

FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, VA
 REZONING STUDY: PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED UP TO NOVEMBER 13, 2018

Timestamp	What school are you	Please provide your feedback related to the options.
10/10/2018 21:54	James Wood Middle	After attending the meeting tonight (10/10), I hope as the committee redraws lines, it takes into consideration families who not only have a child in middle school, but also have children in elementary school and high school. Next year we personally will have 1 at each level. No parent should not have to be running all over the county for their children. For example, OVES, FCMS and SHS or OVES, FCM, and JWH.
10/12/2018 10:47	JWMS	Please consider school sporting events that affect parents' ability to attend public meetings. On the Oct. 10th meeting date, many parents were not able to attend due to an away girls' basketball game.
10/13/2018 14:39	James Wood Middle School	I believe that option 1 is the best option for our students. The kids in option 1 are already in zone for JWHS. In option 2, you would be sending a small group of kids to a school on one end of the county, and then sending them to the other side of the county for high school. This goes against the values that our county schools are trying to gain - small communities with schools feeding into each other.
10/16/2018 12:01	Apple Pie Ridge Elementary	My daughter will be going to middle school next year. We live on Lauck Drive which is literally 4 minutes from James Wood Middle School and 2 minutes from James Wood High School. Per the suggested two plan options, she would be traveling to Frederick County Middle School next year. This is a 15 - 20 minutes travel time. I specifically moved to my current residence due to the fact that I am virtually minutes from all the schools for my district. Not to mention I work on Cork Street which is a few minutes away if I am needed. Per the consultant, they wanted to keep children in the school's closest to their residence which is not what I am seeing per these proposals. Please take into consideration, this area (Sunnyside area) relative to continuing to send children to the James Wood Middle School.
10/26/2018 20:16	Greenwood Mill/James Wood Middle	Is there any chance that the balance of students who go from Greenwood Mill to Byrd and James Wood Middle could be adjusted? It's not that close to 50/50, and my neighborhood is a weird cutout from the surrounding neighborhoods so my kids won't go to Byrd with the neighborhoods closest to us (we're in Steeplechase off of Farmington Blvd/Greenwood Rd).
10/28/2018 18:28	OVES - JWMS	<p>October 28, 2018 ATTN: FCPS Middle School Rezoning Study Committee Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments for your consideration as you develop new Middle School zones for James Wood and Frederick County Middle Schools.</p> <p>We reside in the Stonebrook Farms subdivision and presently track from OVES to SHS. We prefer to continue on this track as our neighborhood has for over 20 years. JWMS is the closest MS to our community, and rezoning to FCMS would result in driving past JWMS to reach FCMS, a nearly 240% increase in driving distance, nearly doubling the travel time. Of the Options presently posted at FCPSVARezoning.com, we support Options 1 and 3.</p> <p>We do offer some observations based on information available via the webpage on October 28, 2018 as well as a general understanding about new residential growth in Frederick County:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1 and 3 enables the existing residents/students closest to JWMS to continue to travel through the school. Most of the Merrimans Lane/Jones Road corridor that presently attends JWMS utilizes the intersection of Amherst Street/Meadow Branch Drive which is less than 1,800 feet (1/3 mile) from JWMS. Under Options 2 and 4, these residents/students would continue to travel through this intersection enroute to FCMS – which is an additional 8 miles away. Option 1 and 3 is preferred. Many of the residents/students affected in the Merrimans Lane/Jones Road corridor live within 4.6 miles of JWMS. Rezoning them to FCMS increases travel distance by 260 percent, to 11.8 miles. Option 1 and 3 is preferred. Snowden Bridge is the most significant new development project within the JWMS-FCMS zones. The development is on track to realize 200+ new homes each year. Option 3 creates an opportunity to create capacity in JWMS to accommodate growth from the Snowden Bridge development. Option 3 provides better balance to accommodate future growth. <p>Time to Travel :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snowden Bridge to FCMS 11.2 miles (15 minutes) --- Snowden Bridge to JWMS 6.5 miles (12 minutes) Welltown to JWMS 6.9 miles (12 minutes) --- Welltown to FCMS 8.9 miles (13 minutes) Merrimans Lane/Jones Road (Stonebrook Farms) to JWMS 4.6 miles (9 minutes) --- Merrimans Lane/Jones Road (Stonebrook Farms) to FCMS 11.8 miles (14 minutes) <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Eric and Katie Lawrence 116 Anne Glass Road Winchester, Virginia 22602</p>
11/2/2018 21:49	James Wood Middle School in 2 yrs. (daughter now in OVES 4th grade)	MS Option 1 and 3 would obviously be our preference, keeping planning block 22, which we are closest to, zoned to attend James Wood MS. In the spirit of efficiency of travel (specifically school bus routes), which I believe was presented as one of the factors used in planning rezoning, Option 2 or 4 are far from efficient for my family and my neighbors in the planning blocks of 17, 27, and 29. It would have us driving almost right by James Wood Middle as we travel to Amherst St. only to then have to turn out to route 50 or 522 to travel an additional 10 - 15 minutes to get to Frederick County Middle. As option 1 and 3, propose, the major routes of travel for us can take us within 1 minute of James Wood Middle. Why force us to turn away and travel another 10 - 15 minutes to get to Frederick County MS.
11/9/2018 12:59	JWMS	<p>We have examined the charts, maps, and graphs your team has assembled at length. We commend you for what must be a tedious task, to say the least. We understand the complexities of this decision and the necessity to balance overcrowding better. It appeared that the charts with racial and economic percentages changed minimally in the four options, while the feeding of elementary to middle and middle to high were the bigger considerations. We've spoken to teachers at JWMS who speak to the ways they are stretched by larger classrooms and know that has a negative impact on retention of the teachers and education for our students.</p> <p>Our son, (our 5th child to attend JWMS and then go on to Sherando HS), is in 7th grade, so this decision has the potential to affect him for one year. However, as a homeowner and advocate in my neighborhood of Stonebrook Farms, the impact is much greater. The desirability of a neighborhood whose middle schoolers travel long distances for three years will decrease for buyers with school age children. As a parent, it is tremendously inconvenient to drive way out 522 on days one needs to take a child to an appointment or to or from school and activities. The school facility itself is not the problem, being it is new and lovely, it is the location in relation to our home that is the problem.</p> <p>Those are the personal reasons we hope that Option 1 or 3 is the choice the board makes for rezoning next year. But there is another logistic that we think is at stake here. The children who go to JWMS from OVES and then on to SHS have always been a small number, looks like 6-7% from your charts. And while that is difficult for them to adjust when they hit Sherando, they are also at that point reunited with kids they met at OVES when they were younger. Additionally, the current situation is that JWMS is a feeder to all the high schools, so while we have the smallest percentage going to one school, the other two high schools are also split in percentages. In the Options 2 and 4, where our area goes to FCMS, these students are a 6% ratio to SHS and the other 94% go to JWHS. That feels like the worst possible set up. Looking at the areas around Stonewall that would be affected by leaving JWMS and attending FCMS in options 2 and 4, though they also have a long trip to FCMS, they at least are headed to JWHS ultimately with all the other students from that middle school. By keeping the students east of Stonewall at JWMS, it will make a more natural split for the fourth high school in a few years as well as they may stay at Millbrook.</p> <p>When the county has four middle schools and four high schools, it would be ideal to have as much connection as possible through the seven years. Obviously with JWMS situated in Winchester, at least some division will likely continue. Everything we've read assures us that this rezoning does NOT impact high school attendance zones. My ultimate concern is that it could. If we go to FCMS now, and that school is deemed to feed JWHS because of the desire to minimize the multiple directions middle schoolers head to high school, it could be fairly easy for the school board to zone our 6% to JWHS. We and our neighborhood do not want that, though I, Janice, am a proud JWHS graduate '82! We have supported Sherando heavily with scholars, athletes, musical talent, and finances, becoming quite loyal to the Warriors in the process. We know the principals, teachers, coaches, and we love them.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of these comments, Michael and Janice Wade</p>
11/9/2018 13:25	James Wood Middle School	We live in Stonebrook. Any option that makes us drive BY JWMS to get to Frederick County is crazy! Both Aylor and ABMS are closer. Also, do not even consider sending our kids away from Sherando to James Wood! I don't want my kids to start chewing tobacco and flying confederate flags from their pickups :)
11/9/2018 18:04	None	My family's preference would be for Option 1 or 3 to be implemented. My home is currently zoned for OVES, JWMS, and SHS, and the change to FCMS would about double the distance to get to middle school compared to JWMS, providing added burden to a family with two working parents, one of whom commutes about 30 minutes away. I try to be involved in things like PTO and school events, and only imagine more extracurriculars once my children reach middle school age; the added distance would make logistics much more difficult for maintaining a high level of engagement with the school.