

-Public Information Session-

Middle School Rezoning Study Presentation of DRAFT Options Green, Red and Blue

November 28, 2018

CropperGIS

Welcome and Introductions

Who We Are

Cropper GIS Consulting, LLC

K-12 school planning is our business and our passion. Our specialty is school realignment.

Cropper works with K-12 school districts to:

- develop redistricting plans,
- facilitate community engagement,
- research, map and write demographic studies,
- prepare long-range facility master plans,
- author site feasibility studies,
- conduct & publish housing impact and yield factor studies, and
- provide GIS implementation & training.

Who We Are

Cropper GIS is an ESRI Authorized Business Partner



Recent Projects:

- Richmond Public Schools, VA
- Henrico County Public Schools, VA
- Alexandria City Public Schools, VA
- Union County Public Schools, NC
- Brunswick County Public Schools, NC
- Frederick County Public Schools, MD
- Baltimore County Public Schools, MD
- Meridian Public School District, MS
- Kershaw County School District, SC
- Calhoun County Public Schools, SC
- Akron Public Schools, OH



Matthew Cropper

- 20 years experience providing GIS mapping and analysis services to school districts and other clients.
- Manages and Facilitates K-12 redistricting and facility planning projects across the U.S.
- Expert consultant for U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Right's Division
- Published numerous papers about using GIS in master planning and educational planning.

Tonight's Purpose

1. **Learn** how the student rezoning process has been working.
2. **Review** DRAFT rezoning options Green, Red, and Blue for Middle Schools
3. **Complete** online surveys related to the options to provide valuable input to the committee.

Why We're Here

1. Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) have an imbalance in middle school utilization:
 - a) James Wood Middle School is overcrowded.
 - b) Frederick County Middle School has available capacity.
 - c) Admiral Byrd Middle School is also overcrowded, but it is expected to get relief when R. E. Aylor Middle School is rebuilt, and subsequent rezoning occurs.
 - d) The expectation is that this rezoning will only impact middle schools, with no impact on elementary or high school boundary lines.

2. These factors necessitate a comprehensive look at attendance boundaries.

Project Objectives

1. To explore and develop middle school rezoning options through a community-based process.
2. Focus on developing options that best meet the FCPS rezoning criteria.

Why We're Here

Middle School Rezoning Study

Cropper GIS Consulting were hired by the district to facilitate and manage the project. Our firms are tasked to:

- A. Develop supporting materials to help facilitate the study.
- B. Facilitate a community-based process of developing a middle school rezoning plan.
- C. Empower the community throughout the process.
- D. Leverage expertise to develop logical, efficient, and effective student realignment options with the committee.

Rules to Follow

The Frederick County Public Schools has a set of criteria to follow when evaluating middle school rezoning options. These are rules to follow when considering any potential attendance zone adjustment.

The rezoning committee will be oriented on these criteria and will follow them as best as possible as they consider rezoning options.

- **Balance building utilization.**
 - Schools should be at similar percentages of capacity when the next middle school is planned to be opened. Allow for increasing attendance in high growth areas. Keep future capital projects in mind.
 - Building utilization does not include the use of portable or semi-permanent spaces in the total building capacity.
 - Avoid additional rezonings before the next middle school opens.
 - Economic, cultural, and ethnic diversity should be considered to ensure schools are inclusionary and not adversely affected by realignment decisions.
 - Special needs populations should be evenly distributed across all schools in a manner consistent with sound educational practices.

- **Minimize impact on students.**
 - Minimize the number of students impacted by a boundary adjustment.
 - Students should be assigned to the school closest to their homes when possible.
 - Establish a clean feeder pattern system; reduce the number of schools at the next level any single school feeds. When splits are necessary, the attendance zone should be divided in a balanced manner, so that students continue to the next level with their peers. Eliminate existing splits and/or improve split balance.
 - Minimize the number of times any single child must be moved by rezonings.
- **Minimize impact on communities.**
 - Keep all students from each neighborhood/community together at the same school.
 - Minimize the division of clearly identifiable community components (i.e. villages, settled areas, etc.)

- **Maximize student transportation efficiency.**

- Account for school bus routes when determining a boundary adjustment.
- Minimize travel times and costs. Students should be assigned to the school closest to their homes when possible.



- Use major roads and natural boundaries when feasible to define attendance zones. Minimize the number of students crossing major intersections and other barriers to maximize their safety and security. Contain bus routes within natural boundaries to avoid traffic delays and late arrivals.
- Make all effort to establish contiguous attendance zones. Avoid creating satellite zones, which are not connected to the primary attendance zone. Attempt to eliminate existing satellite zones.

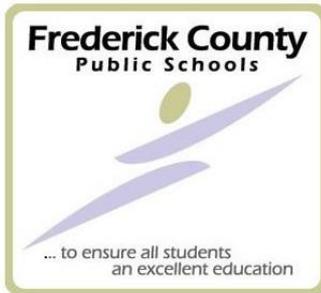
Project Approach

Four Project Phases

Cropper has identified four phases of a community-driven rezoning study for FCPS:

1. Data Collection
2. Data Analysis / Assimilation
3. Options Development
4. Committee and Public engagement

1. Data Collection



- School District–
 - Geocoded enrollment databases by address.
 - Maps of current boundaries and schools
 - School facility information
 - Projected enrollment



- City / County Sources– Base GIS data (address pts, municipalities, subdivisions, existing and planned road networks, etc.)

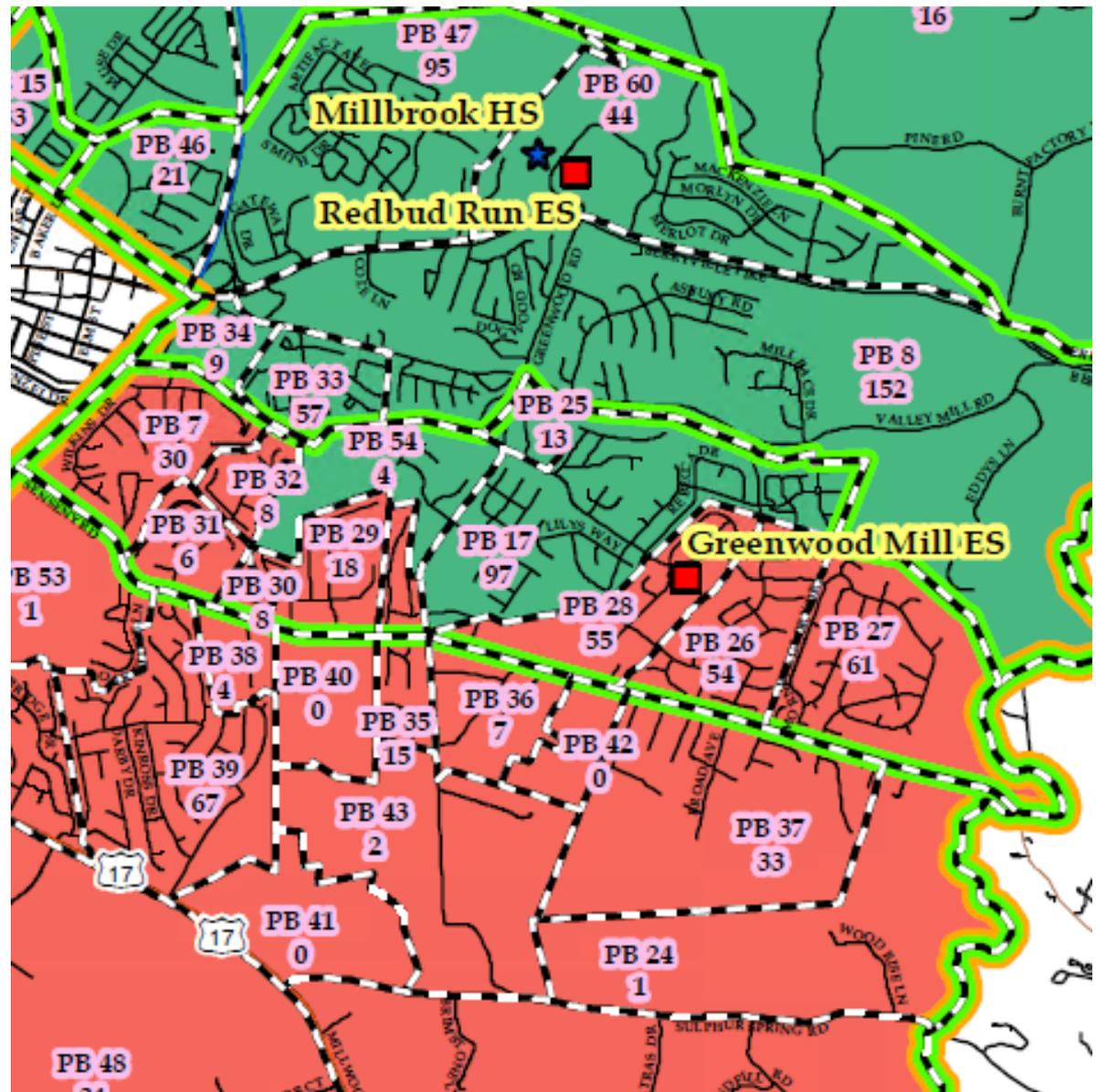
2. Data Analysis / Assimilation

- All data was incorporated into Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to enable quick, accurate, and efficient analysis, and also to help facilitate rezoning options.

2. Data Analysis / Assimilation

The use of planning blocks were created to help the committee and public obtain an understanding of the impact on moving an area one way or the other.

Key data have been analyzed by these planning blocks, such as total number of students living within each block.



2. Data Analysis / Assimilation



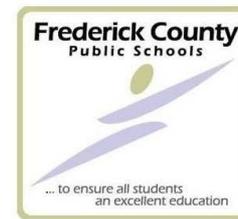
The use of planning blocks have been created to help the committee and public get an idea of the impact of moving an area one way or the other.

Key data have been analyzed by these planning blocks, such as total number of middle school students

2. Data Analysis / Assimilation: Background Report

Each committee member has been provided with a background report. The report expands the extensive knowledge each committee and public member already has about Frederick County.

The background report helps committee members share a message with the community that is consistent and accurate.



**Frederick County Public Schools, VA
Rezoning Study**

Background Report

2. Data Analysis / Assimilation

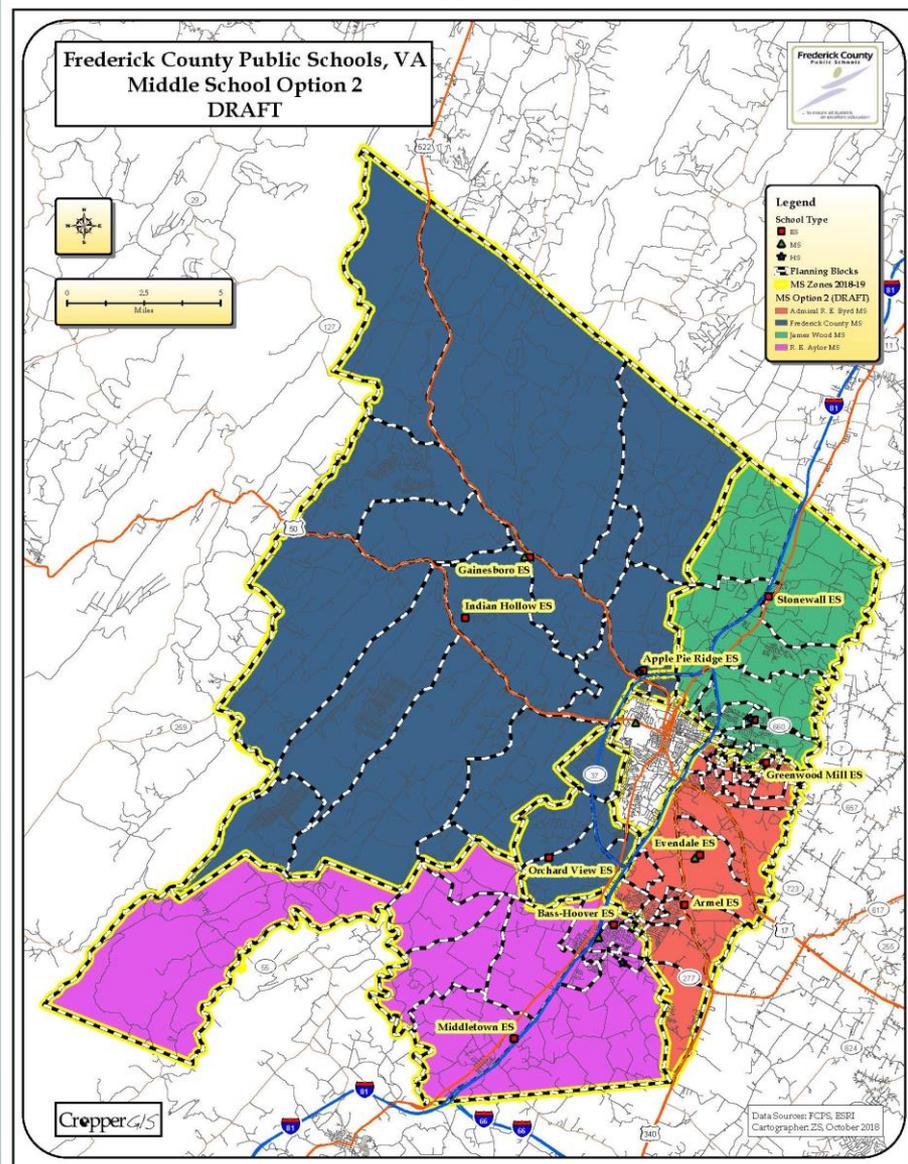
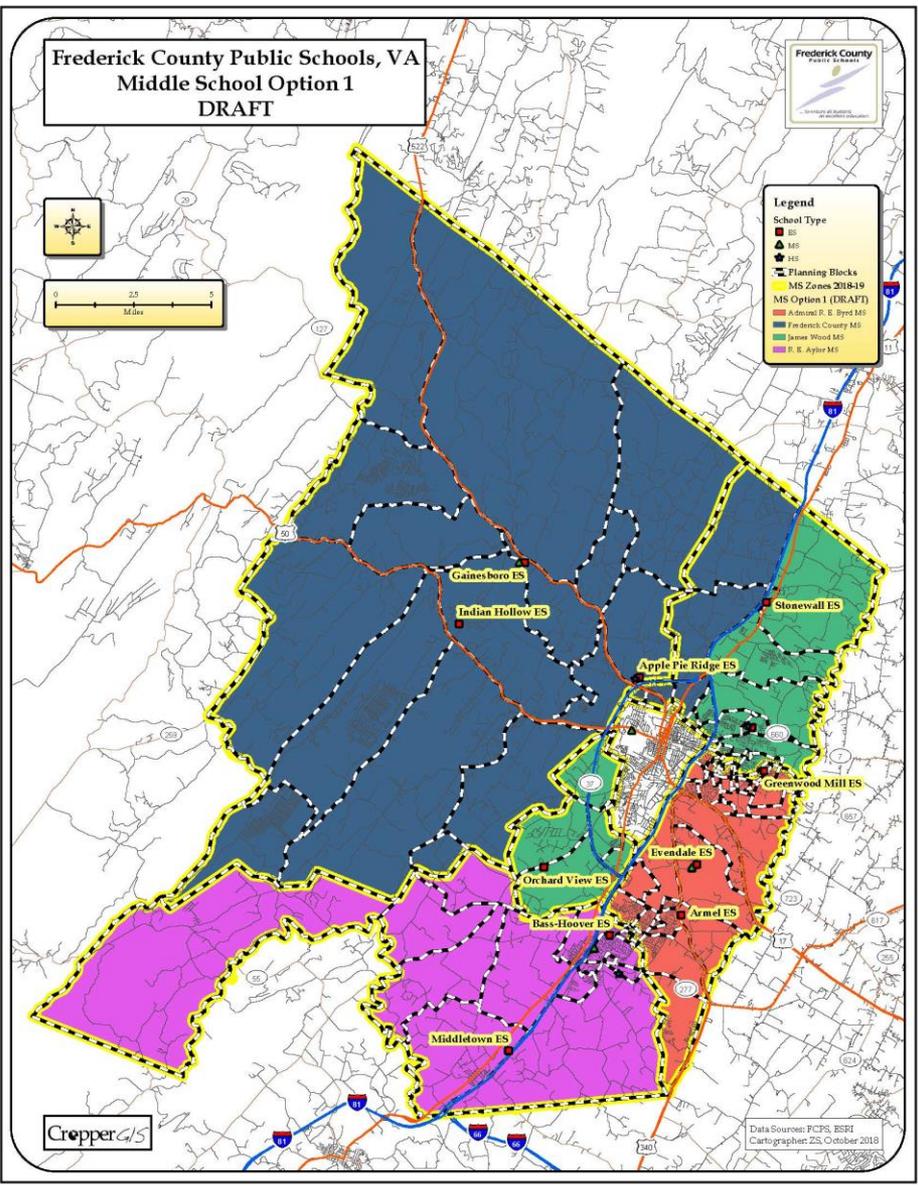
Online Map

- An online map has been developed to further inform the committee and public on the work of the committee.
- Current zones and options can be viewed on the map.
- Other features can be turned on/off on the map, including planning blocks.
- Map is customizable, and can/will be updated during the process to show new options along with other information requested by the committee.
- Site can be viewed on any device, including mobile devices and tablets (with internet connection).
- Site address is:

www.croppermap.com/fcpsva

3. Options Development

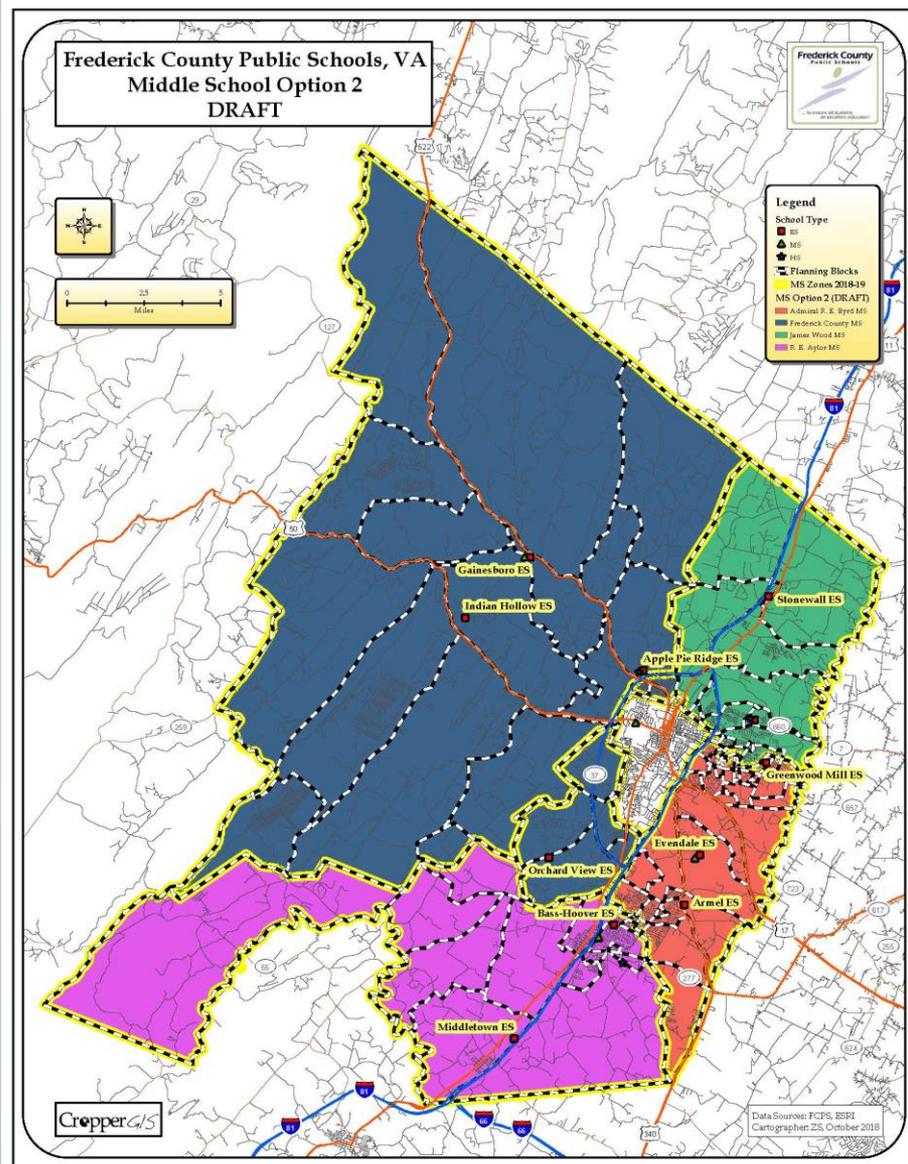
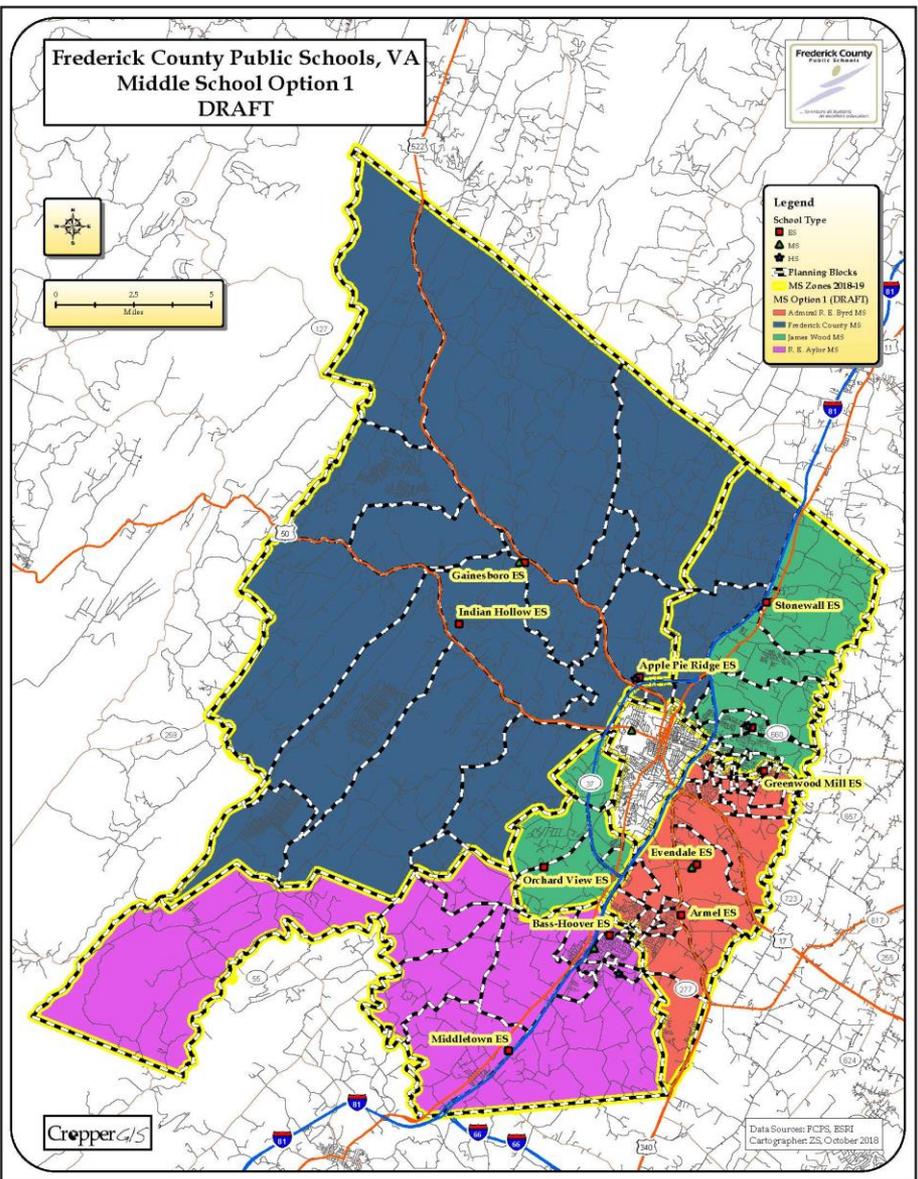
To expedite the process and empower the community, it is best to begin with a series of baseline rezoning options.



Baseline options were shared with the committee at their 1st meeting.

3. Options Development

Options were developed with FCPS board approved realignment criteria in mind.



The committee used the baseline options, and have made continual improvements. All with a focus on the rezoning criteria.

4. Committee and Public Engagement

The most important factor when working on a rezoning study is to keep all lines of communication open.

Project Approach



4. Committee and Public Engagement

The district has formulated a 19-person committee to work on developing rezoning options.

Selection of the realignment committee was based on many factors including:

- Objectivity
- 15 committee members and 4 support staff
 - Parents from Frederick County and James Wood Middle Schools
 - Administrative staff who work on school planning, student assignment, and transportation, and special programs.

Review of Timeline

| Process & Timeline for Rezoning Study | | | | | |
|---|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Sept. '18 | Oct. '18 | Nov. '18 | Dec. '18 | Jan. '19 |
| <i>Redistricting Criteria/ Guideline Development</i> | | | | | |
| Rezoning Study | | | | | |
| <i>Data Collection</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Data Analysis/ Assimilation</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Internal Logistics Planning with district</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Background Report Development</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Baseline Options Development</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Public Information Session #1: Present Project Process, Criteria, Timeline, and Realignment Objectives to Community. Information meeting to public, without public comments.</i> | | 10/10 | | | |
| <u>Committee Meeting 1</u> <i>- Orientation, Review Background Data, Introduce Baseline Options</i> | | 10/11 | | | |
| <u>Committee Meeting 2</u> <i>- Options Development</i> | | 10/24 | | | |
| <u>Committee Meeting 3</u> <i>- Options Development, Prepare for Public Information Session #2</i> | | | 11/14 | | |
| <i>Public Information Session #2: Present Preliminary Realignment Options to Community for Comment/Feedback</i> | | | 11/28 | | |
| <u>Committee Meeting 4</u> <i>- Review public input, modify options</i> | | | | 12/12 | |
| <u>Committee Meeting 5</u> <i>- Finalize Recommendations & Prepare for Board Presentation</i> | | | | | 1/8 |
| <i>Presentation of Final Recommendations to the Board of Education</i> | | | | | 1/15 |

We are here

Work done to date

- The committee's work is a little over $\frac{1}{2}$ complete.
- Committee has met three times since October 2018 and has spent many hours between meetings reviewing information
- The committee has reviewed 5 variations of DRAFT options since the process started
 - Started with 2 MS DRAFT options; additional options generated each meeting based on committee and public feedback

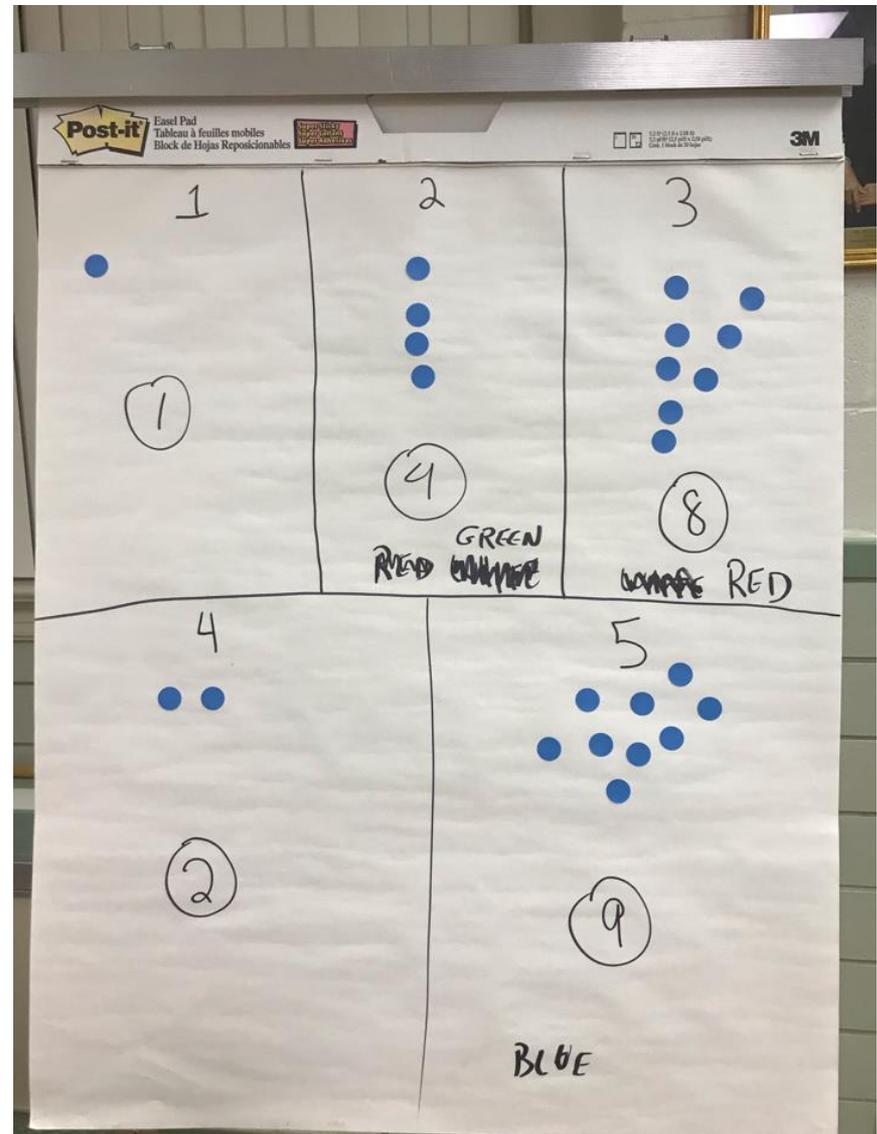
Work done to date

- Data and information examined includes: school enrollment and capacity, demographics, feeder pattern data, student impacts, and feedback from members of the public.
- Options are considered DRAFT throughout the process; continued dialog and consideration of data is always encouraged

Work done to date

- The public's feedback has been incorporated into options for the committee's review, but the committee has been advised to only change options per public suggestions if it brings the options closer to adherence to the rezoning criteria.

- The committee has narrowed down to 3 options to present at the November 28th Public Information Session



Members of the public have the opportunity to participate in the process in many ways:

- All materials shared with the committee have been made available on the Middle School Rezoning Study webpage, located at www.fcpsvare zoning.com
- The rezoning web-page contains a feedback form that allows the public to provide any feedback regarding the process at any time. This information will be shared with the committee, and will be made public.
- The Public Input Session on November 28th is designed to share with the public the DRAFT options that are under consideration, and to solicit feedback on the options from you. At this meeting, we will be presenting the options and allowing you to review large maps and discuss your thoughts with the committee and/or consultants.

Interpreting Maps

- Background colors represent the Option, where bold yellow outlines show the current boundaries
- Planning Blocks: Small areas for examining student populations
 - Map titles and notes clarify what each map represents
 - Labels within planning blocks represent one of the following:
 - Planning block ID (PB #)
 - Number of 6-8 students living within planning block who attend a boundary school

Interpreting the Tables

- Statistics that are pertinent to the study accompany the large maps
- The data shown are the data the committee uses to evaluation options

Tonight

- *Gallery Walk: Review Options Green, Red, and Blue and related data, talk to committee members*
- Committee members, FCPS staff, and consultants will be around the maps to discuss any thoughts the public may have
- Although discussions around the maps are very important, please submit your feedback via the online survey for the entire committee's benefit

Online Survey:

- Begins November 28th and available through midnight, December 9th:
- *Participate in Online survey, which can be found on Frederick County School's rezoning page.*
 - Survey will help provide insight on the public's thoughts about the DRAFT options
 - Public feedback isn't intended to see which option gets the most votes from the public
 - The best feedback is constructive comments regarding changes that better adhere to the project objectives and rezoning criteria

Next Steps:

- Committee will review additional public feedback from online surveys and emails
- Adjustments could be made to DRAFT options, if suggestions help to better adhere to the objectives and criteria
- Committee has 2 more meeting scheduled after the 11/28 Public Info Session
 - Next committee meeting is December 12th.
 - The following committee meeting is January 8th
 - Committee is expected to finalize recommendations at this meeting, which will then be presented to the School Board on January 15th.

Further Questions/Comments?

- All materials shared with the committee are made available on the Frederick County Public Schools student rezoning study webpage.
- In addition to the survey for the 11/28 Public Information Session, please provide any other comments on the general feedback form. General feedback form and other materials can be found at www.fcpsvare zoning.com

**Thank you for your continued input and
participation in the realignment study
process!**