

KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS

ANDREW JOHNSON BUILDING

Bob Thomas, Superintendent



Memorandum

To: Chair and Members
Knox County Board of Education

From: Bob Thomas
Superintendent

Date: June 7, 2017

Subject: Middle School Zoning Proposal

Background

In 2015, the Board of Education approved the construction of two new middle schools in Knox County. Those schools are under construction in the Gibbs and Hardin Valley communities and are scheduled to open in August 2018. A memorandum by Interim Superintendent Buzz Thomas, dated Feb. 24, 2017, was presented to the Board of Education proposing preliminary middle school attendance zone modifications for the two new schools. The plan also addressed other middle school zoning concerns that may exist in the areas affected by the development of the two new school attendance zones.

Public Comments and Zone Planning Considerations

In preparation for developing the new school zoning plan recommendation, six public meetings were conducted to hear parent and community concerns and suggestions. Two additional meetings were conducted to present the initial proposal to the community and allow further public feedback.

A number of comments and concerns from the community have been received regarding specific areas requesting to be included in the two new schools. The primary area seeking inclusion in the new Gibbs Middle School is Shannon Valley Farms located on Murphy Road between Tazewell Pike and Washington Pike currently zoned for Ritta Elementary School, Holston Middle School

and Gibbs High School. Adequate space exists to accommodate the additional students in the short term. However, population trends and projected enrollment numbers indicate there is not sufficient capacity at the new Gibbs Middle School to include the development in my recommendation.

Areas seeking inclusion in the new Hardin Valley Middle School include, but are not limited to:

- Parcels situated north of Middlebrook Pike between Hoyle Beals Drive and Andes Road including Atlee Fields currently zoned for Ball Camp Elementary School, Cedar Bluff Middle School and Hardin Valley Academy
- Parcels situated east of Lovell Road between Middlebrook Pike and Pellissippi Parkway including Brookmill Estates, Meadow View, Plum Creek, Hidden View Farms and Devanshire currently zoned for Ball Camp Elementary School, Cedar Bluff Middle School and Hardin Valley Academy.

There will be adequate space to accommodate these requests in the short term. However, population trends and projected enrollment numbers indicate there is not sufficient capacity at the new Hardin Valley Middle School to include the areas in my recommendation. Additionally, moving students from Cedar Bluff Middle School could significantly impact its academic programming.

The new Schaad Road improvements will result in new travel patterns between Andes Road and Middlebrook Pike in the Ball Camp Elementary zone. I am recommending some of the areas impacted by the new Schaad Road to be zoned for Hardin Valley Middle School. See

[Attachment A](#) map. These include:

- Parcels adjacent to the east side of the planned Schaad Road without egress from Denmark Street
- Parcels situated on the west side of Schaad Road and both sides of Ball Camp Pike from Andes Road to Hitching Post Drive.

Based on these factors and the significant community comments received, we have developed a rezoning proposal. This proposal establishes attendance zones for the new Hardin Valley and

Gibbs Middle Schools and adjusts the attendance zones for Farragut, Karns, Holston, Carter, Vine and South-Doyle Middle Schools. Since school zones for two new middle schools are being developed and adjustments to several others are being recommended, I will address the recommendations in three geographic groups.

Hardin Valley, Karns and Farragut Middle Schools

The new Hardin Valley Middle School will have a capacity of approximately 1,200 students. The [Attachment B](#) map depicts the zone proposed for the new Hardin Valley Middle School. The zone encompasses all of the current Hardin Valley Elementary School zone. The new zone includes:

- That portion of the Ball Camp Elementary School zone which is east of Pellissippi Parkway and north of Lovell Road to the intersection of Ball Camp Byington Road and Middlebrook Pike
- Moving eastward on Middlebrook Pike to the intersection of Hoyle Beals Drive
- Along the rear boundaries of parcels situated along Trails End Road, Nutgrove Lane, Campfire Drive, Totanka Drive, Wayside Road and Bisbee Lane
- Parcels adjacent to the east side of the planned Schaad Road without egress from Denmark Street to Andes Road
- Parcels situated on the west side of the planned Schaad Road adjacent to Andes Road and north to the railroad track to the intersection of Andes Road and Ball Camp Pike
- Continue south and include both sides of Ball Camp Pike, Bright Oak Way, Wisteria Way, Middlebrook Ridge Lane, Antler Lane, Abraham Lane, Forest Valley Lane, Myloshane Lane, Betham Lane and Daybreak Drive
- Parcels adjacent to the north side of Middlebrook Pike between Daybreak Lane and the intersection of Ball Camp Byington Road and Hardin Valley Road.

Additionally, the proposed zone would encompass all of the current Farragut Middle School zone that is north of I-40/75 and that portion of the zone south of I-40/75 west of Pellissippi Parkway and north of Kingston Pike and east of Lovell Road. All students in this area are currently zoned to attend Hardin Valley Academy.

These actions would reduce the population of Karns Middle School to about 875 and Farragut Middle School to about 1,300 based on projections for 2018. It would also zone most of the projected population growth for the area into Hardin Valley Middle School. The total initial projected student population for Hardin Valley Middle School would be about 875 students.

Gibbs and Holston Middle Schools

The new Gibbs Middle School will have a capacity of approximately 600 students. The [Attachment C](#) map depicts the zone proposed for the new Gibbs Middle School. The zone encompasses all of the current Gibbs and Corryton Elementary School zones. All students in this area currently are zoned for Holston Middle School. This action would zone approximately 500 students to Gibbs Middle School based on projections for 2018.

Vine, Carter, South-Doyle and Holston Middle Schools

The [Attachment D](#) map depicts the proposed zones for Vine, Carter, South-Doyle and Holston Middle Schools. Most of the students who live north of the Tennessee River and who are currently zoned to South-Doyle Middle School would be rezoned to attend Vine Middle School. Many of these students live within the 1.5-mile Parent Responsibility Zone for Vine Middle School. The exceptions would be those students residing on parcels located on Boyd's Bridge Pike from the Holston River to Holston Hills Road continuing north on Holston Hills Road and west to include both sides of Riverview Drive until the intersection of Riverview Road and Brooks Avenue who will be rezoned to Holston Middle School.

Additionally, parts of the current Carter and Holston Middle School zones will be rezoned to Vine Middle School. This area begins at the railroad tracks on Prosser Road and runs along Lakeside Avenue to the intersection with Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, then proceeds east to the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue and Fern Street. It then continues south along the rear of the parcels on the west side of Fern Street to the intersection of Beaman Lake Road and Skyline Drive. From this point it proceeds west to include parcels adjacent to Skyline Drive, Cherry Hill Avenue and Andes Road to its intersection with Boyd's Bridge Pike.

In another recommended action depicted on the Attachment C map, students zoned for Carter Middle School who reside west of the Holston River and not part of the rezoning to Vine Middle School would be rezoned to Holston Middle School. This action will reduce the student population at Carter Middle School to a number more consistent with its intended capacity and will assign all students residing in the Holston Middle School Parent Responsibility Zone to Holston Middle School.

These actions would bring the approximate student population for Vine Middle School to 550 students, South-Doyle Middle School to 850 students, Holston Middle School to 575 students, and Carter Middle School to 650 based on the projections for 2018.

Resulting Attendance Zone Enrollment/Population Projections

The table below illustrates the various schools’ current and projected enrollment numbers:

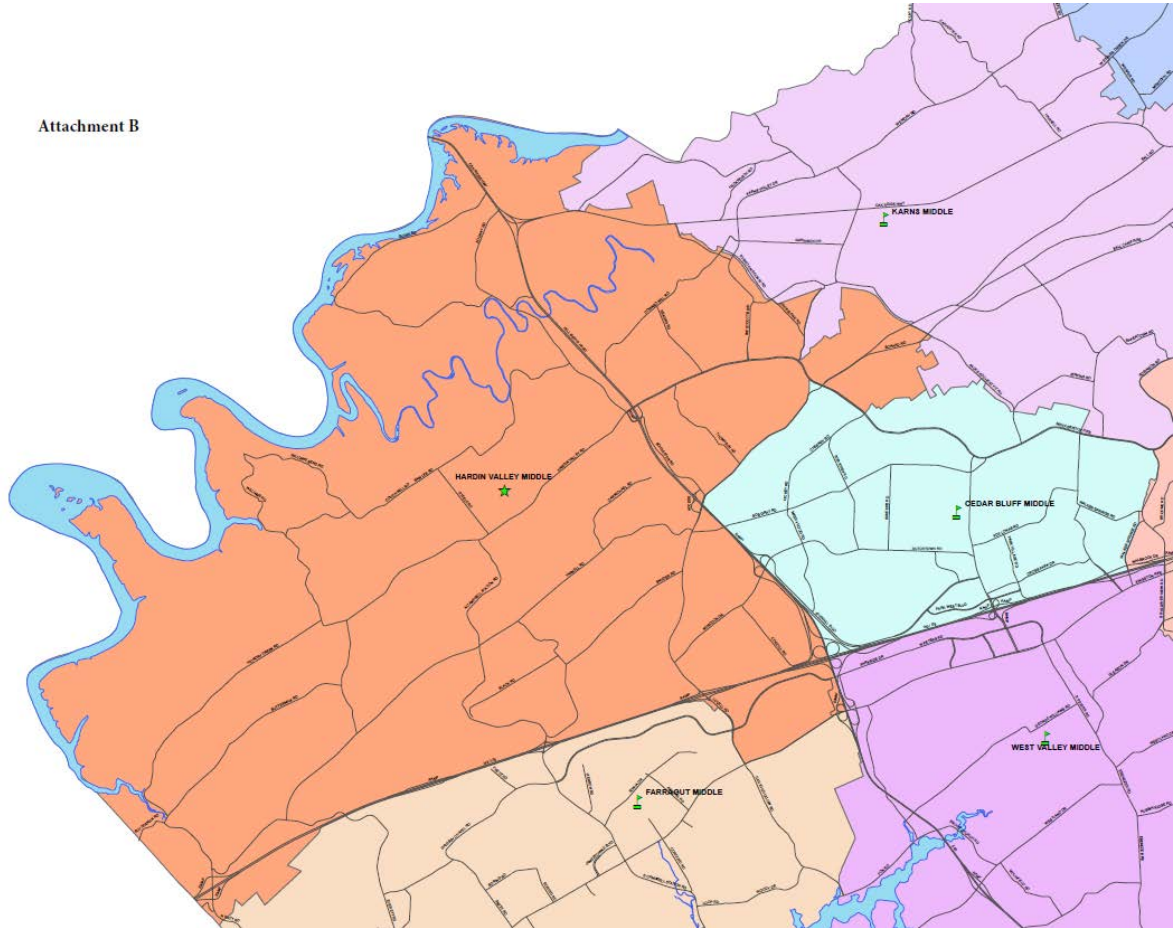
Middle School	Enrollment as of January 2017	Approximate Projected Rezoned Enrollment for 2018
Hardin Valley	0	875
Farragut	1436	1300
Karns	1485	875
Gibbs	0	500
Vine	333	550
Holston	874	575
South-Doyle	989	850
Carter	828	650

Proposed “Grandfather” Provisions and Process

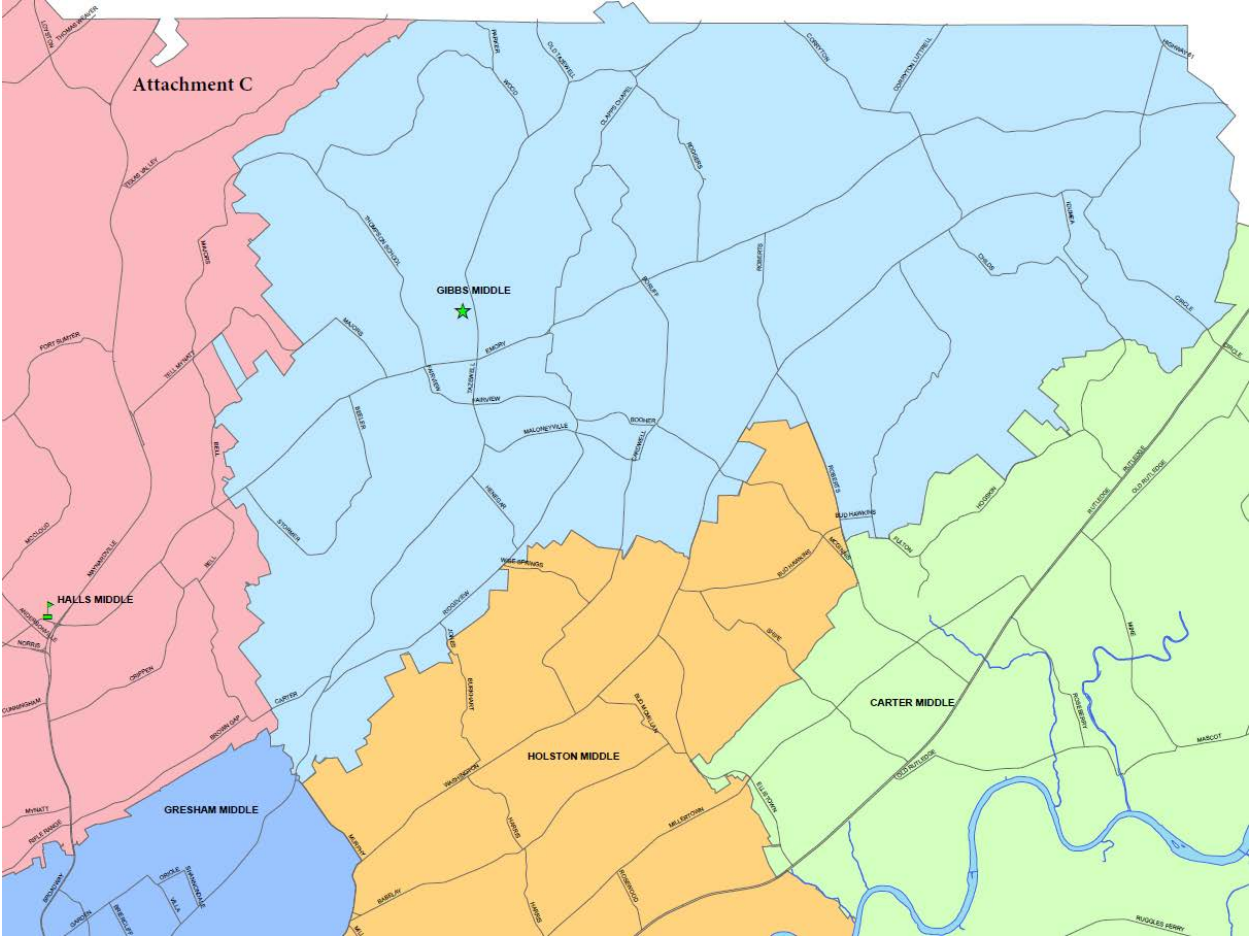
This plan proposes to allow the “grandfathering” of rising eighth grade students, and their siblings currently enrolled in middle school, if they apply for a “grandfathering transfer” back to their original school. This “grandfathering transfer” would not include transportation provided by Knox County Schools. Under this proposal, eligible families would need to apply for the “grandfathering transfer” by the end of the regular student transfer window in February 2018.

Attachment B:

Attachment B



Attachment C:



Attachment D:

