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BOARD OF EDUCATION
BALTIMORE COUNTY

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
BROADCAST VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

May 17, 2023

Transcribed by: CRC Salomon Reporting

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3 **BOARD MEMBERS:**
4 Jane Lichter, Board Chair
5 Robin Harvey, Vice Chair
6 Rodney R. McMillion
7 Maggie Domanowski
8 Christina Pumphrey
9 Brenda Savoy
10 Tiffany Frempong
11 Emory Young

12 **ALSO PRESENT:**
13 Tracy C. Gover
14 Jennifer Mullenax
15 Paul Taylor
16 Melissa Appler

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16 Adjournment.33

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1 **P R O C E E D I N G S**
2 -----
3 **CHAIR LICHTER:** Okay. Good evening,
4 everyone. Thank you for being here.
5 I call to order the Baltimore County Board of
6 Education's public hearing on the proposed Central and
7 Northeast Area Middle School boundary recommendation.
8 The public signup sheet for speakers was made available
9 prior to this hearing. Each speaker will be allotted
10 three minutes to express his or her views on the
11 proposed relief strategies. As your name is called,
12 kindly come to the front microphone to speak.
13 At my right, you will see the Board's timekeeper.
14 The timer lights will turn red to let you know when you
15 have one minute remaining and then sound when your time
16 is up. If you wish to have your written comments or
17 other relevant information to be considered by Board
18 members, kindly give that information to the Board's
19 assistant, Ms. Gover, and she will see that it is
20 distributed.
21 I would like to call our first officer, and I

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1 will call the speaker following them so that they can
2 be ready on deck to take their turn. So our first
3 speaker tonight will be Jason Barker followed by Harper
4 Jenkins. Thank you.
5 **JASON BARKER:** Thank you, and good evening. I'd
6 like to thank the Board for the opportunity to provide
7 those remarks. My name is Jason Barker. My two
8 children are BCPS students, one of whom attends Ridgely
9 Middle School. The other is on the Carver softball
10 team. I am also the president of the Chatterley
11 Association, a long-standing community association near
12 Loch Raven High School. My remarks in strong support
13 of option E are on behalf of both my family and the
14 Chatterley Association.
15 For decades, children in the Chatterley
16 neighborhood and adjacent Providence Road neighborhoods
17 north of the beltway have fed from Hampton to Ridgely
18 Middle School. We strongly support the Providence Road
19 community remaining in the Ridgely Middle School
20 District, which option E satisfies.
21 More broadly, option E is a strong choice as it

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 satisfies both of the BCPS Rule 1280 primary criteria 2 and a bulk of the 1280 secondary criteria. 3 Option E effectively addresses facility 4 utilization for all middle schools, and as the data 5 demonstrates, it maintains or increases diversity 6 across the impacted schools. Indeed, the data provided 7 revealed no material differences among the proposals in 8 meeting the School Board's primary goals set forth in 9 Rule 1280. If the Board determines otherwise, then it 10 should present objective evidence to the contrary. 11 Unlike other proposals, option E also satisfies 12 key secondary criteria, especially those that assure 13 maintenance of elementary school feeder patterns, 14 community continuity and transportation patterns. Our 15 neighborhood is acutely impacted by transportation 16 patterns as Loch Raven High School, Concordia Prep and 17 Notre Dame Prep bound our community. Our alignment 18 with Ridgely is a significant mitigant to community 19 traffic patterns, both for busing and general community 20 transport. Shifting our community to schools south of 21 the beltway or east of the Cromwell Valley ridge line</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 Brownie Troop 2254. 2 We have been so excited about playing sports 3 together and dreaming about the day we get to go to 4 middle school together at Cockeysville where we can 5 finally be together. Some of the other maps wanted to 6 split our community in half, but Map E is a great idea 7 because it keeps our community together. It is also a 8 map that most of Baltimore County area wants to pass. 9 So please listen to us, especially us kids who really 10 directly affected by this decision. And please pass 11 Map E. Thank you. 12 CHAIR LICHTER: Thank you, Harper. 13 UNIDENTIFIED STUDENT: Please vote for Map E. 14 CHAIR LICHTER: After Magali Christopher will be 15 Paul Christopher. 16 MAGALI CHRISTOPHER: Thank you. Members of the 17 Board, thank you for being here tonight. 18 Congratulations to the new board members. I look 19 forward to seeing what do you in your new roles. 20 Members of the boundary study, I want to thank 21 you for your efforts that you've put forth during this</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 would severely deter parent and student involvement at 2 their school and radically impact traffic patterns in 3 our community. 4 Option E is a consensus choice for a reason. It 5 meets each of the Rule 1280 primary criteria and 6 positively addresses most of the secondary criteria for 7 my family and our community. As a consequence, I urge 8 the Board on behalf of myself, my family, and my 9 community to adopt option E. Thank you very much. 10 CHAIR LICHTER: Thank you. Following Harper 11 Jenkins would be Magali Christopher. 12 HARPER JENKINS: Hi. My name is Harper Jenkins, 13 and I am a third grader at Carroll Manor Elementary. I 14 am here tonight to ask you please to vote for Map E. 15 It keeps our Jacksonville community together. 16 As an example, I currently play lacrosse, field 17 hockey, and basketball with several Jacksonville 18 Elementary students, some of them who live so close I 19 can walk to their houses. And we have lots of Girl 20 Scout and Boy Scout Troops in our area where kids from 21 both areas are in the same troop. I'm including my</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 process. You've put a lot of time into the boundary 2 study, time away from your loved ones and your lives, 3 and you were asked to put your personal feelings aside 4 to find a solution that worked for as many students as 5 possible, so thank you, thank you, thank you. 6 BCPS, please take note, having a boundary study 7 with this many schools is an impossible task. As much 8 as I think option E is a solid way forward, coming up 9 with it was incredibly challenging four for your 10 committee given the sheer number of communities 11 involved. Please consider capping the number of 12 schools to a more manageable number in the future. 13 I know there may be some parents that aren't 14 satisfied with Option E, but it's highly improbable to 15 have a hundred percent approval of any option. But 16 from the public survey feedback, it's a clear winner, 17 and the data shows it's the best and most comprehensive 18 choice given the primary and secondary considerations 19 set forth by Rule 1280. 20 Another significant part of Rule 1280 is the 21 community involvement. With 42 committee members,</p>

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1 hundreds of observers from the general public, and
 2 thousands of responses and comments to the survey that
 3 led us to Option E, I urge the Board members and
 4 superintendent to acknowledge and respect the months of
 5 effort and dedication, angst and stress that went into
 6 this process and officially adopt Option E, not because
 7 it's a perfect solution but because it was the best
 8 solution put forth.

9 I know emotions have been high, and I always like
 10 to look for the good in people. What do all the people
 11 here have in common? We're parents. We're parents
 12 that want the best for our kids. I think it's expected
 13 to have upset parents when their child is currently
 14 slated to attend a four-star school, and now there's a
 15 chance they will be attending a one-star school.
 16 Similarly, you will see hopeful and happy parents
 17 because their kids will likely be moved from a lower
 18 star-rated school to a higher star-rated school. The
 19 star-based rating comes directly from the 2022 MDSE
 20 school report card, so please don't come for me.
 21 It's not the student's population's fault that

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1 their school is underperforming, and similarly, it's
 2 not the student's responsibility to be the solution to
 3 magically fix underperforming schools. We can't simply
 4 move kids around like pawns to provide minimal and
 5 temporary changes to a school's performance. We need
 6 BCPS to step up and provide more solutions. We need
 7 more schools and more resources. I would love to see
 8 schools with one and two stars get additional funds for
 9 students to bridge that gap, because in 2023 we know
 10 better. We know that equality and equity are not the
 11 same thing, and it's time for BCPS to do something
 12 significant. Gone are the days when moving 50 kids
 13 from one school to another deserves a pat on the back.

14 So in conclusion, Option E for now, but
 15 meaningful and significant solutions for the future.
 16 Thank you.

17 CHAIR LICHTER: And our next speaker is Paul
 18 Christopher, followed by Simone Volikas.

19 PAUL CHRISTOPHER: My name is Paul Christopher.
 20 I have one child at Hampton Elementary, and one child
 21 getting ready to follow, and this one later on.

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1 I would like to say that I am excited to have new
 2 Board members and the new superintendent because we
 3 went through the redistricting with the Hampton
 4 Elementary School that was just a complete fiasco and
 5 it really broke the trust that the parents had with the
 6 board because we presented strong facts and strong
 7 arguments against that, and we felt that we were just
 8 completely ignored. So I think with the new members
 9 and the new superintendent, this is an opportunity to
 10 rebuild trust.

11 This process is the culmination of months of
 12 negotiations, of, you know, of community feedback, and
 13 this wasn't just some willy nilly thing that was thrown
 14 together. This was something that we all worked
 15 together on, all the communities worked together on,
 16 and this was the best solution that we could come up
 17 with.

18 To simply push that aside and ignore all that
 19 work would just cement the idea that the Board doesn't
 20 care what the parents want, the communities want. I
 21 think it's admirable that, for one, that we're building

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1 a brand-new school. That's fantastic. I'm glad to
 2 hear that. And I think that it's admirable that we
 3 want to help children who are in underperforming
 4 schools. I think the best way to help children from
 5 underperforming schools is to fix the performance of
 6 those schools, and I fully support that. I think
 7 moving children from higher performing schools to
 8 underperforming schools is just going to create more
 9 underperforming students because it's not the students
 10 that are creating these issues. Right? So I think
 11 that we need to, something definitely needs to be done
 12 about these two-star, one star schools. We, as parents
 13 and as a community, should absolutely not be tolerating
 14 that kids are in those kinds of situations, but moving
 15 kids around on the board isn't going to be the
 16 solution.

17 Right now, again, to rebuild the trust, to start
 18 new and start fresh, I highly encourage the Board to
 19 listen to the families, listen to the communities, and
 20 vote for Option E. Thank you very much for your time.
 21 CHAIR LICHTER: Thank you. Our next speaker is

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1 Simone Volikas followed by Rebecca Jenkins.
 2 SIMONE VOLIKAS: Hello. Thank you to the Board
 3 of Education for allowing this time for public
 4 feedback. My name is Simone, and I have lived in
 5 Baltimore County my entire life. I attended and
 6 graduated from Red House Run Elementary School and
 7 Golden Ring Middle School. My mother still lives in
 8 the neighborhood next to those schools, and I continue
 9 to know many in the community.
 10 I actually recently attended the demolition
 11 ceremony at Red House Run, and I will admit it was more
 12 than a little sad to see the building that housed so
 13 many memories for me be torn down. But I am a big fan
 14 of change and progress for the better, and I know the
 15 replacement buildings for both of these schools will be
 16 a big boom for the community and beneficial for the
 17 next generation of students.
 18 So I am very pleased to see Option E was
 19 recommended by the boundary committee. Option A and
 20 Option E that derived from it was the only one of the
 21 choices that made it to the public survey that had the

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1 entirety of the students of Golden Ring Middle School
 2 attending the brand-new build of Northeast Middle
 3 School. I think it is critical that the community that
 4 is most impacted by the closing, the school closing and
 5 builds be the one that benefits from having a modern,
 6 high-quality educational property to attend.
 7 In both my opinion and from speaking to many in
 8 Rosedale and the Golden Ring Community, there was a lot
 9 of concern and disappointment with the possibility of
 10 not attending the new Northeast Middle School were
 11 other options chosen. Again, I am relieved that the
 12 recommended choice, Option E, has every single one of
 13 the 811 Golden Ring Middle School students being
 14 rezoned to attend the new Northeast Middle School.
 15 The public survey results reflect what I have
 16 observed in talking to the community. 69 percent of
 17 the Golden Ring Middle School community approved Option
 18 A compared to only 11 percent opposed to it; a
 19 majority, a huge majority, of the responding public.
 20 Conversely, every one of Options B, C, and D had more
 21 opposition than favorability from the Golden Ring

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1 community. 37 percent opposed Option B, 47 percent
 2 opposed Option C, and 46 percent opposed Option D. I
 3 do hope that the Board of Education agrees and will
 4 approve Option E as the final choice given the
 5 overwhelming public support both in the Golden Ring
 6 School community and throughout the entire study area.
 7 Thank you for your time and consideration.
 8 CHAIR LICHTER: Thank you. Our next speaker is
 9 Rebecca Jenkins, followed by Benjamin Carlson.
 10 REBECCA JENKINS: Good evening. My name is
 11 Rebecca Jenkins, and I have two children, third and
 12 first grade, at Carroll Manor Elementary.
 13 In addition to being a parent, I am the Carroll
 14 Manor field hockey commissioner where my primary job is
 15 to organize the teams, recruit players and coaches,
 16 organize games and referees and sign up for the
 17 tournaments. Our girls live in the greater
 18 Jacksonville Community, which is a tiny, close-knit
 19 cluster of neighborhoods and farms in the rural
 20 suburban community. They are serviced by two schools,
 21 Carroll Manor Elementary and Jacksonville Elementary,

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1 which is built when the community who all originally
 2 went to Carroll Manor grew and the small CMS school
 3 couldn't accommodate the growing school population.
 4 Even though they now going to two schools, the kids
 5 live incredibly close to each other and not only play
 6 in the same one rec council together, but they also do
 7 Boy and Girl Scouts together, go to preschool together,
 8 church together, have one community association, et
 9 cetera.
 10 These girls are so excited to play together
 11 during these elementary school years, but even more
 12 excited to go to middle school together where they all
 13 play together on the same middle school team. Our
 14 sixth, seventh and eighth grade girls currently play on
 15 the Cockeysville Middle School field hockey team, and
 16 no doubt their experience has been strengthened because
 17 of the fact that they played their earlier years
 18 together with Carroll Manor Rec. And, as added proof
 19 of these strong friendships, we are the only field
 20 hockey program that does not have a turf field in all
 21 of Baltimore County. Yet, because of these strong

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1 relationships, the girls play on bumpy, terrible fields
 2 all because they have these relationships they value.
 3 The rec program is small, but it is mighty, and I am so
 4 proud of it.
 5 For those girls and those teams already in place,
 6 and those friendships that have been formed, I urge you
 7 to please vote in Map E and keep these two elementary
 8 schools together and have them stay together through
 9 middle school, and for the greater community and their
 10 deep ties with each other, I urge you to vote in Map E.
 11 These kids go to school together, do sports together,
 12 have groups together, go to church together. A
 13 community that has been together for over a hundred
 14 years is imploring you to please keep them together.
 15 Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak tonight.
 16 CHAIR LICHTER: Thank you. Our next speaker is
 17 Benjamin Carlson followed by Elisabeth McCollum.
 18 BENJAMIN CARLSON: Thank you so much for your
 19 time and for hearing feedback from impacted families
 20 regarding this monumental decision.
 21 I'm here tonight in support of the boundary

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1 committee's recommendation to utilize Map E in the
 2 redistricting process. Map E not only best meets the
 3 primary consideration of the study, but also many of
 4 the secondary considerations as well. Other maps
 5 considered might meet the primary goals of the study,
 6 but they barely meet any secondary considerations. Map
 7 E, the most balanced choice, and was favored by nearly
 8 every single middle school community involved in the
 9 study.
 10 Cockeyville Middle, the school which my family
 11 is currently zoned for, is a wonderfully diverse middle
 12 school which is currently under capacity and still has
 13 plenty of room to grow under Map E. Map E allows my
 14 rural community of Greater Jacksonville to remain
 15 intact and also not massively interrupt the flow of our
 16 day-to-day lives.
 17 Being rezoned from Cockeyville Middle would have
 18 a significant negative impact on my family and my
 19 community. When we moved to the rural area where we
 20 now live that has no middle or high schools in close
 21 proximity to it, it was important to us that the zoned

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1 schools were located near grandparents, employer,
 2 medical providers and my children's extracurricular
 3 activities. As if being a parent in 2023 isn't hard
 4 enough, moving to a school 10 miles away in the
 5 opposite direction of where we carry out our day-to-day
 6 lives will greatly reduce my ability to utilize big
 7 parts of my parent community and be as active in the
 8 school community as I hope to be.
 9 Furthermore, we know that children perform better
 10 in a school when they feel like they are part of their
 11 school community. Carroll Manor families have built
 12 their lives in the direction of Cockeyville Middle and
 13 want to remain a part of its strong, diverse community.
 14 I know from listening to your last meeting on
 15 this topic that some of you are concerned that
 16 communities like mine drowned out the voices of other
 17 communities in this process. But if you place trust in
 18 the months that the impartial boundary committee put
 19 into the recommendation, look at the survey results
 20 broken down by each school, read its attached comments
 21 and the public comment logs, read the threads in the

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1 Facebook group created by Ms. Hen, and reach out to
 2 families in historically underserved communities, which
 3 several members of my community have done throughout
 4 this process, I'm confident you'd find that Map E is
 5 the map that best balances the stated goals of BCPS for
 6 this process. Thank you so much again for your time
 7 and for your service to BCPS.
 8 CHAIR LICHTER: Thank you. Our next speaker is
 9 Elisabeth McCollum followed by Indira Bucci.
 10 ELISABETH MCCOLLUM: Good evening. And thank you
 11 for the opportunity to speak tonight. My name is
 12 Elisabeth McCollum, and I support Map E, which will
 13 send my son to Cockeyville Middle, a wonderfully
 14 diverse and culturally vibrant school. He is currently
 15 districted to Ridgely Middle, and I have supported the
 16 option to transfer to Cockeyville instead, which will
 17 expose him to new people and experiences.
 18 My son also knows students of all grades at
 19 Cockeyville and will be comfortable entering this next
 20 and somewhat trying stage of his education with friends
 21 in a familiar place. The library we have been going to

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1 since he was three years old is right up the street,
 2 along with many other community staples that we
 3 frequent.
 4 As the child of an Army veteran who moved every
 5 two to three years, including several stints overseas,
 6 it is important to me that my child live and grow up
 7 until he chooses otherwise in a community with people
 8 that he has known from a young age, all while having
 9 new experiences that allow him to learn, grow, and make
 10 new friends without being uprooted.
 11 The selection of Map E allows for my son to
 12 experience the best of both of these worlds. It also
 13 meets the study, objective, and criteria for other
 14 children and families involved by providing relief from
 15 overcrowding, maintaining or increasing diversity,
 16 impacting less students than other options, and
 17 maintaining the continuity of neighborhoods and
 18 communities.
 19 I'd also like to take the opportunity tonight to
 20 address bigger issues. The County needs to hold
 21 developers accountable for contributing financially

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1 towards increasing and improving county infrastructure,
 2 especially schools, when new housing developments are
 3 built. Crowding and overcapacity will continue to be
 4 issues if private funding is not being used to augment
 5 state and local budgets and move timelines forward
 6 quicker.
 7 I also strongly encourage the re-evaluation of
 8 Rule 1280 to more specifically define those who are
 9 impacted and should have representation on the study
 10 committee. Limit the size of study areas, provide for
 11 more community engagement opportunities during the
 12 process, and to not reduce our children and communities
 13 to percentages, sets of data, or lines on a map. Not
 14 inviting the many impacted elementary schools to be
 15 involved in decisions about where their children will
 16 attend middle school was a concerning oversight, and
 17 hopefully in the future the process can be improved.
 18 BCPS's community engagement practices also need
 19 to be redesigned to include more meaningful methods to
 20 reach people of different circumstances, cultures and
 21 backgrounds. A one-size-fits-all approach does not

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1 work to engage all impacted children and families.
 2 There's also too much going on at once for
 3 parents and caregivers to even begin to try and keep up
 4 with, and this week for me personally is a perfect
 5 example. A board meeting last night, this hearing
 6 tonight, and a previous of the new Dulaney High School
 7 plans tomorrow night. This forces people to pick and
 8 choose where and how they can be involved, if they are
 9 even aware of opportunities to participate. And those
 10 who are already overburdened just aren't able to.
 11 Thank you for your time and consideration, and I
 12 look forward to Map E moving forward and to working
 13 with you on future issues.
 14 CHAIR LICHTER: Thank you. Our next speaker is
 15 Indira Bucci followed by Buddy Redmer.
 16 INDIRA BUCCI: Hello. Thank you for having this
 17 hearing, Board of Education. I really appreciate it.
 18 I am living in Fellowship Force. I'm also the
 19 president of the Fellowship Force Community
 20 Association, so I'm here to also represent 136
 21 families, and we have the group here tonight, too.

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1 And we all support the proposed Map E because it
 2 provides feeder school and neighborhood continuity,
 3 safer pedestrian patterns, and improved social and
 4 emotional health for our students. Essentially, we've
 5 been having this issue of a lot of the middle school
 6 students were going to a high school, Towson High,
 7 where they knew nobody because we had such a small
 8 group of people moving over, and so that ended up being
 9 a real challenge for our students to make new friends
 10 and to fit in, and there was just a lot of stress, and
 11 especially today where most kids are so hooked into
 12 social media it just presents a lot of extra
 13 challenges.
 14 In addition, the middle school that they were
 15 assigned to earlier, they had to cross a four-lane very
 16 busy Goucher Road, and so -- or Goucher Boulevard, and
 17 essentially, it was sometimes even dangerous for them
 18 to walk to the school they were assigned to earlier.
 19 The planning block that we were in is PB 404, and we're
 20 very much in support of Map E because that planning
 21 block is now assigned to a middle school that will have

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1 the continuity that we hoped to achieve.
 2 So that's pretty much it. Thanks again.
 3 CHAIR LICHTER: Thank you. Our next speaker is
 4 Buddy Redmer followed by Lazaros Volikas.
 5 BUDDY REDMER: Hi. I'll keep it short and sweet,
 6 because I concur with everything said so far. I'm a
 7 Perry Hall Middle parent and Gun Powder Elementary
 8 parent, and we support Map E. Thank you.
 9 CHAIR LICHTER: Thank you. Our next speaker is
 10 Lazaros Volikas followed by Scott Jenkins.
 11 LAZAROS VOLIKAS: Thank you, Chair Lichter, and
 12 the entire Board of Education for allowing me the
 13 opportunity to speak regarding this boundary study.
 14 My name is Lazaros Volikas, and I'm a proud
 15 resident of Baltimore County, and I'm actually a
 16 product of exclusively public-school education during
 17 my entire life, both all my high school and all that,
 18 but also my post-high school education, too. So big
 19 stake in public education.
 20 We have three children currently attending BCPS
 21 public schools: one in high school, one in middle, and

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1 one in elementary. We're currently zoned for Ridgely
 2 Middle School where my oldest child has gone and my
 3 middle child attends currently. But we've been very
 4 happy with the quality of education there.
 5 Our youngest students attend Carroll Manor
 6 Elementary and would be among the students directly
 7 impacted by the study. My family strongly supports
 8 Option E, which was recommended by the boundary
 9 committee, which keeps the entirety of our elementary
 10 school students together and will allow our youngest
 11 child instead to attend Cockeysville Middle School.
 12 Previously, under the current plan, our school gets
 13 split, and a small percent goes to Ridgely, which was
 14 very difficult, I think, for our older students being
 15 with only a few of their classmates.
 16 Although we have been satisfied with Ridgely
 17 Middle School, we're very excited by the opportunity of
 18 our youngest child to attend a much more diverse school
 19 in Cockeysville. As has been well documented in many
 20 studies, attending a racially, ethnically and
 21 economically diverse school is prosperous for all the

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1 students by allowing exposure to distinct experiences,
 2 culture and backgrounds which enhances education.
 3 Unlike our currently assigned school,
 4 Cockeysville Middle School has a very mixed student
 5 body with percentages of Asian, black, white and farm
 6 students all being much closer to the BCPS average of
 7 the study area. And on top of that, it actually has
 8 the highest number of Hispanic and ELL students of any
 9 of the schools, so it really is very diverse. And as
 10 somebody who greatly enjoys travel and interacting with
 11 different cultures, I know the exposure to these
 12 diverse backgrounds is valuable for students in their
 13 formative years to develop a great perspective of
 14 different communities and the role at large.
 15 I know that maintaining our increasing diversity
 16 among schools is one of the primary considerations of
 17 the study, and Option E directly achieves that for our
 18 neighborhood. It also maintains the continuity of
 19 neighborhoods by keeping our entire elementary school
 20 together going to the same middle school, as well as
 21 addressing the efficient use of capacity by moving our

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1 area and others away from Ridgely, which was
 2 overcrowded and above capacity.
 3 Other schools that are overcrowded, such as Perry
 4 Hall Middle School and Middle River Middle School are
 5 also allocated relief effectively with Option E. And
 6 Option E is able to achieve the study goals
 7 definitively while also providing for the continuity of
 8 feeder patterns only displacing 1,625 students, which
 9 is far fewer than any of the other options that were
 10 being considered, other than Option A, which, of
 11 course, it was derived from. The public survey showed
 12 that Option A was the overwhelming favorite, and there
 13 were a few areas that people had some concerns about,
 14 like the northern part of Riderwood Elementary and part
 15 of Rossville Elementary near the newly built middle
 16 school. And also, just a few that had some small
 17 splits among the elementary schools.
 18 Thank you for the Board, and I look forward to
 19 you approving Option E. Thank you.
 20 CHAIR LICHTER: Thank you. And our last speaker
 21 is Scott Jenkins.

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1 SCOTT JENKINS: Good evening, Board. It's good
 2 to see you all again. I know I spoke last night, so
 3 I'm not going to rehash a lot of the same stuff. I
 4 think that the people that have all spoke, especially
 5 the two kids -- I'm a little partial to them -- made
 6 the best arguments. I think the data shows Map E is
 7 the best choice. There was so much time and energy and
 8 effort that went into that across so many different
 9 communities, I know we have met so many different
 10 people from Rossville to Warren to just different
 11 people learning about their schools, learning about
 12 what they want, that I think it's a testament that with
 13 30,000 students and over 55 schools, that we're here
 14 tonight and no one is opposition.

15 I think this really is an amazing job by the
 16 boundary committee. I'll be the first to admit it,
 17 Julie Hen, if she was here tonight, would tell me I
 18 told you so. I didn't trust the process. I thought it
 19 was extremely broken. I think there's some things that
 20 need to change. I think we talked last night about
 21 1280. I think you've got to get the elementary schools

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1 involved in all of these boundary studies, but I will
 2 say that the school board members I talked to were
 3 right, trust the process, trust the system that was a
 4 seven-month ordeal that almost ended up where they
 5 started, and I think that shows that this committee
 6 really was on target from the beginning.

7 So I'm not going to prolong this tonight. You
 8 all had a long night last night. But I do want to say
 9 one thing. I graduated here 30 years ago. That seems
 10 a long time ago. There were wooden chairs here then,
 11 and I've been involved in county politics on the
 12 planning board on the central committee working for a
 13 senator, but I don't think in those 30 years I've been
 14 as excited as I was last night to see the energy behind
 15 Dr. Yarbrough, to watch this Board, I haven't been to a
 16 board meeting in years, to see you over the last few
 17 weeks even if you disagree have cordial conversations,
 18 actually have moments where you actually are taking the
 19 time, questioning contracts, questioning everything,
 20 questioning processes like Mr. McMillan does and keep
 21 doing that, because Mr. Dixit (phonetic) sometimes, I

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1 think you have to watch him, but stay on top of that.
 2 But I just want to tell you as a parent of a
 3 third grader and first grader that Plansville, and I've
 4 lived in Baltimore County my whole life. I plan on
 5 being here hopefully many more years, that I'm excited
 6 for where we're going as a county, I'm excited for this
 7 Board. I hope you'll support Map E, and I think you
 8 made a great choice with the superintendent. I think
 9 you're leading this county well, and it's nice to have
 10 a board that seems receptive to the population. So
 11 thank you very much. Thank you for coming here tonight
 12 and thank you for your time.

13 CHAIR LICHTER: And thank you for your comments.
 14 Thank you to everyone who did come tonight.
 15 Mr. Jenkins was our last speaker. We appreciate you
 16 being here.

17 For those of you in the audience who are part of
 18 the boundary study committee, we thank you for the
 19 work. It is a tremendous amount of time and effort put
 20 into that committee work, so for those of you who were
 21 on the actual committee, thank you very much.

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1 The Board of Ed is scheduled to vote on the
 2 proposed central and Northeast area middle school
 3 boundary recommendation on Tuesday, June 13th, 2023.
 4 Again, if anyone has additional comments that you would
 5 like the Board to consider, you may send them to
 6 BOE@BCPS.org, or you may contact the Board office so
 7 the information can be forwarded to us.

8 At this time, I don't have my gavel, but this
 9 meeting, a public meeting, is adjourned. Again, thank
 10 you for coming.

11 (Meeting adjourned.)

TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Vivian Saxe, hereby certify that I transcribed from audio file the proceedings to the best of my ability in the foregoing-entitled matter; and I further certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct transcript of the audio files produced.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have subscribed my name on June 1, 2023.

Vivian Saxe
Transcriptionist

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