

Staff Follow Up: PH-032923-04
March 16, 2023



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From: Deputy Superintendent, Operations

Topic: Questions concerning the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School boundary process.

Staff Follow-up:

1. What are the dates, subject and platform that the Diversity Committee Members and Chair were notified about the rebounding process?
2. How many times was the Diversity Committee Chair with children in BCPS notified as a parent of the rebounding process?
3. How many times and name all platforms were parents in Parkland and Coral Springs notified of the rebounding process?
4. How many times and name all platforms were the Parkland and Coral Springs Commissioners and City Managers notified on the the rebounding process?
5. What is the total number of emails received by the public from Parkland residents and the total number of emails receive by Coral Springs residents to the School Board?
6. How many public comments did we receive total on all the proposals?
7. Please be specific to the platform. For example, email, text, parent link, phone call, social media, meetings....
8. In 2016-2017 what was the proposal submitted for the board to approve?
9. In 2017-2018 what was the proposal submitted for the board to approve?
10. Please provide a link to both meetings above when the board deliberated on both proposals.
11. Is there a state statute that speaks to public input being a driving factor in the rebounding process?

PH-032923-04 (L. Alhadeff)

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Response: **1. What are the dates, subject and platform that the Diversity Committee Members and Chair were notified about the rebondaring process?**

The Diversity Committee, Chair and the District's Diversity and School Climate staff was contacted 13 times from January 6, 2022, to March 2, 2023, concerning the boundary process on the following dates:

The communications are as follows:

- **January 6, 2022:** Jill Young, Director, Demographics & Enrollment Planning presented the December 7, 2021 Board boundary workshop titled "Enrollment & Facility Usage, COVID & Beyond" to the Diversity Committee.
- **September 12, 2022:** Jill Young accepted an invitation from the District's Diversity and School Climate staff to present to the Diversity Committee on October 6, 2022.
- **October 1, 2022:** Jill Young emailed the Diversity & School Climate District personnel the October 3, 2022 community boundary process meeting presentation, frequently asked school boundary process questions and answers, a weblink to the community boundary meeting to be live streamed including date and time, explained the October 3, 2022 and November 3, 2022 community school boundary process meeting agendas, and requested this information be shared with the Diversity Committee.
- **October 3, 2022:** The Diversity & School Climate District personnel thanked Jill Young for the information and provided the topics the committee requested:
 - Schools that are under-enrolled
 - Schools that are over-enrolled
 - List of possible school closings
 - Information on the address verification process and CLEAR software.
 - Update on upcoming school boundary changes

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- Information on opportunities community for input throughout the boundary process.
- **October 6, 2022:** Jill Young presented the 2023-2034 school boundary process and how community members could participate in the process by following the steps in the boundary process timeline to the Diversity Committee and answered the committee's questions.
- **November 7, 2022:** Jill Young emailed the Diversity & School Climate District personnel responding to requests for information on how the Diversity Committee could participate in the school boundary process, the two community meetings held at Coral Springs Middle School, online community commenting on the proposals, the next Board boundary workshop to discuss proposals, and that following that workshop the superintendent would make a recommendation to the board for all attendance areas to bring to the public hearings where the public is invited to provide further input.
- **February 6, 2023:** Jill Young emailed the Diversity & School Climate District personnel all dates, live streamed meetings, link to the boundary process timeline, meeting agendas and presentation materials, and provided the names of District staff members potentially included in the February 7, 2023 School Board boundary workshop presentation.
- **February 8, 2023 @2:40 pm:** Jill Young emailed the District Diversity & School Climate personnel requesting to present the boundary process to the committee at their next meeting.
- **February 8, 2023 @2:53 pm:** Jill Young emailed the District Diversity & School Climate Director requesting to present the boundary process to the committee at their next meeting.

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- **February 13, 2023:** Jill Young emailed responses to Diversity Committee chair Narnike Pierre-Grant about the school boundary process, the school boundary process timeline, the considerations for reviewing school boundary changes, previous committee presentations, and the next steps in the process.
- **February 24, 2023:** Jill Young followed up with a third email to the Diversity & School Climate Director requesting to share the school boundary process with the Diversity Committee and Diversity & School Climate staff. If a presentation would not be possible Ms. Young asked that anyone with questions should telephone the Demographics & Enrollment Planning Department to discuss any concerns.
- **March 1, 2023:** Jill Young emailed responses to Diversity Committee Chair Narnike Pierre-Grant's questions concerning the boundary process, public input, school boundary public hearings, school boundary considerations, explained the +/- 5 percent threshold when reviewing demographic changes to attendance areas, what was presented at the community boundary meetings, the process to create a proposal, the September 6, 2022 Board boundary workshop, the February 7, 2023 Board boundary workshop, the boundary process timeline, the ability for online community input and participation, provided copies of the Parent Link messages, provided three different Parkland and Coral Springs elected official notification letters from the superintendent, social media blasts, over 20 news articles on the process from different news outlets and the enrollment and demographics of the superintendent's recommend proposal as provided in the February 7, 2023 Board boundary workshop.
- **March 2, 2023:** Jill Young and Joseph Beck from the Demographics & Enrollment Planning Department attended the Diversity Committee meeting to listen to the Chair's displeasure with the process and data associated with the proposals. Demographics staff explained the process, how the data was created and shared how the committee could participate in the process. Demographics staff provided 21 copies of the February 7, 2023, School

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Board workshop on the school boundary process, the Superintendent's recommendation for school boundary changes and translated public hearing notification flyers.

2. How many times was the Diversity Committee Chair who has children in BCPS notified as a parent of the rebondaring process?

The Diversity Committee, Chair was contacted at least 3 times from September 23, 2022, to November 2, 2022, concerning the boundary process on the following dates:

- All principals, teachers, staff, school administrators, parents, including the Diversity Committee Chair, were notified of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School official community school boundary process and official school boundary community meetings by way of Parent Link emails, telephone calls, text messages and BCPS mobile application on September 23, 2022 (27,294 recipients), September 29, 2022 (27,265 recipients), and November 1, 2022 (25,061 recipients). These Parent Link messages were sent to all parents, principals, school administration, and teachers at Country Hills Elementary, Eagle Ridge Elementary, Heron Heights Elementary, Parkside Elementary, Park Trails Elementary, Riverglades Elementary, Coral Springs Middle, Westglades Middle, Coral Glades High, Coral Springs High, J. P. Taravella High School and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High.

3. How many times and name all platforms were parents in Parkland and Coral Springs notified of the rebondaring process?

Parents with children attending district schools located in the City of Parkland and Coral Springs were contacted numerous times from September 9, 2022, to March 21, 2023, concerning the boundary process on the following platforms:

- The process was shared with school area advisories.
- Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and J. P. Taravella High School sent weekly principal Parent Links.

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- The process was shared on the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, J. P. Taravella High School and Coral Glades High School SAC/SAF and PTSA websites. Demographics & Enrolment Planning provided all schools within the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School feeder pattern with translated flyers to share through their communication platforms, and with community groups.
- Westglades Middle School marquee notification and Chair Alhadeff presented the process at their SAC meeting.
- 27 news articles beginning October 21, 2022 to March 13, 2023 on the MSD boundary process from Sun-Sentinel, Tapinto Coral Springs, Coral Springs Talk, MSD The Eagle Eye, Westside Gazette, Nextdoor, and the City of Coral Springs website.
- September 2022 BCPS Communications Department social media messages.
- Three Parent Link emails, texts, robo-calls and mobile application notifications to all parents, principals, school administration, and teachers at Country Hills Elementary, Eagle Ridge Elementary, Heron Heights Elementary, Parkside Elementary, Park Trails Elementary, Riverglades Elementary, Coral Springs Middle, Westglades Middle, Coral Glades High, Coral Springs High, J. P. Taravella High and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High.
- Multiple district and school based Twitter tweets in the months of September, October and November.
- Over fifty individual parent boundary proposal meetings in the month of October 2022.
- October 3 and November 3, 2022 live streamed in-person community boundary meetings at Coral Springs Middle School where both meetings were attended by approximately 400 or more community members.
- Over 11 parent follow-up emails on questions concerning the proposals, the process or the data.

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4. How many times and name all platforms were the Parkland and Coral Springs Commissioners and City Managers notified on the the rebounding process?

The Parkland and Coral Springs Commissioners and City Managers were contacted approximately thirty-nine times from September 9, 2022, to March 20, 2023, concerning the boundary process on the following platforms:

- Three letters to City of Coral Springs and City of Parkland elected officials on September 9, 2022, September 30, 2022, and February 28, 2023 to invite them to participate in the process and requesting their assistance in ensuring that their constituents are informed.
- Two boundary process presentations to the City of Parkland on January 12, 2022 and May 4, 2022.
- April 25, 2022 Demographics & Enrollment Planning demographic staff and School Board Member Alhadeff met with City Manager, Franc Babinec and Deputy City Manager, Catherine Givens to review the draft boundary process timeline, historic and projected residential developments, and enrollment and capacity in the northwest area.
- The City of Coral Springs and the City of Parkland officials attended the October 3 and November 3 community boundary meetings.
- Fourteen emails to the City of Parkland beginning in August 2022 and seventeen emails to the City of Coral Springs beginning in September 2022.

5. What is the total number of emails received by the public from Parkland residents and the total number of emails receive by Coral Springs residents to the School Board?

School Board members received more than 732 emails concerning the boundary process. The District's Information and Technology Department performed a search on School Board member email using the following criteria:

("Boundary Process") AND ("Coral Springs")) OR

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("Boundary Process") AND ("Parkland"))

AND Received after Oct 1, 2022.

Search Results Statistics:

("Boundary Process") AND ("Parkland") total items = **589**

("Boundary Process") AND ("Coral Springs") total items = **394**

Search Results Statistics by Board Member:

Board Member	Items
lorialhadeff@browardschools.com	162
torey.alston@browardschools.com	103
nora.rupert@browardschools.com	102
debra.hixon@browardschools.com	83
jeffholness@browardschools.com	69
allenzeman@browardschools.com	64
sarah.leonardi@browardschools.com	61
brenda.fam@browardschools.com	58
daniel.foganholi@browardschools.com	30

6. How many public comments did we receive total on all the proposals?

The proposals generated 1,574 community comments that met posting guidelines. Anonymous comments, as well as those using inflammatory or hateful language, were not posted or included in this total.

7. Please be specific to the platform. For example, email, text, parent link, phone call, social media, meetings....

All responses to the questions in this follow-up were specific to the platform utilized.

8. In 2016-2017 what was the proposal submitted for the board to approve?

In 2016-2017 through the open community boundary process, a community member named Charles Bencomo submitted a boundary change proposal as a preemptive measure to stem the

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tide of growing enrollment at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School (MSD). The proposal would have moved the portion of the MSD boundary south of Sample Road to Coral Glades High School through a four-year phase-in.

This proposal was shared with the School Board for their deliberation at a workshop on January 24, 2017. The proposal (C-7 while still in the proposal phase) was viewed favorably by School Board members, and was therefore recommended by the superintendent to move forward for a vote at the public hearings as recommendation H-1. However, the recommendation was voted down at the first public hearing on school boundaries on March 1, 2017, due to concerns over sibling placement and the fact that enrollment at MSD was not yet at a critical level of overcrowding. Enrollment in 2016-2017 utilized 104 percent of MSD's total gross capacity.

9. In 2017-2018 what was the proposal submitted for the board to approve?

Through the community boundary process in the 2017-2018 school year, the same community member, Charles Bencomo, who had submitted Proposal C-7 in the previous year, resubmitted this same proposal along with another that moved the same area, plus the portion of the MSD boundary between Sample Road and Wiles Road. In both proposals the impacted area would be phased in over four years to Coral Glades High School.

Both of these proposals, along with all other proposals that had been submitted through the community boundary process, were shared with the School Board at a workshop on October 24, 2017. After deliberating, School Board consensus was not to move forward with any community boundary proposals for the 2018-2019 school year. Enrollment at MSD in 2017-2018 utilized 108 percent of MSD's total gross capacity.

10. Please provide a link to both meetings above when the board deliberated on both proposals.

2016-2017 process:

- First public hearing on March 1, 2017, executive summary located on page 15 stated the School Board unanimously

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voted against moving the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School area south of Sample Road to Coral Glades High School:

[http://bcpsagenda.browardschools.com/agenda/01231/Item%204%20\(34527\)/index.html](http://bcpsagenda.browardschools.com/agenda/01231/Item%204%20(34527)/index.html)

2017-2018 process:

- October 24, 2017, Board workshop located on pages 14 and 15 of Document 1:

[http://bcpsagenda.browardschools.com/agenda/01379/Item%201D%20\(42572\)/index.html](http://bcpsagenda.browardschools.com/agenda/01379/Item%201D%20(42572)/index.html)

- March 6, 2018, agenda item to approve all high school attendance areas for the 2018-2019 school year found in the executive summary located in Document 2 on page 2 see October 24, 2017:

[http://bcpsagenda.browardschools.com/agenda/01447/Item%20L-4%20\(48264\)/index.html](http://bcpsagenda.browardschools.com/agenda/01447/Item%20L-4%20(48264)/index.html)

11. Is there a state statute that speaks to public input being a driving factor in the rebounding process?

The rebounding process is considered rule making and as such public input is required pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act. "The process of drawing school zone boundary lines is rule-making within the meaning of Section 120.54, Fla.Stat. (1981). See Polk v. School Board of Polk County, 373 So.2d 960 (Fla. 2d DCA 1979)." Plantation Residents' Ass'n, Inc. v. Sch. Bd. of Broward County, 424 So. 2d 879, 880 (Fla. 1st DCA 1982). Therefore, public input is valued at any rule-making process. However, it is not a driving factor any more than on any other rule-making matter.

JMM/JY:jg