Lucy Beckham Community Input Meeting Opening Grade Configuration

Whitesides Elementary School-Multipurpose/Cafe

September 28, 2017 6 pm

Kate Darby-CCSD Board Chair
- Introductions: Constituent Board-Sarah Johnson and Roger O’Sullivan, Principal of Beckham-Anna Dassing, Superintendent-Gerrita Postlewait, Executive Director of Secondary Schools-Kim Wilson, CCSD Chief Operating Officer-Jeff Borowy, Principal of Moultrie Middle- Ryan Cumback
- history of the districts and decision of Wando, CAS and now Lucy Beckham HS
- Blue Ribbon Committee deciding on a second high school and elaboration of different types of discussion
- Board vote on grade configuration had feedback that they needed more community input and would like to make a decision by November

Anna Dassing: Principal of LBHS
- Introduction
- Overview of the basic presentations
- Meeting in October to gather more input
- $94 Million budget
- 1500 student capacity
- Review of Core Academics for College Readiness and Career and Tech
- Full visual and performing arts
- Full athletics, JROTC, and PE

Jeff Borowy: Construction Timelines
- No earlier than August 2020
- In design right now, groundwork will be up for bid next summer
- Mindful of construction traffic
- Safety is a priority
- Explanation of why it cannot be bigger
- 3 fields on the site to support athletics

Sarah Johnson: Zoning Process
- Drawing lines completed by constituent board (5) members
- Fall 2019 is target date for announcing final lines (one year prior to opening of school)
- Attendance numbers have to be accurate and up to date
- Dedicated a full year to dedicate to the process
- Guidelines explanations (such as pure feeder patterns), do not want to split up neighborhoods, distance driving to school
- Drafts: look at maps, talk to experts and make 2 drafts for community meetings for feedback

**Board has already begun to rezone for the Moultrie expansion which will affect Beckham
Anna Dassing: Recommendation to Board of Trustees
- Recommendation to open grades 9th and 10th then phase in 11th and 12th
- Data Sources: Surveys from other districts who created new HS, focus group made up of parents, educators, community members
- Academic impact?
- Build culture?
- Transition for 10th grade from Wando back to Beckham

-Impact on both schools relative to teacher allocation, courses, athletics and fine arts

Top 4 Options: Review of Benefits and Challenges for each option
#1 Open 9/10th and phase in
#2 Open 9-12th no choice
#3 Open 9-11th Sr. stay at Wando
#4 Open 9-12th but 11th and 12th would have choice to stay at Wando

Comments: Speakers from the audience
- Recommendation for Option 1 (focus on kids not how to run the school)
- Phasing in is very important and building a reputation. Concerns that people who are not excelling at Wando will flee to Beckham. Wants Beckham to feel like a choice.
- Option to have a sibling stay at Wando if you are zoned for Beckham
- Give students the opportunity to give feedback to what school they would like to attend. Option 4 split does not see any advantage to phasing in but make accommodation for those students that want to stay at Wando without cutting them off.
- 10th grade athlete will be affected. Band kids are already affected because there are too many students. Option 1 is great in an ideal world, but thinks option 4 is best for the kids.
- Sophomore and 8th grader- challenges for her child who is very shy and feels like every semester is like starting over (college applications). Concern of not graduating from a school with no record while Wando has a high reputation among state colleges.
- Freshman and Junior: Grateful for community meeting, excited about options 3 and 4, kids will not be together in HS in Option 1. Younger student will not have older role models and older daughter cannot watch out for younger sister. Logistics (south of the connector) want more opportunities- Wando is too big to give kids opportunities. Example: only one football team
- This will only affect 9th graders and below correct? Yes
- Will teachers be newly recruited or moved from Wando? Beckham will be 37% of Wando. They would take the same amount of teachers. Give teachers options if they want to come.
- Culture question: there are people in the community that come to choice schools or are you looking at programming that will counter Academic Magnet (who do not get in)? Anna has worked with Buist, SOA, Porter Gaud etc. to get input. Will focus on middle schools to target and inform. Also look at companies and industries in the areas. Darby: input from people looking for a smaller school option.
- Senior and Freshman at Wando: Supports Option 1 and allow school to grow their leaders. No option is perfect. Concern to splinter the junior and senior classes if we give them an option. Example: Seniors run the entire marching band. Would like them to stay cohesive and grow that at Beckham.
- Porter Gaud Alumni- son asked to go to school with neighborhood kids. Has had great experience. Athletics is important. Feels option 1 stifles that. Sports keep kids out of trouble.
- 6th and 9th Grader: Her children prefer option 1 and she would have 3 kids in 3 different schools.
- Two 5th grade kids: Would like have more community outreach on the topic (churches etc).
- Parent of 6th Grader: CCSD employee and knows about a 10 day count and is concerned with Option 4 if the numbers are low. Can you guarantee the teachers they could stay?
- Parent with 3 different schools: Open to any option except the one that does not allow 12th graders to have a choice. Does not like option 2.
- Does it look like Moultrie would go to Beckham and the other two to Wando? Rezoning decision.
- Parent of 2 6th graders: Rezoning could cause change in attending middle school not just HS correct? yes
- Parent of 7th grader: How will the band look like with Option 1? Support and respect Anna.
- Would Option 1 be 1500 students or half to open? yes
- AP classes: How do you communicate to colleges that their child attended a new high school? AP classes would have to be built in. Counselor clarified of AP classes. Counselor explained that the classes and the grades that they made are more important.

Recognized board members that arrived during the meeting-Mr. Joe Bowers from Constituent Board 1 and Mr. Chris Staubes for the CCSD Board of Trustees

**Kate Darby:** Would the community like updates on the progress of all these items? Once a year for the next four years? YESS!

**Anna:** Closing Remarks

-Thank you for the input and sharing your thoughts and ideas
- Frequently asked questions to come

- Meeting to be scheduled for October 2017
- Survey to come in October
- CCSD Board hopes to make a decision in November 2017

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