



OVERVIEW AND KEY EVENT SCHEDULE OF POTENTIAL ATTENDANCE BOUNDARY CHANGES AND SCHOOL CLOSINGS FOR THE 2012-13 SCHOOL YEAR

January 3, 2012

Each year, the School District reviews all schools that are over-capacity – schools where student enrollment exceeds permanent capacity – and recommends changes to the School Board that will reduce the enrollment to, or below, the permanent capacity. It is important to balance enrollment to capacity in our schools for two reasons:

1. The core spaces of a school, such as the cafeteria, media center, clinic, etc., are sized for the design capacity of the school. Therefore, while it is possible to accommodate additional students in relocatable classrooms, this causes the core spaces to become overcrowded. We do not believe that this is in the best interests of our students.
2. In 2005, School Concurrency was added to Florida's Growth Management laws, requiring developers of new residential units to pay for the impacts to schools if adequate capacity is not available to accommodate the new students. This law requires the School District to establish and maintain a "Level of Service" (LOS) at each school. In 2008, the School District established a 100% LOS (enrollment less than or equal to permanent capacity) for all school types by the 2011-12 school year in an Interlocal Agreement with 15 local governments.

There are several alternatives available to address schools with student enrollment that exceeds permanent capacity:

- "Freeze" the school to out-of-area students.
- Cap, modify, transfer or eliminate Choice / Special programs.
- Cap enrollment at permanent capacity and bus all new students to adjacent schools with capacity ("cap and bus").
- Multi-track year-round school or split sessions/extended day
- Change school attendance boundaries.
- Construct new capacity.

Because Brevard has approximately 13,300 available seats throughout the District, the Department of Education will not approve the construction of additional capacity unless local funds are used (impact fees, sales tax, local bond, etc.), therefore this is not a viable alternative at this time. The other alternatives are listed above in their approximate order of engagement with the exception of multi-tracking or split sessions, which have not typically been used in Brevard.

Currently, five schools are over-capacity. Those schools are Manatee Elementary, Meadowlane Intermediate Elementary, Kennedy Middle, Cocoa Beach Jr/Sr High and Viera High. Proposals to change attendance boundaries at four of those schools are currently under consideration. The capacity issue at Manatee Elementary will be addressed with relocatable classrooms until adjacent capacity is available within a reasonable distance or funding is available to construct new permanent capacity.

Also, for the first time in many years, the School Board is considering closing under-utilized schools to save money in these difficult economic times and to increase enrollment at adjacent under-utilized schools, allowing those schools to offer additional programs. Factors that the School Board will consider include:

- Is there sufficient available capacity in adjacent schools to close a school without adversely impacting the adjacent schools?
- How much can be saved by closing the school?
- Will there be a need for the school in the foreseeable future based on student enrollment projections?
- Can the school be repurposed for another use or will it be “moth-balled”?
- Can the students at the closed school be adequately served in other schools?

Key Event Schedule

The process for potential attendance boundary changes and school closings will follow the schedule on the Attendance Boundary Change webpage. Following are specific details.

- The Superintendent presented recommendations for potential attendance boundary changes and school closings to the School Board at the October 24, 2011 School Board Workshop. The Superintendent’s recommendations were based on input from his Senior Staff and representatives from the Facility Planning, Transportation, Human Resources, Finance, Curriculum & Instruction and Student Services departments. At the Workshop, the Board directed staff to develop several new Proposals and Options for consideration.
 1. Reduce Enrollment at Cocoa Beach Jr/Sr High School (Proposal 2)
A new Option “H” was created to include the out-of-area seventh and eighth grade students living between the Pineda Causeway and the Eau Gallie causeway in the Cocoa Beach Jr/Sr HS Middle Years IB boundary.
 2. Convert Roosevelt Elementary School to a Middle School (Proposal 6)
A new Option “D” was created to convert Roosevelt to a K-8 School.
 3. Close Clearlake Middle School (Proposal 10)
A new Proposal was created to close Clearlake Middle School and convert Cocoa High School to a Jr/Sr High School.
- The Facility Planning staff presented the Superintendent’s recommendations for potential attendance boundary changes and school closings to the Capital Outlay Committee on October 26, 2011. This is a requirement of the *Interlocal Agreement for Public School Facility Planning and School Concurrency* between the School Board and 15 local governments. The School Board and each of the 15 local governments are represented on the Committee.

- Four community meetings were held to gather input regarding the potential attendance boundary changes and school closings.
 1. November 7, 2011 at Meadowlane Intermediate Elementary School – Proposal discussed: Reduce Enrollment at Meadowlane and Riviera Elementary Schools. The agenda, presentation and public comments are on the Attendance Boundary Change webpage.
 2. November 8, 2011 at Jackson Middle School – Proposals discussed:
 - Change Attendance Boundaries between Astronaut and Titusville High Schools and Madison and Jackson Middle Schools
 - Close Riverview Elementary School
 The agenda, presentation and public comments are on the Attendance Boundary Change webpage.
 3. November 9, 2011 at Manatee Elementary School – Proposals discussed:
 - Reduce Enrollment at Viera High School
 - Reduce Enrollment at Kennedy Middle School
 - Close Clearlake Middle School (Convert Cocoa HS to a Jr/Sr HS)
 The agenda, presentation and public comments are on the Attendance Boundary Change webpage.
 4. November 10, 2011 at Cocoa Beach Jr/Sr High School – Proposals discussed:
 - Reduce Enrollment at Cocoa Beach Jr/Sr High School
 - Convert Roosevelt Elementary School to a Middle School (or a K-8 School)
 - Close Sea Park Elementary School
 The agenda, presentation and public comments are on the Attendance Boundary Change webpage.

- The potential attendance boundary changes and school closings were an Information Item on the November 22, 2011 School Board meeting agenda. At the meeting, the School Board directed staff to delete the following Proposals:
 1. Proposal 6 – Convert Roosevelt Elementary School to a Middle School
 2. Proposal 10 – Close Clearlake Middle School
 3. Proposal 14 – Close Sea Park Elementary School

The presentation and a link to the Agenda Item are on the Attendance Boundary Change webpage.

- The potential attendance boundary changes and school closings were an Action Item on the December 13, 2011 School Board meeting agenda. A link to the Agenda Item is on the Attendance Boundary Change webpage.

At the meeting, the School Board approved the Superintendent to advertise for a Public Hearing for the six Proposals and Recommended Conditions and directed staff to prepare the following options for the Public Hearing:

 1. Proposal 1 – Reduce Enrollment at Viera High School: Prepare an option to grandfather the rising 10th graders (in addition to the rising 11th and 12th graders).
 2. Proposal 2 – Reduce Enrollment at Cocoa Beach Jr/Sr High School: Formalize the Alternative Option presented for consideration at the meeting.

3. Proposal 16A – Close Riverview Elementary School: Prepare an option that reduces the number of students moved.

These new options can be found on the Attendance Boundary Change webpage

The School Board also directed staff to consider moving the sixth grade at Meadowlane Intermediate Elementary School to Central Middle School as an option in future years if Proposal 5 (Reduce Enrollment at Meadowlane and Riviera Elementary Schools) does not resolve the over-crowding issue at Meadowlane Intermediate.

- A Public Hearing will be held to approve the potential attendance boundary changes and school closings at the January 24, 2012 School Board meeting.

The School Board may choose to modify or not proceed with some or all of the potential attendance boundary changes and school closings. Any changes approved at the Public Hearing on January 24, 2012 will take effect in August 2012.