

BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DEMOGRAPHICS & ENROLLMENT PLANNING DEPARTMENT

District Staff Proposal S-1 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q. What plans are there to enhance the community of Liberia surrounding the schools?

A. Any questions regarding projects outside the Bethune/ Attucks campus should be directed to the City of Hollywood.

Q. What is the overall cost or savings of combing the two schools as one?

A. The initial cost savings in the first year of combining the Mary M. Bethune Elementary and Attucks Middle campuses as one prekindergarten through eighth grade school, estimated by the Budget Office, is \$514,881.

Q. Once the merging of the campuses occurs, will either school close?

A. Should Mary M. Bethune Elementary and Attucks Middle be combined, both sides of the campus would remain in service, with the current Bethune facility serving prekindergarten and primary grade levels, and the Attucks facility serving intermediate grades. Both facilities would be considered as one school.

Q. Will our school still get to participate in the School Choice program?

A. Participation in the School Choice process is always dependent on space availability.

Q. How are we supposed to keep five year olds separated from Preteens?

A. There is not anticipated to be any mixing of students at different levels. Younger students are supervised and will continue to be taught in primary classrooms while older students will continue to be taught in intermediate classrooms.

Q. Are parents going to have to pay for Before Care after the elementary level starts at the middle school time?

A. Before and After Care, depending on need, may be available. ~~using Title IIA dollars.~~

Q. Are we going to turn away siblings at the middle school because they are not in the boundaries of the elementary school?

A. Because the elementary boundary is contained within the boundary of the middle school, any middle school students with siblings living within the K-5 boundary would automatically attend the PK-8th grade school.

Q. Is our school going to become overcrowded because we have an influx of families?

A. Additional student enrollment may increase at schools as a result of the school becoming a PK-8. In this scenario, the available capacity at either school level would enable grades to be

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shifted as needed to create additional space at the elementary or middle level, avoiding the need for potential boundary shifts.

Q. Why aren't these meetings being held at the schools where the people are impacted?

A. Meetings will be held at the impacted schools. The location for the November 15, 2019 School Boundary Committee Public Meeting was chosen due to its large venue and proximity to the schools that had proposals.

Q. When is the next meeting and where is it being held?

A. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 22nd for the School Boundary Committee to consider what they have heard, review the responses we will be providing in order to deliberate, and vote on the proposals. Although this is open to the public, public comment will not be taken at this meeting.

Q. Who approves charter schools opening?

A. The School Board automatically approves charter school applications unless the charter applicant has not met any of the state required criteria. The School Board has no choice where the charter schools are going to be located. 47,000 of our students are in charter schools and the District loses \$7,400 per student per year for each one of these students who has chosen to leave the District public schools. The District has no ability to prevent charter schools from opening when and where they want. The idea is to develop more innovative school configurations and school programs so that parents and students will have more options to remain in Broward County Public Schools rather than choose charter schools.

Q. How many SROs will the school have?

A. SROs are calculated by school enrollment so the number of SROs would not decrease if the schools merged. One SRO is allocated per 1,000 students.

Q. Can you provide statistics from the currently operating PK-8 schools in Broward as to what has happened with an older child mixed with a younger child?

A. Response to this question will be forthcoming.

Q. Is there any way the District can market the District public schools like the charter schools do?

A. School principals are responsible for marketing their schools. Broward County Public Schools District staff provide additional support in marketing particular opportunities, such as magnet programs.

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Q. How will the traffic be improved by combining the elementary and middle school?

A. Traffic studies are conducted by the city's transportation department. School bus and family drop and pick up times would be arriving and departing twice a day rather than four times per day, which would decrease the amount of traffic coming into and out of the neighborhood.

Q. Office staff – how does that work?

A. Office staff are assigned to schools based on a support allocation model used by the Broward County Public Schools Budget Office.

Q. What main office are we using?

A. It has not yet been determined which office will be the primary administrative center for the school.

Q. What becomes of our single point of entry?

A. It is planned that there will be two bus drop-offs, one for primary grades and one for intermediate grades. This will require that two single-points-of-entry be maintained.

Q. What is the transition time staff and students will be given after the end of the school year when this is approved?

A. The final vote to approve the proposal will be held in March. After that time notification will be mailed to parents of all impacted students, and staff will have the opportunity to determine if they wish to remain or transfer to other work locations before the start of the next school year.

Q. How would the lunch schedules be handled?

A. Lunch schedules are determined at the discretion of the principal to facilitate efficient food service.

Q. Are boundary workshops open to the public and when do we get those notices?

A. All boundary workshops have always been open to the public. The school boundary process and all School Board workshops are annually advertised from several places on the District website (District calendar, Demographics & Enrollment Planning Department website, meeting notice flyers, letters to all elected officials with a proposal under consideration, Twitter, Parent Link email, TXT, web app, telephone call, school marques). All School Board Boundary workshops are also advertised in mainstream local newspapers.

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Q. How many guidance counselors are we going to have? Our guidance counselor now does test prep.

A. The number of guidance counselors assigned to a school is based on a support allocation model used by the Broward County Public Schools Budget Office.

Q. How would specials work out?

A. Specials and elective classes are offered at the discretion of the principal, based on the school's budget.

Q. How would media work out?

A. Media specialists are assigned at the discretion of the school principal based on a support allocation model used by the Broward County Public Schools Budget Office.

Q. Why hasn't any of this information been brought to the parents and the staff?

A. The School Board wanted to be sure that the ideas going out to the public are something they would be interested in getting public input on. The School Board gave District staff direction at the October 29th School Board Workshop to go out and get input from the community. The timeline shows that we will be going out to the communities from November until March.

Q. Why did the notice not have the proposal information translated in Spanish?

A. The proposal on the meeting notification flyer was not translated, however the invitation to attend the meeting was translated in Spanish, Creole and Russian so that the translators who were present at the meeting would be able to communicate the information to community members speaking those languages. In the future, District staff will only include information translated into different languages on the flyer.

Q. Is it true teachers will have to go through the interview process all over again?

A. Broward County Public Schools Talent Acquisition Instructional Staffing Department would follow the Collective Bargaining Agreement and Florida Statute. The type of contract the teacher holds (annual, probationary or professional services) determines the process to be followed. *Contact Talent Acquisition & Operations Department (Instructional) for further information.*

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Q. Why wasn't the School Boundary Committee open to families and school staff?

A. The School Boundary Committee is open to anyone who wants to volunteer and is recommended by each school's SAC. On August 22, 2019 a memo was provided to all principals and SAF chairs requesting them to follow the process for the Innovation Zone Principal Facilitators from all 28 innovation zones to select the committee representatives and the alternates to represent each entire zone. In addition, any school that has a boundary proposal also requested to select a stakeholder representative and a stakeholder alternate to participate on the committee. Many of the members of this year's School Boundary Committee are school staff and family members from the impacted communities.

Q. Who will be the principal and how is that process decided?

A. The principal of the combined school will be determined by the Office of School Performance & Accountability. The principal may be the current elementary or middle school principal, or another principal may be appointed who is not currently assigned to either school. In past school reconfigurations no staff member has lost their job.

Q. How will the administration be provided for primary and intermediate grades?

A. Combination schools are administered by one principal and a number of assistant principals based on a support allocation model used by the Broward County Public Schools Budget Office.

Q. Elementary school has uniforms, middle school does not have uniforms. Would the PK-8 be uniformed or not?

A. A school's unified dress (uniform) policy is determined by the school's principal and School Advisory Council (SAC), per School Board Policies 5309 and 5309-A.

Q. What is the historical impact on the neighborhood middle schools when the other three PK-8 schools were opened?

A. There have been mixed results in reconfiguring schools as PK-8 schools. North Lauderdale and Coral Spring PK-8 have not had big impacts on the nearby middle schools and have drawn very low 6th through 8th grade enrollment. Annabel C. Perry PK-8 drew a large number of students from H.D. Perry Middle where that school was ultimately repurposed. This impact is difficult to anticipate, however. Before it's the reconfiguration of Annabel C. Perry as a PK-8 school, H.D. Perry Middle was already extremely under-enrolled, more so than Olsen Middle currently is.

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Q. If there is space will other elementary school students be able to apply for school choice into these K-8 schools?

A. Yes, BCPS is a School Choice District and any students can apply through the District's School Choice process if there are empty seats available. *Contact the Office of School Choice for further information.*

Q. Do middle school students do better in K-8 models than in 6-8 or other school grade models?

A. There is strong evidence supporting the idea that students who attend a K-8 school experience greater growth in math and reading than students who move from elementary to middle school. The impact equates to between 3.5 and 7 months of learning. This difference persists at least through 8th grade, and is greatest for disadvantaged students. Continuity and smaller grade size contribute to the benefits accrued to students in K-8 schools. [Further research and a literature review of K-8 models provided by the BCPS Student Assessment and Research Department.](#)

Q. Do the city commissioners know that there was a proposal that could impact schools in their city?

A. Each commissioner and city mayor from Lauderhill, Davie, Dania, and Hollywood were emailed a letter inviting them and their constituents to participate in the school boundary process.

Q. Where is the money coming from to develop the K8 models?

A. External Partnerships (e.g. Broward Cultural Affairs, Community School, Turnaround Arts, Hispanic Unity, Children's Literacy Initiative, Broward County Library, Community services, Health Agency Support), grants and existing funding streams would provide monies for additional early literacy/learning opportunities. Kindergarten through eighth grades would be funded through the existing budgets of the combined schools.

Q. Are there going to be two principals?

A. It has not yet been determined how the administration of the combined PK-8 campus will be organized. The Gulfstream Academy of Hallandale Beach K-8 School, a similarly configured site, which was created by combining Hallandale Elementary and Gulfstream Middle, is organized under the administration of one principal.

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Q. Are they going to add more security, more janitors?

A. Safety and security are always the top priority of Broward County Public Schools. The proposed merging of the campuses of Mary M. Bethune Elementary and Attucks Middle, if adopted by the School Board, is planned to occur in three phases over a three-year period. It is proposed that a covered walkway be constructed during the third year of the adopted change. It is not until this walkway is constructed that daily movement of students will occur between the two sides of the campus. SROs are calculated by school enrollment so the number of SROs would not decrease if the schools merged.

Q. Are the students going to be eating lunch all day?

A. It is anticipated that both cafeterias will remain in use so food service times will not be impacted.

Q. Are the teachers at Bethune going to have to change their curriculum?

A. it is expected that the Cambridge curriculum will be incorporated into instruction in K-5 course at the combined campus.

Q. How is it going to work when you combine the grades at both Bethune and Attucks?

A. If Mary M. Bethune Elementary School (2019 grade C, 51 %) and Attucks Middle (2019 grade B, 54%) were combined the 2019 grade would be a B and 54%.

Q. Attucks needs a new roof. Who is paying for that? Where did the bond money go?

A. Money to cover school renovation projects has been assigned to each school through the SMART program. The scope of work in the SMART program for Attucks Middle currently includes over \$1,370,000 for HVAC, reroofing and building envelope improvements, and renovation of the media center. The scope of work for Mary. M. Bethune Elementary is expected to be brought to the School Board for revision in February to include the demolition of several buildings on campus that are currently not in use, which may make funds available for other projects on campus. Any money originally allocated to these campuses will be spent at these campuses and not used for other projects in the District.

Q. Who is paying to bring Cambridge down to the elementary school level?

A. Cambridge professional development will occur in summer and cost approximately \$1,500 leveraging Title IIA funding.

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Q. What are the success rate of the existing K8 schools in Broward County? What has happened with these kids?

A. Beginning in the 2010/11 school year, eight multi-level combination grade configuration schools have been implemented by the School Board of Broward County. One of these schools, Beachside Montessori Village, was opened as a new school serving prekindergarten through eighth grade, while the remaining seven were reconfigured through the Student Success Opportunity Schools (SSOS) initiative and the Community School Boundary Process. These have included three prekindergarten through eighth grade schools, one kindergarten through eighth grade school, and three sixth through twelfth grade schools.

The goals of establishing multi-level school configurations are specific to each site, but include optimization of facility use, increasing student achievement, addressing community needs, attracting and retaining students, and creating opportunities to offer specialized and innovative educational programs. While one of these schools, Beachside Montessori Village, is a choice-only, full magnet school with no assigned attendance area, and Gulfstream Academy of Hallandale Beach K-8 and Dillard 6-12 have attendance areas spanning all of their grade levels, the remaining five schools have assigned attendance areas spanning only one level of the grades they serve, while the other level is enrolled through choice.

Enrollment has increased at six of the seven reconfigured combination schools (not including Beachside Montessori Village, which opened as a combination school), by rates ranging from 1.1% (Gulfstream Academy of Hallandale Beach) to 38.8% (Dillard 6-12), with a mean increase in enrollment of 16.8%. Including all combination school sites, the mean permanent capacity utilization is 91.7%, which is higher than the mean utilization at elementary or middle schools (88.2% and 91.5%, respectively), but lower than high schools (97.4%).

A significant number of students currently attending BCPS combination schools had previously attended private or charter schools, or had been home schooled, based on the 2018/19 benchmark enrollment and student data from the TERMS database. At the 2018/19 benchmark enrollment date, September 11, 2018, 233 students attending combination schools had previously attended private school, 868 had attended charter schools, and 30 students had come from being home schooled. This total of 1,131 students from outside BCPS represents 12.1% of the total combination school enrollment of 9,353. As of the Florida Department of Education's Third Full Time Enrollment Calculation of \$7,399.97 per student, this equals a gain of \$8,369,366.07 for the 2018/19 school year alone.

Q. Whose is going to lose their jobs after you combine the schools?

A. In past school reconfigurations no staff member has lost their job.

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Q. How are we going to get a follow up to this meeting?

A. Future meetings will be held at all schools prior to the conclusion of the school boundary process. All information will also be shared from the Demographics & Enrollment Planning website by visiting <https://www.browardschools.com/dep> and clicking on School Boundary Process.

Q. Bethune M. Mary Elementary School is under-enrolled partly due to the early Head Start program that the District removed from this school.

A. The District removed a three and four year old class and one infant/toddler class serving 37 students plus 8 babies. Most of the children in this were coming from Fort Lauderdale so an early Head Start at Westwood Heights Elementary for those parents was more convenient, and an early Head Start at Gulfstream ELC was better situated for parents in the southern District. If Bethune becomes a PreK-8, it could be considered to add back the 3 and 4-year-old class, but two classes elsewhere would have to close since the District has a set number of seats. Early literacy expansion will be funded through external partners, grants, and existing funding streams.