



U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
Educational Opportunities Section

AB:WMP:KDG
DJ 169-79-72

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June 2, 2014

BY E-MAIL AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

James E. Fagan
Division Counsel
Prince William County Public Schools
P.O. Box 389
Manassas, VA 20108

Re: Prince William County Public Schools' 12th High School

Dear Mr. Fagan:

I am writing regarding the planned 12th High School for Prince William County Public Schools (the "District"). As you know, our office received a complaint about the proposed attendance boundary for that school and for that reason, we have been reviewing the District's proposal, the process by which the proposed student attendance boundary was established, and the demographic changes anticipated in the District's high schools should the proposed attendance boundary be adopted in its current form (*i.e.*, Administrative Recommendation v.1.2).

The materials we have reviewed, which include those provided in your May 19, 2014 email and those publicly available on the District's website, indicate that the planned 12th High School has a projected enrollment of 36.6% minority students, 63.4% white students, and 2.1% LEP students. In contrast, many of the high schools that surround the 12th High School have enrollments that range from 50% to 90% minority students and 6% to 18% LEP students. Some of those schools will experience an increase in minority enrollment under the proposed boundary plan. For example, minority enrollment at Osbourn Park High School is expected to increase from 51% to 58.7% and minority enrollment at Hylton High School is expected to increase from 70.1% to 74.8%. Under the District's proposal, which includes attendance zones with non-contiguous boundaries, it also appears that some students will be assigned to a high school other than the one closest to their home.

We recognize that our review is based on limited information. Our office is therefore requesting additional information and documents to better understand the proposed plan and

ensure its compliance with federal civil rights laws. To facilitate our review of this matter, please provide the following information within fourteen (14) days of your receipt of this letter:

- 1) Documentation sufficient to show the specifications and amenities of the District's planned 12th High School, including but not limited to the new high school's cost and all features other than ordinary classrooms (*e.g.*, athletic facilities, computer labs, swimming pools, specialty labs/workshops, etc.);
- 2) A description of the District's process for developing its proposed boundary plan, and specifically the process for establishing its initial proposed boundary for the 12th High School and related modifications to attendance boundaries for existing high schools (*i.e.*, Administrative Recommendation v1.0);
- 3) A description of all factors considered during the process referenced in (2) above, including the weight accorded to each factor;
- 4) A description of all changes to the Administrative Recommendations since the first iteration (v1.0) was released, the date each change was made, the reason for the change, the demographic impact of the change, whether the change was made in response to feedback from District officials, employees, the public (including but not limited to community members, students, and parents/guardians) or others, and if applicable, the specific feedback prompting such change;
- 5) A description of the role(s) the 12th High School and the proposed boundary plan play, if any, in remedying challenges facing the District and/or facilitating the District's achievement of its identified goals;
- 6) A list of all District officials, third-party consultants, or advisors engaged by the District in the processes referenced in (2) and (4) above, including each individual's name, organization/affiliation, race, title or position, and the role he/she played in the process;
- 7) The minutes of all District meetings related to the proposed boundary plan;
- 8) All documents reflecting public input received regarding the proposed boundary plan, including but not limited to copies of any written comments or concerns;
- 9) A description of the projected enrollment (Total Students) and demographics (LEP, Econ. Disadvantaged, Minority) of Freedom High School under Administrative Recommendation v1.2;
- 10) A copy of any documents, maps, or other materials reflecting the residential demographics of students and/or residents in the District used by the District in the process of developing the proposed boundary plan;
- 11) A copy of the current and proposed school bus routes for all high schools affected by

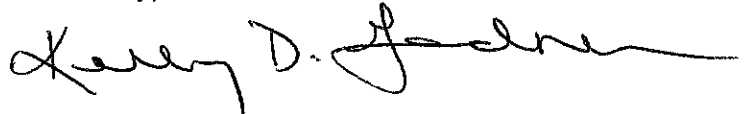
proposed Administrative Recommendation v1.2, including the bus routes for Freedom High School;

- 12) Consistent with the proposed school bus routes, the longest potential/estimated transportation time for Osbourn Park High School students living in the southeast portion of the proposed Osbourn Park attendance boundary (including the non-contiguous portion of that attendance boundary) and 12th High School students living in the far northeast portion of the proposed 12th High School attendance boundary;
- 13) A description of the current middle school feeder patterns, including the demographics (LEP, Econ. Disadvantaged, Minority) of each middle school;
- 14) A description of the proposed middle school feeder pattern under Administrative Recommendation v1.2;
- 15) Current middle and high school attendance boundaries in ESRI Shapefile (.shp) format;
- 16) Proposed middle and high school attendance boundaries under Administrative Recommendation v1.2 in ESRI Shapefile (.shp) format; and
- 17) A description of the District's plan for serving English Language Learner students and students with disabilities zoned to attend the planned 12th High School.

We understand that the scheduled date for School Board's decision on the proposed boundary plan was changed from May 21 to June 4. In light of our concerns, and until we have had an opportunity to review the materials requested above and resolve any related concerns, we request that the District further postpone the School Board's decision on this matter.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kelly D. Gardner
Trial Attorney