

**REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 7, 2009**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- The Board President posed the question – Do we want to postpone this vote?
 - Two committee members expressed the fact that student scheduling starts next week and that delaying the vote would place further pressure on students and counselors.
 - The committee agreed to vote tonight after hearing additional comments from committee members and weighing the opinions of the public.
- The Board President and Superintendent reviewed the committee voting process. The number of votes from central office administration counted as just 1 vote, there would be 9 parent votes (1 parent was absent), 1 vote from each Principal, 1 vote from the Teacher’s Union representative, 1 vote from the Supervisor’s Association representative, and 3 votes from Board of Education members.
- The Board President asked the committee how they would like to vote.
 - The committee agreed to make the vote anonymous and also suggested to share the results of the vote tonight.
- The Superintendent thanked committee members and explained how this committee’s recommendation would go to the Board of Education for a vote on Thursday night (December 10, 2009).
- The Board President asked committee members to share comments and for additional questions.
 - A parent asked for the figures on the cost of bussing based on moving each section.
 - The following information was shared:
 - Business Administrator reviewed the costs and state aid figures again.
 - Somerdale \$2,500
 - Blenheim \$1,600
 - One committee member questioned as to how \$2500 would really impact a \$62 million budget as it pertained to taxpayer cost. He did not see how the transportation cost issue had any bearing on the decision.
 - The number of 8th grade students representing Blenheim = 83. The number of 8th grade students representing Somerdale Road = 64. Over the course of four more years, the number of students representing Blenheim = 287 and the number of students representing Somerdale Road = 263. This was shared in the public meeting as well.
 - A discussion was initiated by both Highland and Triton principals regarding the number of transient students in each building and the impact this had on student learning.
 - Two committee members spoke up recognizing the mobility rates as an issue.
 - Another parent asked to clarify the Title I funding scenario:
 - The Director of Curriculum defined what Title I funds could be used for and how it has been used in the past.
 - Using the projections of the number of students receiving free and reduced lunch from each section under consideration to redistrict, out to the 2013-2014 school year (8th – 5th grade students), it was explained that moving Somerdale Road would increase the probability that Title I resources could be shared between Highland and Triton. Essentially, based on the 8th, 7th, 6th, and 5th grade figures from Gloucester Township, there would potentially be 70 students from the Blenheim/Hilltop section receiving free and reduced lunch in comparison to 22 students from the Somerdale Road section receiving free and reduced lunch.
 - The committee was reminded that students and families can re-apply for free and reduced lunch every year and that the numbers may change over time based

on economic conditions. It was also explained to the committee that moving the Somerdale Road section would seemingly bring better balance between Highland and Triton relative to the number of students receiving free and reduced lunch, but that they must consider the fact that the calculations did not take into account the number of students graduating.

- A committee member asked Timber Creek Principal her opinion. Principal stated she saw both sides and would weigh all the factors in her determination.
- A committee member posed a discussion around socio/economic definitions, like the number of families with college degrees and median household income. Specifically, the committee member shared the differences between all three high schools and Triton represented, in comparison with the other two high schools, the lowest median household income and the lowest number of students coming from parents with college degrees.
 - The same committee member made the claim that by moving Somerdale, it would adversely impact Triton socio-economic numbers.
- Another committee member asked the question: How many apartments are there in each area and how does that affect mobility rate?
 - Each principal answered as best they could as to the number of apartment complexes in each area so to better explain why transient students were entering and exiting their buildings.
 - Triton principal shared the mobility rate at Glen Landing (6.6%) as compared to Runnemede (6.2%) and Bellmawr (13.9%). He also shared each school's mobility rate: Highland (11.6%), Triton (8.5%), and Timber Creek (7.4%). Moving either one of the two areas would increase the mobility rate at Triton and decrease the mobility rate at Highland. (These statistics were gathered from the NJDOE State Report Cards).
- A Parent committee member shared further statistics about household incomes and the number of parents with college degrees. Those statistics are shared at the end of the discussion items.
 - This same parent claimed that Highland has a higher number of students attending a four year school and tied this to the statistics on socio-economic differences. The school district brochure reports that Triton had 20% of last year's graduates attend a 4-year school and Highland had 34% of last year's graduates attend a four year school. The school district brochure also reports that 84% of Triton students go on to college and that 91% of Highland students go on to college. He further reported that more students at Highland are reported to be placed in AP programs than Triton and again tied this to the socio-economic differences.
- That same parent shared the number of siblings (8th, 7th, and 6th grade students) that would be impacted by the move from each section under consideration. The Blenheim/Hilltop section had 46 siblings and the Somerdale Road section had 49 siblings impacted respectively.
- One committee member entered into the discussion that Gloucester Township school district does have an imbalance in the enrollment between their three middle schools (Mullen graduating class – 384; Lewis graduating class – 204; Glen Landing graduating class – 306).
- Another committee member shared the views of two parents at the public meeting
 - Perspective that the BOE is not open-minded and that public perception is key.
 - Why was there no mass message to public?
 - It was explained that the District did plan for this going back three years ago when it asked the public to expand Triton High School with two bond referendum votes. In September of 2006 and in January of 2007 both bond referendums were defeated.
 - It was also shared that the BHPRSD administration did share this information with the sending district administration and the middle school principals.
 - A committee member stated that it was discussed at the Triton Home & School Council on September 16 and November 11 and believed it should have been brought up at the middle school parent organization as

well. The minutes of the Triton Parent-Teacher-Partnership meeting are posted on-line at Triton's homepage.

- It was stated the issue of an overcrowded school and the possibilities of re-districting was discussed at the last four BOE meetings and information was shared on the website. The public meeting was posted on Channel 19, the website, and announced at the November BOE meetings.
- Another committee member stated that all the information was there for them. Committee members were asked if they had any other questions or comments. There were none.
- The Board President asked if the committee was ready to vote and they agreed to vote.
- The results of the committee vote are as follows:

Somerdale re-districts to Highland	Blenheim re-districts to Highland
11	7

- The Board President and the Superintendent commented after the vote that if the Board does not support the committee vote that the administration may have to go back, submit another plan, and that this plan could include 8th, 9th & 10th graders.

 A parent on the committee shared these statistics verbally at the December 7, 2009 committee meeting, which were retrieved at http://www.publicschoolreview.com/agency_schools/leaid/3401770. The EIRC Consolidation Feasibility Study also reports median household income.

School Zip Code:	Highland High School	
<i>About This Zip Code (08012)</i>	School Zip (08012)	(NJ) State Average
Population (Approximate)	39,208 people	8,215,963 people
% (age 25+) w/College Degree	31%	35%
Population Average Age	36 years old	36 years old
Average Household size	2.6 persons	2.6 persons
Median Household Income	\$53,479	\$55,509
Avg. # of Rooms in Household	6.1 rooms	5.6 rooms
Median Age of Housing Structure	37 years old	47 years old

School Zip Code:	Triton High School	
<i>About This Zip Code (08078)</i>	School Zip (08078)	(NJ) State Average
Population (Approximate)	8,379 people	8,215,963 people
% (age 25+) w/College Degree	18%	35%
Population Average Age	38 years old	36 years old
Average Household size	2.5 persons	2.6 persons
Median Household Income	\$40,811	\$55,509
Avg. # of Rooms in Household	5.7 rooms	5.6 rooms
Median Age of Housing Structure	52 years old	47 years old

School Zip Code:	Timber Creek High School	
<i>About This Zip Code (08081)</i>	School Zip (08081)	(NJ) State Average
Population (Approximate)	42,891 people	8,215,963 people
% (age 25+) w/College Degree	30%	35%
Population Average Age	32 years old	36 years old
Average Household size	3.1 persons	2.6 persons
Median Household Income	\$61,366	\$55,509
Avg. # of Rooms in Household	6.6 rooms	5.6 rooms

Median Age of Housing Structure

24 years old

47 years old

Black Horse Pike Regional District High Schools

\$ H.V. = Median Housing Value, T:S = Teacher:Student Ratio

Town	\$ H.V.	High School	# Students	T:S
1. Blackwood	\$120,500	Highland High School	1220	1 : 17
2. Erial	\$116,900	Timber Creek High School	1463	1 : 16
3. Runnemede	\$97,500	Triton High School	1511	1 : 15