 - Sundown Road from Laytonsville Road to Damascus Road
 - Damascus Road from Sundown Road to Georgia Ave
 - Damascus Road from Georgia Ave to Griffith Road
 - Griffith Road from Damascus Road to Laytonsville Road



Activity Bus information

- Activity busses serve Sherwood HS and Rosa Parks MS
- The activity busses go into the area of Sunshine and are mostly mailbox stops
- Rosa Parks bus 3304 has students on the bus for up to 1 ½ hours and takes about an hour on average
- Sherwood busses are about the same



Enrollment and Capacity



Laytonsville ES Enrollment and Capacity

(Maximum # of Seats=449)

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
No Change						
Number of Students	370	376	313	382	374	390
<i>% of Building Occupied</i>	82%	84%	70%	85%	83%	87%
Available Seats	79	73	136	67	75	59
With Change						
Number of Students	360	366	303	372	364	380
<i>% of Building Occupied</i>	80%	82%	67%	83%	81%	85%
Available Seats	89	83	146	77	85	69

Greenwood ES Enrollment and Capacity

(Maximum # of Seats=584)

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
No Change						
Number of Students	462	450	443	450	447	432
<i>% of Building Occupied</i>	79%	77%	76%	77%	77%	74%
Available Seats	122	134	141	134	137	152
With Change						
Number of Students	472	460	453	460	457	442
<i>% of Building Occupied</i>	81%	79%	79%	79%	78%	76%
Available Seats	112	124	131	124	127	142



Effect on Demographics

School	% Afr. Amer.	% Asian	% Hispanic	% White	% 2 or More	% FARMS	% ESOL
No Change							
Laytonsville ES	15.7%	7.1%	20.9%	47.9%	8.4%	20.8%	5.2%
With Change							
Laytonsville ES	16.0%	7.2%	21.1%	47.5%	8.3%	21.4%	5.6%
No Change							
Greenwood ES	10.4%	7.8%	7.8%	66.7%	7.4%	9.1%	<5.0%
With Change							
Greenwood ES	10.3%	7.7%	7.9%	66.7%	7.5%	8.9%	<5.0%

Gaithersburg MS Enrollment and Capacity (Maximum # of Seats=962)

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
No Change						
Number of Students	816	857	865	901	959	957
<i>% of Building Occupied</i>	85%	89%	90%	94%	100%	99%
Available Seats	146	105	97	61	3	5
With Change						
Number of Students	806	847	855	891	949	947
<i>% of Building Occupied</i>	84%	88%	89%	93%	99%	98%
Available Seats	156	115	107	71	13	15



Rosa Parks MS Enrollment and Capacity

(Maximum # of Seats=978)

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
No Change						
Number of Students	862	836	851	830	824	812
<i>% of Building Occupied</i>	88%	85%	87%	85%	84%	83%
Available Seats	116	142	127	148	154	166
With Change						
Number of Students	872	846	861	840	834	822
<i>% of Building Occupied</i>	89%	87%	88%	86%	85%	84%
Available Seats	106	132	117	138	144	156



Effect on Demographics

School	% Afr. Amer.	% Asian	% Hispanic	% White	% 2 or More	% FARMS	% ESOL
No Change							
Gaithersburg MS	23.3%	7.5%	46.3%	21.0%	<5%	44.4%	13.0%
With Change							
Gaithersburg MS	21.5%	7.6%	46.6%	20.4%	<5%	44.9%	13.1%
No Change							
Rosa Parks MS	12.0%	10.2%	11.5%	61.7%	<5%	10.9%	<5.0%
With Change							
Rosa Parks MS	11.8%	10.1%	11.6%	61.8%	<5%	10.0%	<5.0%

Gaithersburg HS Enrollment and Capacity

(Maximum # of Seats=2407)

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
No Change						
Number of Students	2480	2496	2524	2539	2590	2736
<i>% of Building Occupied</i>	103%	104%	105%	105%	108%	114%
Available Seats	-73	-89	-117	-132	-183	-329
With Change						
Number of Students	2475	2491	2519	2534	2585	2731
<i>% of Building Occupied</i>	103%	103%	105%	105%	107%	113%
Available Seats	-68	-84	-112	-127	-178	-324



Sherwood HS Enrollment and Capacity

(Maximum # of Seats=2183)

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
No Change						
Number of Students	1933	1989	1981	2012	1984	1959
<i>% of Building Occupied</i>	89%	91%	91%	92%	91%	90%
Available Seats	250	194	202	171	199	224
With Change						
Number of Students	1938	1994	1986	2017	1989	1964
<i>% of Building Occupied</i>	89%	91%	91%	92%	91%	90%
Available Seats	245	189	197	166	194	219



Effect on Demographics

School	% Afr. Amer.	% Asian	% Hispanic	% White	% 2 or More	% FARMS	% ESOL
No Change							
Gaithersburg HS	24.8%	7.6%	49.1%	15.4%	<5.0%	41.3%	19.9%
With Change							
Gaithersburg HS	24.8%	7.6%	49.1%	15.2%	<5.0%	41.3%	19.9%
No Change							
Sherwood HS	17.1%	11.5%	18.2%	49.2%	<5.0%	5.2%	<5.0%
With Change							
Sherwood HS	17.1%	11.5%	18.1%	49.3%	<5.0%	5.2%	<5.0%

High School Career and Technology Education Programs (CTE)

Program	Gaithersburg	Sherwood
Academy of Finance	X	
Accounting	X	X
Marketing	X	X
Cosmetology	X	*
Hospitality Management	X	X
Academy of Health Professions and Biosciences	*	X
Project Lead the Way (PLTW): Biomedical Sciences	X	

*Available at Thomas Edison High School of Technology



High School Career and Technology Education Programs (CTE)

Program	Gaithersburg	Sherwood
Early Childhood Development	X	X
Academy of Information Technology (AOIT)	X	
Cisco Networking Academy	X	
Computer Science/Code.org	X	X
Project Lead the Way (PLTW): Advanced Engineering		X
Automotive Programs	X	*
College/Career Research and Development	X	X

*Available at Thomas Edison High School of Technology

Middle School Program availability

- Gaithersburg Middle School offers a partial language immersion program in French
- Maryvale Elementary School in the Rockville Cluster currently serves as the French Immersion program site for both the Gaithersburg and Sherwood Clusters.
- Rosa Parks Middle School does not currently offer any special programs



History of boundary over time

- Staff researched past boundary studies in vicinity for past 30 years
- Laytonsville ES did have a boundary change but the Unity community was not impacted
- The opening of Brooke Grove ES in 1990 (adjacent to Greenwood ES) had no impact on Unity area

Committee Criteria

- Promote community identification and involvement
- Promote proximity to schools, distance of families to schools and parent involvement
- Reduce commute time on bus
- Consider access to after school activities
- Consider whether the action would be precedent-setting
- Promote diversity with respect to racial and ethnic composition of existing and proposed populations

Committee Criteria

- Address socioeconomic composition and variance
- Ensure desired levels of school utilization
- Promote interpersonal relationships and friendships for students
- Maintain stability of school assignment over time
- Maintain class size ratios

Discussion

- Report-out feedback



Evaluation Form

Unity Area Boundary Advisory Committee
Evaluation of Boundary Options
January 2017

<i>Representative Name:</i>	Meets Criterion	Does not Meet Criterion	<i>School Name:</i>
Evaluation Criteria			Narrative Evaluation Statement
	YES		



Committee Report

Background

On November 21, 2016, the Board of Education authorized a boundary study to review the school assignments for the Unity area and consider a cluster reassignment from the Gaithersburg Cluster to the Sherwood Cluster.

Scope of the Boundary Study

The specific school service area evaluated includes areas east of, but not including, Howard Chapel Road from the county border in the north to Hawlings River Regional Park (also known as Rachel Carson Conservation Park) in the south, and east to the boundary line between the Gaithersburg and Sherwood clusters.

- **Meetings**

- Meetings of the committee were co-facilitated by Mr. Joel Gallihue, director of the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Division of Long-range Planning, Department of Facilities Management, and Ms. Julie Morris, DLRP facilities planner.
- The Boundary Advisory Committee met on the following dates: December 22, 2016, January 11, 2017, and a communitywide meeting was held on January 18, 2017. Committee meetings were held in the media center at Rosa Parks Middle School. All committee meetings were open to the public and time was set aside to address questions and comments from observers attending the meetings.
- Representatives of the committee gathered input from their respective Parent Teacher Associations.
- All boundary options and related materials were posted on the MCPS website at:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/unityarea.aspx



- The committee asked for more information on the bus routes, which was provided by staff.
- The committee members mentioned the following implementation issues: phasing,
- Staff reviewed the history of boundary changes and there have been no changes impacting the Unity area since the opening of Brooke Grove Elementary School in September 1990.
- Of note, Gaithersburg High School will also be impacted by the spring 2017 boundary study to reassign a portion of the Shady Grove Sector Plan that is located east of Interstate 370 to Magruder Cluster schools. Staff note that this study is likely to make more of an impact in reducing overutilization at Gaithersburg High School. None of the elementary or middle schools in this study are impacted by the Shady Grove Sector Plan.



Website

- All materials will be posted on the following website:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/unityarea.aspx>



Next steps



January 18, 2017

January 24, 2017

February 1, 2017

February 15, 2017

February 27, 2017

March 9, 2017

March 30, 2017

September 5, 2017

Community-wide meeting to present option and get feedback.

- **Deadline for position papers and evaluations**

- Backup meeting date

Boundary Report submitted to superintendent of schools and BOE

Superintendent's recommendation to the Board of Education

Board of Education boundary work session

Board of Education public hearing

Board of Education Action (subject to change)

Plan implemented if approved by BOE

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Current Bus Route Information from Unity to Gaithersburg schools

- Route 4114 1st stop 8:31 a.m.
- Arrives at Laytonsville ES at 9:20 a.m. (49 min)

- Route 4109 1st stop 7:02 a.m.
- Arrives at Gaithersburg MS at 8:00 a.m. (58 min)

- Route 4107 1st stop 6:21 a.m.
- Arrives at Gaithersburg HS at 7:25 a.m. (56 min)

Nearby Bus Route Information to Sherwood cluster schools

- Route 3315 1st stop 8:06 a.m.
Arrives at Greenwood ES at 8:40 a.m. (34min)
- Route 3310 1st stop 7:20 a.m.
Arrives at Rosa Parks MS at 8:00 a.m. (40min)
- Route 3310 1st stop 6:35 a.m.
Arrives at Sherwood HS at 7:05 a.m. (30 min)

Routes currently serve Howard County Line area including Mt. Carmel Cemetery Rd., Sunshine Ct., Gregg Rd.

