





Reconfigure Hollywood Central Elementary as a prekindergarten through eighth grade school with an assigned attendance area for kindergarten through fifth grade and priority choice enrollment for sixth through eighth grade living within the attendance area of Hollywood Central Elementary.

Please note: anonymous commenting is prohibited. A full name and valid email address are required to post a comment. Email addresses will not be published.



25 Comments

 Rachel Mazor . on November 14, 2019 

Please support the proposal to transition Hollywood Central into a K-8 school. Parents in our neighborhood are choosing K-8 options over our zoned traditional schools and Hollywood Central has become under-enrolled as a result. I believe that if Hollywood Central becomes a K-8 we will reclaim our zoned kids and the school will be enrolled to capacity very quickly.

 Meredith Nation . on November 14, 2019 

I support this as a tax payer, parent and teacher. K-8 Schools create a much better learning environment than the elementary then middle model. This is a great way to improve the school and community.

 Caryl Shuham . on November 14, 2019 

I strongly support this proposal and am confident it will improve enrollment at Hollywood Central Elementary School

 Catherine Uden . on November 15, 2019 

I am in support of Hollywood Central being a K-8 school.



Shanna Gundry . on November 15, 2019

Please consider extending HCE. I believe it will have a positive impact on our community as a whole. The children currently attending will be able to stay, and as studies have shown attending a school continuously elementary through middle school correlates with greater success in school as a whole. In addition it will make our neighborhood more attractive to young families helping to continue the revitalization to our area. So neighborhood residents will see a positive impact, even if they do not have a child attending the school. Personally I have three children, two of whom already attend HCE, and the thirds will follow. Both of my older children have expressed enthusiastically that they want to remain at HCE. Furthermore, the school is absolutely wonderful. And I know many parents that would have preferred to send their kids their, but didn't because they wanted a school that they'd attend into middle school. Let's give our neighborhood a better option. HCE Manatees!



Amy Miller . on November 15, 2019

Wonderful idea! Adding the middle school years to HCE will benefit the school, neighborhood, and all students. Let's make a great school even better.





I'm sorry I'm unable to attend. While I support Hollywood Central adding grades 6-8, I would like to request that the boundaries be expanded so that all Hollywood Lakes residents benefit vs. just those south of McKinley street. The proposal states that this change would benefit all Hollywood Lakes Residents, however that is not the case because I live in Hollywood Lakes and would not see receive this benefit because I live just 3 blocks North of the current HCE border. The proposal states it, "Enhances neighborhood integrity of the Hollywood Lakes Community by allowing students to remain in the neighborhood through eighth grade." I am a Hollywood Lakes resident and this statement is not true because my son is assigned to Dania despite us living within the Hollywood Lakes border. The benefit does not help all Hollywood Lakes residents. For example, Hollywood Lakes residents, including myself, who live North of McKinley and East of US1, pay Hollywood taxes and consider this our community, yet our children are assigned to Dania schools. While Dania Elementary is an A school, Dania Beach is not the community I live in or engage with each and every day. I'm a Hollywood resident and live and pay taxes in this neighborhood. If under-enrollment is the issue, then why not also expand the border to all Hollywood Lakes residents as the proposal claims. I question why there is such an exclusive border that leaves out the Northern part of the lakes area? Due to not being assigned to a Hollywood school or even being able to get into the closer Hollywood based Magnet and charter schools, we decided to commute 30 minutes West to send my son to a highly DOE ranked charter school in Cooper City. The drive is long and I wish there was a Hollywood school that was 100% open to my son. Since my child isn't being is technically not welcome at any Hollywood schools, then I basically said the next best thing would be to find one of the top K-8 charter schools in broward for my son—and I did. It is unfortunate that my son isn't easily allowed to go to any of the 4 Hollywood schools which are a few minutes away and in his own community. My only hope is that at some point the school board revisits school boundaries in Hollywood and charter schools. It makes no sense to me that my son is not assigned to a Hollywood school. I hope Hollywood Central expands to K-8 but I also ask that you consider expanding the border for all Hollywood Lakes residents as this proposal. Thank you



A Maura McCarthy Bulman . on November 18, 2019

I fully support the proposal to transition Hollywood Central to a K-8 school. Such a transition will allow Hollywood Central to attract students whose parents are otherwise choosing nearby charter schools because they prefer the K-8 model that the nearby charter schools offer. Making Hollywood Central a K-8 will give Hollywood Central a much needed boost in enrollment which will lead to an overall increase in enrollment in Broward County Public Schools within the Hollywood Central boundary. Our Hollywood community and BCPS will greatly benefit from this transition.



A Andrea Timerman W . on November 18, 2019

I strongly support the proposal to make Hollywood Central Elementary a K-8 school. I hope this project goes through bot only as a parent of children currently attending HCE, but as a local resident and Broward County tax payer.



A Lindsay Anidjar . on November 19, 2019

I strongly support this proposal. It will be a great addition to our Hollywood schools and help to keep kids from the charters . As a tax payer , this would be a great decision to move forward with .



A Leonardo Wassermann . on November 20, 2019

I support the expansion of HCE to a K-8 school.



A Lori Frisard . on November 21, 2019

As a resident and taxpayer in Hollywood for over 10 years, I greatly support the expansion of Hollywood Central Elementary to include 6-8. This would be a more attractive option to those parents and children who would like to attend the same school during their childhood. As a longtime resident and mother of two boys (one currently attending HCE as a Kindergartner), I feel this expansion would greatly improve our neighborhood school and present another option for students.



Frank Menschner . on November 22, 2019

I strongly support the expansion of Hollywood Central Elementary to a K-8 school. As a longtime Hollywood Lakes resident, I believe this would make Hollywood Central Elementary a great alternative to the surrounding charter schools.



Caite Rainwater . on December 3, 2019

I strongly support expanding HCE to a K-8 school. I think that it will benefit both current and future students while attracting more neighborhood families to stay in the public schools.



Christine Maldonado . on December 4, 2019

The Hollywood Central Elementary K-8 proposal is one of the smartest most sensible ideas for the Hollywood Lakes Area. This area needs a great K-8 public school to help bring down the enrollment status of the charter schools, and bring the enrollment back to our great neighborhood school! This is an amazing, family and student centered school that would benefit from this positive change, then reflecting the benefits onto the students.



Jeff Maldonado . on December 4, 2019

I strongly support the proposal of making Hollywood Central Elementary a K-8 school. I have owned property in Hollywood Lakes for over 20 years, and we need this change to benefit the children of this district.



Michelle Earle . on December 4, 2019

I support the expansion of Hollywood Central Elementary to a K-8 school.



Thomas Hall . on December 4, 2019

My daughter attended HCE a few years ago. We would have loved for her to be able to remain there through 8th grade; however, she had to attend Olsen Middle School in Dania Beach. Olsen was a fine school, but we would have preferred to keep our daughter at HCE. My wife and I fully support making HCE a K-8 school.



Aris Gruspe . on December 4, 2019

I strongly support this proposal to make Hollywood Central Elementary a K-8 school. My son has been attending this wonderful school since Kindergarten. He had tears of joy when I mentioned this proposal to him. He loves the support system of HCE. As his father, I would pursue anything for his happiness so I implore you to convert HCE to a K-8 school.



Sophia Carcamo . on December 4, 2019

I support the proposal, my son attends to this school and nothing will make him happier than stay at his favorite school

I oppose the expansion of HCE to become a K-8 school. The School Board of Broward County currently has a critical teacher shortage. Every year the district loses teachers, support staff, psychologist, Speech and Language Pathologist, teacher assistance, and a host of other essential personnel because low pay. For example, after numerous of interviews and posting the position for an ASD teacher repeatedly, HCE was finally able to secure a qualified teacher for the ASD classroom after the first quarter. Teachers and staff are working diligently to ensure the students receive the best education possible and they do this with love and compassion for teaching (not pay). How will the district combat this? How will adding additional students without the staff to support the students be beneficial to the students? What additional support will be provided to the school for a K-8 model, when the school is already short staffed and staff members are working hard to keep the school afloat? In addition, this proposal is being suggested, to compete with charter schools that surround HCE. In my opinion, charter schools can “cherry pick” their students. If a student is struggling academically, has behavior concerns, or is a student with special needs, charter schools inform the parents that they cannot provide services and they must return to their home school. This happens more times that you know. Charter schools receive millions of public-school dollars every year but do not provide the same services to students that need a little extra care. Some of the charter schools that surround HCE will keep the students enrolled in their school until the receive funding from the first FTE (usually in the beginning of October) and then inform the parents they cannot provide the services the child need. As a result, the parents are asked to take their child to their home school. On the other hand, they welcome gifted students or students with high FSA scores with open arms. This is a form of discrimination. If the district would hold the charter schools to the same standards as the hold public schools would this be an issue? If the district or state required charters schools to return public funds, if they ask students to return to their home school after the first FTE, would this help resolve the issue? The staff at HCE goes above beyond the call of duty daily, providing students with an education that is worthy of merits. They play the role of educator, mediator, counselor, caretaker, and role model. I am proud to be a part of the phenomenal team of HCE.



My name is Sandra Nunez. I am a Teacher-Activist and strong advocate for students and teachers. I strongly disagree with the proposal for turning my school and place of employment to a K-8 school. Here are some of the concern I have with the “due process” regarding this proposal: 1. The City of Hollywood held meetings regarding this proposal in the morning hours, denying opportunities for a homeowner and taxpayer like me to fully participate and provide input. The way the City of Hollywood rolled this proposal out, was also done very poorly. 2. The city of Hollywood “surveyed” the community by holding a vote on Facebook. Simply ridiculous, not all taxpayers are in Facebook to provide input. 3. Broward Schools has a due process in which a committee is selected to vote on these proposals, yet they never visited my school to asses the conditions and the needs of my school. The committee has also poor attendance. How can the “selected committee” vote on a proposal, be part of a committee and be absent???

4. The Commissioner or political figure that place this proposal on the table to fulfill her campaign promises to PTA parents did not show up to Hollywood Central Elementary meeting held at the Performing Arts Center to face the teachers who had a lot of questions. The city of Hollywood was a no show also. 5. The city of Hollywood Commissioners and political figure who created this proposal has never been to Hollywood Central Elementary to see the lay out of my school or to assess the needs of my school. Broward schools needs to demand from the commissioners an “assessment school visit”, before a proposal is even taken into consideration. 6. Broward Schools did not properly promote or advertise the meetings regarding this proposal. Informing the community to provide “input” 3 days in advance to attend meetings from 6pm to 10:30 pm on a Friday night is horrific and lacks consideration towards the affected taxpayers, parents, teachers, etc. I have to say it looks like is being done intentional for this proposal to pass. 7. Timeline- The timeline of events of the proposal clearly indicates that the impacted school’s administrators (Ms. Decembert and Ms. Heverly) were informed by Dr. Wanza about the proposal back in June. Ms. Decembert and Ms. Heverly informed the staff about the proposal after a Sun Sentinel article was released during the month of October. If they were informed or received the information back in June, then why the affected staff never received information or administration claim “we didn’t know” during October’s Staff Meeting???

8. Teacher and staff shortage- Hollywood Central Elementary has a shortage of subs, staff, support staff. The

lunchroom is way too small to accommodate students. The parking- car loop area is also a problem that the School Board needs to assess. Respectfully, just because it looks good on paper, it doesn't mean it is the best for our school and the children of Hollywood Central Elementary.

9. Class Size- The proposal document claims that it does not impact class size. We all know, class size has loopholes, such as "average class size" allows to have large class sizes.

10. Specials Class Size-Large classes during Specials (Music, Science and Spanish). The last quarter I have 2 second grade classes merged into one single class. 36 students. The Music teacher has 2 first grade classes merged together with 40 students. Do you think children are learning music in an over-crowded classroom???? I find it interesting that Broward Schools provided thousands of dollars via the BOND to buy instruments for the Music Program, yet it prides itself by over-crowding the special's rooms. What is next??? Merging 4th, 5th and 6th graders into the Specials???

11. Specials- Administration cut P.E, due to budgetary reasons or budget district language regarding specials, yet we have the same person who used to teach P.E in another position. PE was eliminated and teachers are now teaching PE/recess to "abide" or be in compliance with the Florida Statutes.

12. Media- We don't have a Media Specialist. We have a Media Clerk. The Special's teachers (Spanish, Music and Science) are being mandated to go into Media to help with the "check- out" of the books. What's next? Specials teachers will be mandated to teach outside our certification to cover for Media, so 6th Graders can check out books???

13. Discipline- No comments. Broward Schools needs to make sure the Discipline Matrix is implemented with fidelity and integrity. Combining Elementary students with middle schoolers is a recipe for disaster. Hollywood Central Elementary does not have enough manpower to keep up.



Sandra Nunez . on December 9, 2019

This is a continuation to the previous comment-District staff showed up late to the School Boundaries presentation, keeping the teachers past their contractual time. The meeting was scheduled from 2:30-3:00 p.m. Our contractual time is from 7:30 am to 3:00 pm. Some of us stayed til approximately 4:00 pm. Teachers had a lot of questions, that were basically unanswered. I hope the School Board takes into consideration everything that is transpiring in our school and schedule meetings or hearing that are in a time in which all affected parties and individuals can attend to participate in the due process. I am a proud teacher that wants the best for Hollywood Central Elementary and my students. Respectfully, Ms. Nunez



Judit Sohr . on December 10, 2019

I fully support the proposal to transition Hollywood Central to a K-8 school as a Hollywood resident, homeowner and tax payer.



Michael Sohr . on December 10, 2019

I strongly support this proposal to make Hollywood Central Elementary a K-8 school.

Combine Driftwood Elementary School and Driftwood Middle School as one prekindergarten through eighth grade school on the current campuses of both schools. Expand existing Health & Wellness and Dual Language programs, with Social / Emotional Learning and Project-Based Learning through all grade levels. Increased peer-to-peer mentoring opportunities. Fourth and fifth grades gain Advanced Academic Pathways. Driftwood Elementary ASD cluster students will remain on campus through eighth grade. Elementary shifted to middle bell schedule, with the possibility of Before School Care.

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46 Comments



Joyce Santiago . on November 16, 2019



The community, parents and school staff were not made aware of or considered in the process of this proposal. There is zero evidence that making 2 schools into a K-8 improve enrollment. The new hours being proposed, 9:30-3:45 will make it inconvenient for working parents. Working parents will have to drop elementary aged children in Before Care for 2 hours before school starts. Will the state pay for Before Care? Driftwood Elementary is currently over enrolled because it is a great school. Why make changes to a school that is doing great? Young children do NOT need to be exposed to middle school behavior, antics, and emotions. How have local residents been made aware of this critical change that will impact the community as a whole?



A

Joyce Santiago . on November 24, 2019

1) At the School Boundary Committee meeting held on November 22nd, why was there one audience member allowed to speak about the S-3 proposal, but that same exception was not granted to any other proposal being considered? 2) All of the examples given by Committee members who said the K-8 or even K-12 models are effective, never referenced population. All examples given were of schools that would either have half the population of Driftwood's two schools combined, or they referenced schools that have selective enrollment where they can turn away students who do not have or maintain a certain GPA. Our proposal is unique in the sense that we would have close to or even more than 2000 students. 3) In terms of safety with such a large population, both schools currently have one SRO (School Resource Officer) per campus. The district gives one SRO per 1000 students. If we have 1,999 technically, we are only allowed ONE SRO. Even if we have over 2000 students, an additional SRO would not be promised due to lack of safety personnel (as stated in the November 19th South Area Advisory Council by Dr. Al Alexis and Mr. Scott Jarvis). This is a major safety concern. Can you guarantee that the 2 schools combined will have double the security? 4) The School Boundary Committee emphasized the betterment of the community. When was the community informed? At what point in the process, is the community (the ones who actually live near these schools) allowed input or some type of vote? 5) Ms. Young stated a survey would be sent out to all parents. When is that being done? Who is the neutral party in charge of auditing these surveys? 6) In reference to the FAQ response for traffic, the frequency of traffic is expected to decrease but the two times there is traffic, it will be more concentrated. The city does the traffic study, but it needs to be requested by the School Board. Why has this not been done yet? This is a major problem with traffic already with the schools on different bell schedules.



A

Joyce Santiago . on November 24, 2019

One of the main reasons for combining our schools is for more efficient use of the facilities. Which facilities on Driftwood Middle campus would be accessible for Driftwood Elementary students? Would the use of these facilities by elementary students be used at the same time as the middle school students? Would you have to limit the use of facilities by the middle school to accommodate the elementary students? Please confirm if the track and sports fields are the property of the city and not considered part of the Middle School campus.



A

Rick North . on November 25, 2019

Gulfstream Academy at Hallandale is being used an example of a successful merger. Was the middle school a magnet school before the merger? Driftwood Middle is a magnet school. Quoting the Florida Dept of Education website, "Magnet schools and magnet programs offer a specialized curriculum to students outside the school's normal attendance boundaries." This means we are not just getting the students from Driftwood Elementary or surrounding areas (which I would have NO problem with). We are getting children outside of our boundary assignment. Gulfstream Academy has approximately 500 less students than we would have. Ironically enough, Driftwood Middle currently has 432 out of boundary students. Gulfstream Academy also has a north and south campus with quite a distance from each other so it may be easier to keep the older children and younger children separate. Please reference successful mergers that have some sort of parallel to our unique situation.



A

Joyce Santiago . on December 16, 2019

Driftwood Against Merger! I went to a K-8 school. It was lovely. It was also a private school with a population of 600. Broward county has NEVER merged 2 schools with a combined population of 2000 on one campus. I choose to not be involves in this experiment. They want to transition this for next year. Ask who will be principal. Ask if they can promise more School Resource Officers. I have asked a lot of questions to consider and be open minded but when I cannot accept "maybes" and "possibles" when it comes to OUR children



A

Katie Hampton . on December 16, 2019

I am a parent of a soon-to-be 6th grader, 3rd grader and kindergartener. I vote NO to the Driftwood merger. I love having all my children at the neighborhood schools for which we are zoned for. However, the times being proposed do not cater to working parents, nor does it cater to elementary-aged children who participate in sports or extra-curricular activities after school. Also, security is being compromised on a larger campus. I am concerned for the safety of all 3 of my children. Thus far, the meeting times have been sprung on us and it is apparent that the School Board wants to implement this without considering the families it directly affects.



Joyce Hill . on November 18, 2019



Driftwood Elementary staff presented many concerning questions however none were answered. Question: Will staff have to go through the interview process again to keep their jobs? Q: Was the school boundary committee open to affected families and school staff? Q: Who will be the principal, how will that process be decided? Q: How will administration be handled for primary, intermediate, and middle school grade levels? Q: The middle school is a uniform school, if it goes K-8 would the elementary be required to wear uniforms even though the parents voted it down several years in a row? Q: What, if any, transitional period would be given? Q: How would specials be handled? Q: How would media (library) time be handled? Q: The middle school has a lower school grade (C) than the elementary school (B), what benefit does the elementary get? Q: What is the plan to have five year old students co-mingling with preteens, i.e. buses, before school, after school, emergencies, fire drills, codes, lunch, general movement around the campus? Q: How would lunch schedules work? Q: If incorporating SEL programs, how many guidance counselors would be on campus to service 2,000+ students? Q: Driftwood Elementary already has peer mentoring programs, Latinos in Action, and already does Project Based Learning, has the Dual Language Program, so what benefits would we be gaining by merging with the middle school? Q: Why change the start / end time of school when parents would be forced to pay for before care? Q: If the middle school boundaries are larger than the elementary school boundaries would younger siblings of middle school students come here? Q: Why were we given the "Urgent Notice" regarding the November 15th meeting two days prior to the meeting? Q: Why wasn't the "Proposal S-2" section explaining what the proposal actually was converted into Spanish on the Spanish side of the "Noticia De Urgencia"? Q: Why was the research and information gathered not brought to the schools and communities directly impacted by this proposal? Driftwood Elementary requested several times during the meeting to have this information brought directly to the school as well as answers to the questions presented, in addition to research collected by this department outlining the pros and cons of merging these schools.



A

Katherine Kollitides . on November 19, 2019

The proposal to merge Driftwood Elementary and Driftwood Middle lacks community input and clarity. The Driftwood community was only informed about the Boundary Meeting three days before it occurred. If the Boundary Committee truly wanted community participation and support in this process, they would have given us more than three days notice to attend the meeting. Overall, this proposal is confusing and vague. I teach the fifth grade gifted/high-achieving class at Driftwood Elementary. I'm perplexed by the line in the proposal that states "fourth and fifth grades gain Advanced Academic Pathways." What does this mean? What are Advanced Academic Pathways? How are they different from education in the gifted/high-achieving classroom? Will fourth graders and fifth graders be taking classes with middle schoolers? How would that be developmentally or academically appropriate? Why is this being proposed if there aren't specifics as to what it is? I also would like clarity about how our school grade would be calculated. Driftwood Elementary has worked very hard to earn its B. We were points away from an A. How would the letter grade be calculated if the two schools were merged?

A

Erin Kirkland . on November 21, 2019

Driftwood Elementary is such an amazing school. The faculty, staff and students are more like a family. The school has come so far in the past few years. There is no educational benefits for either school. The negative impacts are unable to be determined. But as a parent of kindergarten child I do not want my child to be subjected to situations and language prematurely. The safety of the children and school is top priority for me. Taking the campus to almost 2k children under the direction of one principal and one SRO is something I will not tolerate. Not to mention the school hours changing. We are already in area of working parents now the will be burdened with before care and after care they cannot afford. Please leave Driftwood as it is.



A

Kypps Poliard . on November 21, 2019

obtained the records of calls for service for the past 2 years from the Hollywood Police and and noted that Driftwood middle had a significantly higher rate for calls for service



including assaults (the elementary school had no reports of assault in the past 2 years). I also carefully went over the FAQ page on the Driftwood Schools proposed merger. After reading the answers I am even more concerned and against the merger some of the answers were vague at best or the school board could not provide an answer below are some examples of some of my major concerns. What sticks out to me the most was that with the two schools combined the school grades would be combined and that Driftwood Middle would go from a C school to B school over night. That is not a true improvement only one on paper. As with enrollment (Driftwood Elementary being over enrolled and Driftwood Middle under over enrolled) the elementary school being used and put at risk to help the middle school. Below are some examples of questions and answers given. Will we have 2 principals: undetermined What is the success rate of this model in Broward County: No answer was given as the direct impact on academics. Choice of principle and staff: It will be up to the the BCSB and no information who we are at risk of losing. What about specials: Determined by the principles we have no idea who that person or people will be. Traffic study: No answer as to if one was conducted or not only that it is up the the city to do. Keeping young kids separated from pre-teens and or teens: the answer provided dealt with class rooms, obviously a 5 year old is not going to be in a class with a 12 year old. What about before school, after school, and common areas like rest rooms and hallways? Before care: Parents can get assistance if they qualify. This is a working class community meaning because parents don't qualify for assistance does not mean they can afford it. We were given some examples of what is considered success stories of the proposed model and after our research this is what we found: Annabell C Perry "C" rating and still under enrolled (gross capacity 1063, Benchmark Day 735, Under capacity -328) North Lauderdale "I" rating and still under enrolled (gross capacity 948, Benchmark Day 762, Under capacity -186) Coral Springs PK-8 "C" rating and still under enrolled (gross capacity 943, Benchmark Day 692, Under Capacity -251. Beach Side Montessori was designed and created as a K-8 model it was not created by removing a fence and combing two schools that are at difference stages of success. Also the school has the following upper School Requirements: Students applying to grades 6-8 must have a demonstrated record of academic achievement on the prior year's Florida Standards Assessment Test (FSA) English language arts and mathematics. Students must meet or exceed a 2.0 achievement level

language arts and mathematics. Students must meet or exceed a 3.0 achievement level on the FSA. In addition, applicants must have a minimum 2.5 unweighted GPA or better in Language Arts, Science, Social Studies and Mathematics. Applicants must submit test scores and last quarter's report .



Kypps Poliard . on November 21, 2019



I went on the the FAQ the asked was “will the traffic be improved by combining the elementary and middle school?” With a reply of: A. Traffic studies are conducted by the city’s transportation department. School bus and family drop and pick up times would be arriving and departing twice a day rather than four times per day, which would decrease the amount of traffic coming into and out of the neighborhood. I contacted the city of Hollywood Commissioner Biederman who advised he is not aware of the City of Hollywood conducting a traffic study. He is under the impression that the process would be that the BCSB would request Broward County to do a traffic study so I am left with the following questions. 1. Was a traffic study conducted and if yes how can I obtain a copy of it? 2. If a traffic study was conducted was it considered as part of the proposal and was the committee provided the information? 3. The answer states that the schools would have 2 pick up and drop off times wouldn’t it be 3 because of the staggered dismissal times? And would it not possible make it longer because of the increase traffic (reason for a traffic study) 4. On the FAQ it stated two separate locations for the buses. Will we have 1 or 2 pick up / drop of locations for vehicular traffic?



Gregory Baptiste . on November 21, 2019



Bottom line, this is something that should not happen and as a parent I'm truly concerned about my son who is only a 4th grade student co-mingling with preteens.



A

Amber Petscher . on November 21, 2019

As a parent of a current elementary aged child and a child starting next year I'm not okay with this proposal. I am in NO HURRY to rush my babies to grow up! Forcing the schools to merge is just asking for trouble. If you are worried about under enrollment in the middle school. Don't. Just be patient. Some smart fifth graders will be there soon. Stop making all of this about poltics and analytics and THINK OF OUR CHILDREN.. YOUR CHILDREN... OUR FUTURE.

A

Erin Kirkland . on November 23, 2019

I am all for equal opportunity education, so instead of creating all these magnet schools and spending money on bussing kids in how about allocating those funds to put good programs in struggling, under enrolled schools.

A

Kypps Poliard . on November 23, 2019

When in this process will some key questions such as will we have 1 of 2 principles , who ig any staff will we be losing, what specials will be lost, kept, added. Will this questions be answered. Will the questions be answered before or after the final vote.

A

Lyudmyla Hodges . on November 23, 2019

I am writing to you in regards of proposed merger for Driftwood Elementary and Middle schools. I have learned about the proposal at SAC meeting that took place Tuesday, November 12. The flyer about upcoming school boundary commitee meeting went out on Wednesday, November 13 not giving the majority of the parents to have enough time to make arrangements to attend. My husband was able to take day off two Fridays in a row in order for us to join the meetings because it is important to our family to be able to voice our opposition to proposed school merger. I would like to request an earlier and more effective way of informing parents about upcoming meetings as well as deciminating the information in all languages of the population of the school to give them an equal opportunity to be informed and participate. As to our family, this is our kids first year at Driftwood Elementary and we are absolutely satisfied with the level of

education and care our kids getting. Their staff is amazing and are working very well together. Our kids are extremely happy and we feel that they are safe and are in good hands. My husband is a law Enforcement officer and has safety concerns of having larger campus that makes it more difficult to have an effective lockdown. After obtaining police reports from 08/15/18-11/18/19 our Safety concerns increased even more. We had learned that there were 9 reported assaults, 6 mental illness related reports and 11 lewd-lascivious reports in Driftwood Middle. With Zero for Driftwood Elementary. I am also concerned about our ESE population that starts at the age of 3. A lot of them are runners. Making a larger campus would make containing and locating these kids more difficult. As well as the age range difference from 3 year olds to 13-14 year olds makes a big gap in maturity levels and social emotional state of the kids which makes younger kids more vulnerable. Proposed school time for both schools is 9:30-3:45. It is very late day for younger kids and before and after care would put burden to a lot of families. Also proposed merger would make an already excising traffic conditions even worse with the same bell schedule. Were there a traffic evaluations done? We live few houses away from middle school and experience this first hand. Amongst all of the proposed merging school our school is the only one that is not underenrolled. We are actually overenrolled by 43 students. We feel that merging 2 schools will have a negative effect and bring school grade down. Please give us an opportunity ultimately become an A school. The list of our concerns is extensive and we hope that few listed will be enough for you to look at them through our eyes. We hope that the decision has not already been made and that parents and community concerns will be taken into consideration. We are urging you and a school board to not move forward with the proposal. Thank you for your time and participation in this matter. Sincerely, Lyudmyla Hodges



Kypps Poliard . on November 24, 2019



With two dismissal times and separate pick up locations for K-5 and 6-8, if a parent has a child in both grade levels would they have to pick up the K-5 student and get into the middle school line? This question is to the vehicular and pedestrian traffic.



Kypps Poliard . on November 25, 2019

I wanted to share a conversation I had with my daughter this weekend. I asked her to help me with something on my phone. She asked what it was about and I told her about the proposed merger. She assumed that I was in favor of the merger and she gave me the following unsolicited comment “Dad that is a terrible idea do you even know what goes on in middle school?” She went on to tell me “they will corrupt those kids”. Just to paint a better picture the middle school she attended is an A school and she is in honors classes. Now those in favor of the merger will say that she made it out in good shape and she did. The reason is she was prepared for what she would encounter because of the values that was instilled in her. She was also at a higher maturity level to make decision for her self. Again although the classes will be separated the common area and before and after school they will not be.



Kypps Poliard . on November 25, 2019

Please make sure that when you tell the parents that if the merger is approved their kids will be riding on the school bus with middle school aged kids with just the driver as adult supervision.

**A**

Rick North . on November 25, 2019

Are you aware that Driftwood Elementary has ASD Clusters which consist of children with special needs who have a tendency to run? Have you considered how broadening the campus would be a hazard for these small children who are better cared for in a more contained environment? Have you considered how the time change would impact staff? Some have children of their own they need to pick up; some have other commitments. You are asking the staff that has brought the school up to an almost "A" grade level to spread themselves even further. Instead of a reward, you just threw them a curveball. Sickening. To add insult to injury, you are saying there is possibility of before care, which I can tell you now, some parents will not be able to afford. Imagine elementary school children bearing the elements of heat, rain, and being picked on by older children for 2 hours before they are safe in a classroom setting. Why are you not looking at the grossly under-enrolled schools. There are several besides Driftwood Middle. I can provide you the stats based on your own websites. Combining these schools is not going to erase the millions of dollars the School Board is losing; it will only add to it. You will not only have an under-enrolled middle school, but an elementary school to go with it. There is a reason Driftwood Elementary is over enrolled without this merger.

A

Kypps Poliard . on November 27, 2019

One of the programs that the school board said they want to move up to the middle school is the dual language program. According to what we were told they will roll the program into the middle school. Please explain how you can start a program with 6th graders that according to your own website starts in kindergarten or first grade to follow the child through high school. The second thing the told us is that the children such as ours will be able to have dual language when the get to the 6th grade. Prior to enrolling our kids we were told that dual language would follow the student to their home middle school then their home high school how is this a benefit when it was the plan without the merger?





Yosleidy Rodríguez . on November 28, 2019

I am writing the email to address the proposed merger of Driftwood Middle and Driftwood Elementary. I have resided in Raleigh Street for over 10 years. On a daily basis I have been constantly dealing with kids loitering on my property, riding of bicycles across, being cursed at by the students, students throwing rocks, parents parking and my property and many other situations negatively impacting my family's and neighbor's quality of life. The merger would have a second school use the Raleigh Street. This would make an already difficult situation unbearable. I am asking you not to go forward with the merger.



Eduardo Rodriguez . on November 28, 2019

I am completely against this proposal. Our child went to Driftwood Elementary and Middle schools. Middle school is no place for little kids. The traffic is really bad as it is now, do not put anymore stress to our community, leave the schools the way are now.



Kypps Poliard . on November 29, 2019

Is it correct that post Parkland one of the safety measures that Broward County Schools said the why going to implement was a single point of entry? Don't this proposal call for two points of entry? With the current proposal because of the school population we will qualify for 1 SRO if the points of entry are on two differ streets how can one officer man both points?



adrianna Stout . on December 11, 2019

I would be happy if the Merge was done. This can help my family out alot!



Johnny Caldera . on December 11, 2019

Combining the schools would be beneficial for my family and I. I vote YES for the merge. Having a soon to be 1st Grader and soon to be 6th Grader.



Sherrie Foglia . on December 11, 2019

I am against the merging of the schools at this time. From the meeting we, my spouse and I have attended and the information that has been provided it seems that the elementary school would not benefit it anyway from this proposed merger. Most answers to the questions asked are extremely vague or that they WILL get it done/ written. It seems to me that those things should be already written and thought out. It also seems that this whole merger is getting rushed along with no clear reason. And that it has to be voted on by this March (March 2020) and implemented this coming school year (2020-2021). This seems to rushed. If I had wanted my child to be in an K-8 grade school I would have chosen one from the beginning. Thank you



Richard Santiago . on December 11, 2019

My granddaughter in elementary school is concerned about being bullied on campus by bigger children. She has experienced a form of bullying in elementary school which was quickly taken care of being this is a smaller school. I can't imagine the number of instances of bullying that would not be handled appropriately and in a timely manner with a population of close to 2000. The convenience of picking up multiple children from one school is a non-factor when considering the safety of ALL the children we love and protect at all costs.



Stephanie Rochester . on December 11, 2019

As a teacher, I can assure you that this proposal was not well thought out, especially when considering the combined population of 2000 children. I see some parents are concerned with the start time of 9:30. For the parents who are not concerned with the availability or even the affordability of Before Care, do you plan to leave your elementary school children to join the middle school children to roam the neighborhood before classed start? Not having answers yet as to how many principals we will have and who it will be is quite concerning. The allure of charter schools has little to do with the K-8 model, but more to do with the appeal of programs that charter schools offer. Parents CHOSE to have their child(ren) in an elementary school. If they wanted the K-8 model, they would have their children in a charter school. Something to think about. Also, the parents passionate about their stance on this are the quality of parents that schools wish for. These are the involved families and quality of people whose opinions should be valued.



Alyssa Hernandez . on December 12, 2019

This merge will end up being bad. 1st with the time changing of school starting cannot work for me and my husband which means we would have to pay to put her in morning care which we don't have the money for. Little kids and big kids should not be mixed together, the little kids will get picked on and will end up having something bad happen. I vote no to this. My daughter heard about it and she is in 2nd grade and is already scared. I put her in the school because the one by my house was not good and I did a relocation and was accepted. We always have loved this school. Please don't do this!



Kypps Poliard . on December 12, 2019

1. Will the middle school age children be separated from the elementary school age kids during breakfast? 2. What are going to be the proposed entrance, exit, for vehicular, pedestrian, and bus traffic?



Laura Klein . on December 12, 2019

Do not combine the middle school and the elementary school together it is not a good thing for the elementary children to experience middle school behavior at such a young age keep them separate. The elementary school is doing just fine by itself and the middle school is doing fine by itself it is not a good thing for minor children to be around teenagers and how they react and how they act. Leave it alone don't fix what's not broken. Elementary school children should be around only elementary school children middle school children should be around only middle school children. My daughter attended Driftwood Middle And I do not think that middle school should be combined with elementary school.



Alvaro Cadahia . on December 12, 2019

I am completely disagree with school merger. This measure is going to be really bad for our kids, which are the future of this country.



Lidia Bavina . on December 12, 2019

My grandkids are students at Driftwood elementary and I am retired elementary school educator myself. Speaking from the experience I am very opposed to the merger. I feel that the elementary school kids education and safety will be compromised if this merger occurs. I hope that BCPS board will not go not forward with this merger.



Rosa Garay . on December 12, 2019



The lack of awareness is a huge red flag. This was sprung onto us with no notice. The community wasn't given enough time process anything. The proposal seems rushed. I believe merging elementary and middle school students is incorrect. Elementary and middle school students are developing at different rates. Elementary students haven't reached the level of maturity where the middle schoolers are in. They haven't hardened yet. Middle school is one of the most difficult (mentally, socially, emotionally) phases in a child's life. It is chaotic. Elementary students will feel overwhelmed and displaced in a middle school environment. This type of stress and anxiety will disrupt their learning. At the end of the day, the children will be the ones impacted the most. Also, we can't forget about our teachers. It was stated in the FAQs, that no staff member from past mergers lost their jobs but merging two schools together would result in an influx of teachers and how many positions will be available for them to fill.



Ala Samsonava . on December 13, 2019

I am an ASD cluster elementary student parent. I do not favor the proposal. Large campus is a hazard for my child who doesn't navigate well enough and can wander. Creating such a large school would put more pressure on staff and can make administrative work a nightmare. How many ese specialists and autism coaches the new schoo would have? Will they be able to conduct their work effectively with an increased amount of students? It will erase elementary's hard work they did on their grade level. Moreover, the new proposed times are not fit for smaller children who need an adult care and supervision before the school starts. I have no idea if before care would ever work out for my autistic son, and whether we would have such an option, since he needs an increased guidance. Additionally, he has other therapies and commitments that he attends almost daily and new schedule would make those impossible. If he is unable to continue his out of school work because the dismissal is too late in the day, then we have no choice but look for reassignment options. We love Driftwood elementary a lot, it has great program and we would hate to have to search for other options. Even the kids without special needs and therapies wouldn't be able to attend any extra curricula. Late dismissal makes it almost impossible for the kids to pursue their interests and passion and leaves them with just enough time to eat dinner, do homework and go to bed.



Ekaterina Novikova . on December 14, 2019

Our four year old is currently a student at Baudhuin Preschool. One of the schools that were were recommended was Driftwood Elementary. The ESE program is very will regarded we were very happy with the recommendation because our very close family friends who's kids attend the school. We toured the on November 19, 2019 school and were very impressed by the program and the staff. We then learned about the proposed merger. We also learned that many questions such as the staff, the direction of the ESE program and security are still up in the air. We learned that a committee recommended the merger. With the pending merger and uncertainty of the schools future we decided against enrolling our son in Driftwood Elementary





Ennis Kirkland . on December 14, 2019



Do not combine these schools. My child is in kindergarten. I don't want older kids around her.



Kypps Poliard . on December 15, 2019



After I read the "BCPS District Staff proposal 2: Driftwood/ Driftwood PK-8" OT is apparent why some of the many questions that the community and parents have have not been addressed. Under the proposal under "Considerations for Establishing school boundaries" the following issues are not even considered: Safety and Security (two words not mentioned) examples are going from 2 SRO's to 1, securing a larger property, going to 2 points of entry (after the super attended committed to going to 1 for BCPS, elementary school kids ridding on bus with middle school age kids, security of younger kids before and after school and in common areas. Securing ESE community especially "runners" who will have a larger area to escape. Impact on the neighborhood from traffic. Impact on families on changing school times. No idea if before will be profiled, if so who will pay (especially for families that do not qualify for financial assistance does not mean the can afford an addition financial burden). The list goes on. How in 2020 is security not the first priority? And yes that is a question I am asking to be answered.



Lyudmyla Hodges . on December 15, 2019



Driftwood Against Merger



Kypps Poliard . on December 15, 2019



Driftwood Against Merger



Lyudmyla Hodges . on December 16, 2019

The recent grand jury report about school safety was conducted by an independent body that shares the same concerns as many parents and citizens in the Driftwood community. This should show the school board that our concerns are real. The proposed merger shows that safety was not a priority of the proposal. Please do not put our kids at risk and go through this proposal because school safety can not be done retroactively.



Rhianna Cain . on December 16, 2019

When choosing a school for our children, we only want the BEST! When it was time to register my daughter for kindergarten, Driftwood elementary was our district school, we live less than a quarter-mile from it. At the time Driftwood Elementary was a “C” school so I decided to tour the charter school that her half brother attends (B rated). Once I toured and realized it was K-8, I decided against it. Driftwood Elementary was perfect for my daughter despite the “C” grade it was. My daughter is now in second grade and excelling in both her regular class and her dual language. The thought of this change not only sets fear in me but also angers me, why should I be made to pay for before care when our 8-2 schedule has never been a problem? 3:45 or 4pm, then homework, dinner, shower, and bed by a decent hour to get their allotted 8-12 hours sleep? This will then take away the option of having our children in any extracurricular activities. So let’s change the lives of all our children, and also take away their childhood or the things they enjoy and look forward too! I see ZERO benefit to this change for our children and our amazing elementary staff. I once thought I made the best decision to put my daughter in Driftwood Elementary, now I’m rethinking that decision.



Christy Caldera . on December 16, 2019

I am 100 percent for this merger!! I have a soon to be First Grader and a 6th grader who both will be attending driftwood elementary and middle. This works out perfect for time scheduling pickup and drop off. I myself attended a merged school as a junior higher. It was a K-8. My sister's son in Texas attends a K-8. From my experience the older children tend to have more respect for the younger age & are less likely to grow up as fast. I vote yes on this!



Katryna Sysoyeva . on December 16, 2019

I am absolutely against the merge of the 2 schools, that will really affect the quality of the kids knowledge



Jennifer Forshey . on December 16, 2019

I am against this merger.
