

**Community Task Force on Student Assignment  
Recommendations  
2009-10**

**General District-wide Recommendations**

1. Noncontiguous zones will become choice zones so students living in those areas may choose to attend the noncontiguous school rather than the zone school – with transportation provided. To assure efficiency, MNPS should study whether such transportation should be contingent on a minimum number of students making that choice.
2. Provide additional resources to schools in areas of highly concentrated poverty. Additional resources should include: incentive pay for teachers and staff; lower pupil/teacher ratio; higher ratio of social workers/psychologists/guidance etc.; technology/computers etc. The task force recognizes that any differentiated pay would be subject to negotiations.
3. Communicate all student assignment choices in laymen's terms with the various programs and options described completely so parents can make informed decisions about their child's education.
4. Assign ELL and special education students on the front end.
5. Monitor student assignment trends each year including analyses of housing trends, choice option trends, and programs at the schools and the effects of these factors on building utilization and enrollment.
6. Monitor the total student enrollment with an eye toward market share and whether the public schools are attracting the entire community.

7. Monitor and report the financial resources provided to each school.
8. Establish and report a short term and long range plan for buildings that are presently vacant and for those that are made available for other instructional use pursuant to the recommendations of this proposal.
9. Grandfather Clause – a voluntary grandfather option is recommended for the two highest grades in the affected schools, but transportation will be the parent's responsibility. This option is in addition to the choice zones for the noncontiguous areas.

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Pearl-Cohn Cluster**

The Pearl-Cohn cluster faces unique challenges with rezoning and student assignment. Over the years, this cluster has been shrinking geographically as well as in enrollment to the point that it only vaguely resembles what can be called a cluster. The area near Pearl-Cohn High School includes several school buildings that serve as choice options or specialty schools rather than zone schools, and some of the buildings are grossly underutilized. The students who live in these areas are transported to schools in the Hillwood cluster with bus rides that regularly exceed 30 minutes each way. The area is relatively densely populated and economically underprivileged. For purposes of student assignment, it is a challenging cluster.

The task force addressed the unique challenges of this cluster with creative and sound solutions and recommendations to address the impact of poverty; to more efficiently utilize the buildings; to expand the geographical area of the cluster; to cease the long bus rides while still providing the option for students to continue attending the school they presently attend; and to ease the transition to high school with hopes of increasing the graduation rate and decreasing the lure of gang affiliation.

**Prerequisites:**

1. Additional resources to all schools in this cluster. Additional resources must include: incentive pay for teachers and staff; lower pupil/teacher ratio; higher ratio of social workers/psychologists/ guidance counselors etc.;

technology/computers etc. The task force recognizes that any differentiated pay would be subject to negotiations.

2. All areas where students are presently zoned to a “non-contiguous” school retain the option to attend the school they presently attend with transportation provided by MNPS when/ if a minimum number of students choose this option. All areas within noncontiguous zones will have that option. The areas now attending Brookmeade will have the option of attending another elementary school in the Hillwood cluster.

**Recommendations:**

The task force recommends a change in the grade configuration.

Elementary Schools

Buena Vista  
Wharton  
Cockrill  
Park Avenue

Grades

Pre-K through 5  
Pre-K through 5  
Pre-K through 5  
Pre-K through 5

Middle School and Middle Academy

John Early  
McKissack

6 and 7  
8 and 9

High School

Pearl-Cohn

10 through 12

### Additional Recommendations:

1. Career and Technical Education (CTE) offerings at Pearl-Cohn need to be substantial and include a co-op program with local employers.
2. W.A. Bass building would be made available for other instructional uses.
3. The Big Picture School will be relocated from Wharton. The task force recommends that the administration consider input from the Principal and staff at the Big Picture School and building efficiency when determining the location of the Big Picture School.
4. The movement of the students to this cluster from Hillwood, results in a net closing of two schools – W. A. Bass and Martha Vaught. The resulting savings (approximately \$1,500,000.00) should be utilized toward the additional resources mentioned in Prerequisite 1.

### Rationale:

The schools in this cluster will need additional attention and face unique challenges. The task force believes the reconfiguration of grades at each school as recommended would reduce drop outs and increase the graduation rate by easing the transition to high school. The Freshman Academies within the comprehensive high schools have recognized and are addressing the challenge of easing the transition. This proposal takes it a step further to ease that social and academic transition. The McKissack Academy could allow an even more specialized approach to the needs of high school freshmen. The hope would be to thereby reduce isolation, disenchantment and detachment and to better prepare the student

for the high school environment. Moreover, such a configuration better utilizes the building and classroom space in the cluster. Finally, the hope of the task force is that the configuration may also reduce, or at least delay, the students' exposure at school to older gang members, allowing each student to develop without the older gang influence within the school.

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Hillwood Cluster**

For many years, the Hillwood cluster included students transported from North Nashville. The task force recommends those students be zoned to schools closer to their homes with the option of continuing to attend the schools they attend now, with MNPS providing the transportation. That recommendation removes so many students from the Hillwood cluster zone that it makes it inefficient to keep open all the school buildings.

**Recommendations:**

Elementary Schools

Charlotte Park  
Gower  
Harpeth Valley  
Westmeade

Grades

K through 4  
K through 4  
K through 4  
K through 4

Middle Schools

Bellevue Middle  
H.G. Hill Middle

5 through 8  
5 through 8

High School

Hillwood High

9 through 12

**Additional Recommendations:**

1. Brookmeade Elementary School would no longer serve as a zone elementary school, and the task force

recommends that Brookmeade be made available for other instructional uses.

2. Martha Vaught Middle School would no longer serve as a zone middle school, and the task force recommends that Martha Vaught be made available for other instructional uses.

**Rationale:**

The recommendations result in a low enrollment/capacity percentage for Hillwood High School. However, the area is ripe for some development that will increase the student population at Hillwood. It is important that we allow space for those who live in the Pearl-Cohn cluster to choose Hillwood.

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Hillsboro Cluster**

The Hillsboro cluster includes five noncontiguous zones. Two of those zones attend schools in the Overton cluster (8-A and 8-B) and the other three attend Julia Green Elementary (3D and 3-F) and Percy Priest Elementary (3-E).

The recommended changes in the Pearl-Cohn cluster move areas in Germantown and Downtown from the Hillsboro cluster to the Pearl-Cohn cluster. The recommended changes to the Hillwood cluster move area 3-C from the Hillsboro cluster (Sylvan Park Elementary) to Gower Elementary in the Hillwood cluster.

In the area of the noncontiguous zones are two magnet schools: Carter-Lawrence Elementary and Rose Park Middle School. The demand for these schools has steadily increased and they draw students from throughout the county (particularly Carter-Lawrence). There is a path from Carter-Lawrence to Rose Park, and Rose Park is a path to MLK Magnet for those who qualify. It is a magnet program that is open to everyone who chooses to attend including those who live nearby. Both the Carter-Lawrence and Rose Park buildings are within the Area designated as 8-B on the map.

Proposed changes to this cluster involved discussion of choice options and communication of those choices. Additionally, the task force wanted to be sure that the zone school was accessible to students and gave them the best opportunity to succeed.

Recommending that areas 8-A and 8-B be rezoned to the Hillsboro cluster helps relieve the overcrowded elementary schools in the Overton cluster.

## **Recommendations:**

In addition to the recommended changes discussed in the Pearl-Cohn and Hillwood clusters, the task force recommends:

- Area 3-D, presently zoned to Julia Green Elementary, rezoned to Eakin Elementary;
- Area 3-E, presently zoned to Percy Priest Elementary, rezoned to Carter-Lawrence;
- Area 8-B, presently zoned to Crieve Hall elementary in the Overton cluster, rezoned to Carter-Lawrence;
- Carter-Lawrence Elementary becomes a partial zone school and a partial magnet school – by adding a zone component to it;
- Carter-Lawrence feeds J.T. Moore Middle School. Of course, those students who choose to pursue Rose Park as a middle school will continue to have that path available to them;
- Area 8-A, presently zoned to Norman Binkley Elementary in the Overton cluster, rezoned to Glendale Elementary;
- Area 3-F, presently zoned to Julia Green, rezoned to Glendale.
- Area 3-H, presently zoned to Glendale, rezoned to Julia Green.

Students in those areas of the noncontiguous zones would have the option of attending their previous noncontiguous zone school with transportation provided, if a minimum number of students choose this option.

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Overton Cluster**

The Overton cluster requires adjustments because of the recommendations for the Hillsboro cluster. Tusculum Elementary is overcrowded, and the recommended changes to the Hillsboro cluster allow a shift of the zone lines within the Overton cluster to help balance the enrollment between Croft and McMurray middle schools and to relieve Tusculum.

**Recommendations:**

- Areas 8-A and 8-B, presently zoned to Crieve Hall Elementary and Norman Binkley Elementary, rezoned to the Hillsboro cluster. Area 8-A rezoned to Glendale Elementary, and Area 8-B rezoned to Carter-Lawrence Elementary.
- Area 8-C, presently zoned to Tusculum Elementary, rezoned to Norman Binkley Elementary.
- Area 8-D, presently zoned to Tusculum Elementary, rezoned to Crieve Hall Elementary.

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Glenclyff Cluster**

The task force recommends no changes to the Glenclyff cluster. The map of the cluster, the enrollment/capacity of the schools as well as the demographics of each school is provided. An addition to Paragon Mills Elementary will begin construction this summer and should relieve its overcrowding.

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Antioch/Cane Ridge Cluster**

The task force's consideration of stability in zoning played a major role in determining the recommendations for these two clusters. Cane Ridge High School opens this fall, and the Board recently set the zones for 2008-09. The task force determined that drastic adjustments to the zones for 2009-10 would not be prudent.

The task force has one recommendation for 2010-11. The Una area is now zoned as part of the McGavock cluster. The task force recognizes that Una would better fit the Antioch cluster.

Cane Ridge High School will not be a full four year high school until 2010-11. If there is room, the task force recommends that Una become a part of the Antioch cluster in 2010-11. Apollo Middle School is presently undergoing renovations and will have capacity for the addition of the Una students. Moreover, McGavock High School is overcrowded.

Also, the task force recognizes that this area has been the fastest growing part of the county for many years and that residential development continues. The task force suggests that MNPS studies building a new elementary school and new middle school in the Cane Ridge cluster to address this development and to move the rectangle area east of Murfreesboro Road to the Antioch cluster so Murfreesboro Road would provide the zone line.

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McGavock Cluster**

The McGavock cluster contains some noncontiguous zones around Napier wherein the students are zoned to Ruby Major Elementary and Hickman Elementary. Napier Elementary is a choice school and most of its present student population lives nearby. The McGavock cluster also includes one area on the other side of the Cumberland River in Madison that attends DuPont Elementary. Other than those exceptions, the zone lines generally follow major roads and rivers which work well for zoning schools.

**Recommendations:**

- Area 7-B, presently zoned to DuPont Elementary, rezoned to Amqui Elementary in the Hunters Lane cluster.
  
- Area 7-E, presently zoned to Andrew Jackson Elementary, rezoned to DuPont Elementary.

The task force recommends that Napier Elementary be a zone school. It must include those additional resources discussed in the Pearl-Cohn cluster. The Napier zone would include areas presently zoned to Ruby Major, Hickman and McGavock elementary schools. Students presently residing in the Napier zone who are zoned to noncontiguous zones will have the option to attend those schools with transportation provided by MNPS, if a minimum number of students choose this option.

The task force recommends that Napier Elementary feed Two Rivers Middle, and recommends that Hermitage Elementary feed

Donelson Middle.

McGavock High School remains overcrowded which would be relieved by Una's move to the Antioch cluster in 2010-11. MNPS would reassess Margaret Allen Middle School when Una leaves the McGavock Cluster.

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Hunters Lane Cluster**

The Hunters Lane cluster includes several noncontiguous zones that attend Amqui Elementary and Old Center Elementary. Those schools presently feed Brick Church Middle School. Rezoning of those elementary noncontiguous zones will place Brick Church Middle far outside the geographic area of the Hunters Lane cluster.

The Madison School facility (the old Madison High School building) has a capacity of 675 and an enrollment of approximately 100. The building is ideal for a middle school. It will need some renovations, and Madison School needs an excellent location for its students' needs.

An apartment complex (Retreat at Dry Creek) is in the process of opening now and its 2 and 3 bedroom units will open within the next six months. The administration estimates the apartment complex will add at least 50 and probably 75 elementary students to the Old Center Elementary zone.

The task force wants to assure that the IB Middle Years Programme at Brick Church Middle School continues.

**Recommendations:**

- A portion from the McGavock cluster (7-B) should be rezoned to Amqui Elementary from DuPont Elementary.
- Madison School will be relocated to another facility. The task force recommends that it be a location that will serve

that program for a long time to provide stability for the students. The task force further recommends that the Principal and staff of Madison School as well as the Special Education Department be consulted as soon as possible and that their input be given great deference when deciding where to relocate the program.

- The Madison building will become Madison Middle School.
- The Amqui noncontiguous zones (5-C1 and 5-C2) will have the option to attend Amqui with transportation provided if a minimum number of students choose this option. 5C-1 will be zoned to Bellshire Design Center.
- 5C-2 will be zoned to Chadwell Elementary, Gra-Mar Middle and Maplewood High School.
- 5D – the Old Center noncontiguous zone – will be zoned to Alex Green Elementary in the Whites Creek cluster, with the option of attending Old Center with transportation provided, if a minimum number of students choose this option.
- 6C will be zoned to Stratton Elementary from Chadwell Elementary in the Maplewood cluster.
- Brick Church Middle School would become a part of the Whites Creek cluster. The task force recommends that those students from Brick Church Middle who wish to pursue an IB Diploma, have the option to attend Hunters Lane High School for its IB Diploma program.

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Whites Creek Cluster**

The Whites Creek cluster has a noncontiguous zone that attends Joelton Elementary (11-A), and the recommended changes to the Hunters Lane cluster bring one area into the Whites Creek cluster (Area 5-D from Old Center). Brick Church Middle School is located directly between these two areas.

Lillard Elementary is presently a magnet program that could benefit from a small zone to supplement the enrollment.

Three middle schools are in close proximity to each other: Brick Church Middle School; Haynes Middle School (a design center with a health/science theme); and Ewing Park Middle School. Joelton Middle School is also within the cluster and helps balance the cluster geographically. The cluster is overbuilt with middle school facilities.

The task force was faced with the difficult decision to make one of these middle school buildings available for other instructional uses.

**Recommendations:**

- Area 11-A, presently zoned to Joelton Elementary, rezoned to Alex Green Elementary with the option to attend Joelton Elementary, with transportation provided if a minimum number of students choose this option.
- Area 11-B, presently zoned to Alex Green, rezoned to Lillard Elementary.

- Area 11-F, presently zoned to Cumberland Elementary, rezoned to Lillard Elementary.
- Area 11-H, presently zoned to Bordeaux Elementary, rezoned to Cumberland Elementary.
- Area 11-J, presently zoned to Alex Green Elementary, rezoned to Bordeaux Elementary.
- The task force recommends that Ewing Park Middle School be made available for other instructional uses.

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Maplewood Cluster**

The Maplewood cluster will require some adjustments due to the recommended changes to the Hunters Lane cluster (Areas 5-C2 and 6-C).

**Recommendations:**

- Area 5-C2, presently zoned to Amqui Elementary, rezoned to Chadwell Elementary. This area would have the choice to attend Amqui, with transportation, if a minimum number of students choose this option.
- Area 6-D, presently zoned to Chadwell, rezoned to Tom Joy Elementary.
- Area 6-C, presently zoned to Chadwell, rezoned to Stratton Elementary in the Hunters Lane cluster.
- Finally, the task force recommends that Shwab Elementary have some of the same added resources discussed in the Pearl-Cohn cluster including lower pupil/teacher ratio similar to the ratio in MNPS Enhanced Option schools.

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Stratford Cluster**

The Stratford cluster has more underutilized buildings than any other cluster. Kirkpatrick Elementary is overcrowded. The challenge with Kirkpatrick is that its geographic boundaries make it difficult to split and move some areas to other schools. The Kirkpatrick zone is bound by the river, Shelby Park and the zone for Warner which does not have enough capacity to fully relieve Kirkpatrick's overcrowding.

Rosebank Elementary is a large and underutilized building, and Cora Howe Elementary is underutilized. In fact, 2008-09 changes to ELL will remove students from Cora Howe; further depleting its enrollment.

Ross Elementary is underutilized and small. The zone has experienced the closing of apartment complexes for renovations within the last several years and those apartments will come back on line by 2009-10. However, other adjustments are necessary to efficiently utilize that building and help relieve Warner and Kirkpatrick.

**Recommendations:**

- The task force recommends that the area now zoned to Cora Howe Elementary (10-B) be zoned to Rosebank to combine the enrollment of those two schools into one building at Rosebank.
- The task force recommends that Cora Howe no longer serve as a zone school and be made available for other instructional uses.

- Area 10-A, presently zoned to Kirkpatrick, rezoned to Warner.
- The task force recommends that MNPS studies a building addition to Kirkpatrick to further eliminate the overcrowding.
- Finally, the task force recommends that Ross Elementary be the site for the ELL center for students zoned to Kirkpatrick and Warner.