

Focus Group Agenda

- 1. Background**
- 2. Considerations**
- 3. Feedback**
 - a. Choices
 - b. Prioritize
- 4. Conclusion and Next Steps**

Background

What is school redistricting?

- The process of redrawing attendance boundaries for schools within a district to rebalance student enrollment, often triggered by population changes, new housing, or the opening/closing of schools
- Dublin City Schools is launching a new redistricting process focused on balanced enrollment, elite learning experiences, and responsible planning for a growing district.
- This redistricting process is focused on the high school boundaries

Why does DCS need to redistrict?

- In 2024, the School Board approved an addition to Scioto High School, which provides needed capacity for growth at the high school level
- Jerome High School is currently approaching capacity, making long-term planning essential.
- This redistricting process is designed to reduce near-term enrollment pressure at Jerome and adjust attendance boundaries in a way that supports balanced growth across all three high schools.
- The long-term goal is to position each high school to serve approximately 2,000 students as the district continues to grow over the next five to ten years.
- This work requires thoughtful, data-informed decisions made in the best interest of the district as a whole.
- While these decisions will not affect every family in the same way, they are essential to maintaining Dublin City Schools as one of the top districts in Ohio and a great place to learn for 17,000 students, now and in the future.

Goal

The goal is to support strong, high-quality learning environments at each high school while developing attendance boundaries that position the district for three high schools of comparable size—anticipated to be approximately 2,000 students each—as future growth occurs.

The realities...

- Central Ohio continues to be—and is anticipated to continue to be—a dynamic, growing place
- Dublin is—and is anticipated to continue to be—a "community of choice"
- Dublin City Schools is a key driver of the community's desirability
- The city's development pattern—over time—creates the conditions that drive needs for re-districting to balance enrollment
- When it comes to addressing population growth school policy follows/re-acts to multiple local governments.
- Tough—and likely unpopular—decisions are very difficult to avoid

Board Policy 5120

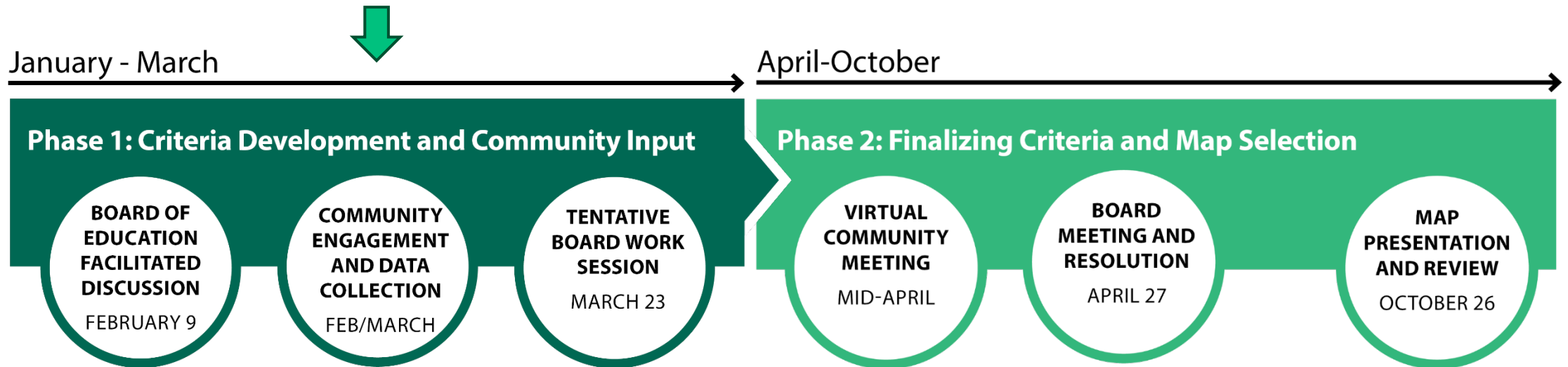
- The Superintendent assigns students to schools within this District consistent with the best interests of students and/or the best use of the resources of this District, as set forth in this Policy.
- The Superintendent shall determine annually the school attendance areas of the District and shall assign students to the proper schools and grades.
- The Superintendent shall periodically review existing attendance areas and make such changes as may be justified by:
 - a. student enrollment and building capacity
 - b. considerations of safe student transportation and travel
 - c. convenience of access to schools
 - d. financial and administrative efficiency
 - e. the effectiveness of the instructional program
 - f. other relevant factors, including those required by law.

Legal Considerations

The following may not be used in the districting process:

- Race
- Color
- National origin
- Ethnicity
- Religion
- Special education (the district must provide a free appropriate public education to all students with disabilities)
- Immigration status
- Sex

Process



Considerations

Considerations

- **Account for future growth now OR impact fewer students now**
- **Move students at one time OR allow grandfathering in over time**
- **Spread impacts evenly OR impact less students overall**
- **Keep current feeder patterns together OR make changes to create better flow for high schools**
- **How should proximity to a school building be defined?**

1. Considerations

A. Impact fewer students now

- Will affect a minimal number of students now
- Will need to redistrict sooner (in 5 years?)

OR

B. Account for future growth now*

- Use higher range projections and the farthest year projected
- Jerome would operate at a lower enrollment initially to accommodate the future growth
- Will affect more students now
- Minimizes the need for future redistricting

**costs are minimal, but this indicates the lower cost option*

2. Considerations

A. Allow grandfathering in over time

- Kids who are already in a high school at the end of 26/27 school year would have a choice whether to move to newly assigned school or stay at current one.
- Puts extra strain on the administration and staff

OR

B. Move students at one time*

- All kids would move for the start of the 27/28 school year including incoming freshman, sophomore and juniors (seniors would stay).
- More efficient for administration and staff

**costs are minimal, but this indicates the lower cost option*

3. Considerations

A. Spread impacts out (more comprehensive, look at all boundaries)

- Affect all schools in the move
- Could potentially affect more kids overall

OR

B. Impact fewer students overall (be more surgical)

- Move kids where the growth is happening (to where there is capacity)
- Impacts fewer students overall

4. Considerations

A. Keep current feeder patterns together (keep current middle school boundaries)

- Keep current feeder patterns the same
- Restricts options

OR

B. Make changes to create better flow for high school

- Spot redistricting at the middle school level to achieve better flow for new high school boundaries
- More flexibility

Considerations

Proximity: Because the school buildings are where they are, not everyone can attend the school closest to their home. How should proximity to a school be defined? (Choose one)

- a. A radius drawn around a school building
- b. Driving time to a school (travel time)
- c. Distance/mileage to a school
- d. Other (please use worksheet to share)

Feedback

Choices

- Choose A or B for each of the considerations
- Use the Why Worksheet to share additional thoughts on your choices

Prioritize

- Choose which consideration best positions the district for continued success as the community grows? (you can only choose one)
- What is least important, what could come off the list? (you can only choose one)

Next Steps

What's next?

March

Focus groups (March 2-10)

- Understand the considerations and the choices that need to be made
- Understand priorities within the considerations (what is most important to people)

Statistically valid survey

** These are parallel efforts*

April

Community-wide virtual engagement opportunity (video and online feedback form)

Report back to the School Board (April 27 meeting)

Thank you