

October 31, 2019

Charleston County School District Board of Trustees
75 Calhoun Street
Charleston, SC 29401

Dear School Board Trustees,

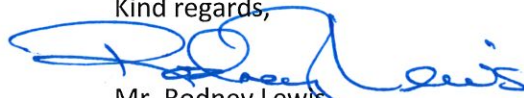
The District 10 Board members and I are writing regarding our concerns with our middle schools. I, like you, want to see all students in our community have the same opportunity to succeed. Unfortunately, not all students have been given the same opportunities and I believe we need to address these concerns immediately. Our board is currently in the rezoning phase for our two middle schools. We have options and will continue to work together as a board to decide what we feel is best for our students but the one thing that we cannot overlook any longer is the fact that one of our middle schools is less desirable than the other. I've had many parents reach out recently with concerns about the rezoning. I have watched West Ashley Middle School be used as a last resort for many families. It has been the school that you go to if you can't get into all other options.

Our Board is proposing the following for West of the Ashley Middle Schools. One middle school at two locations. The new building would house 7th and 8th graders and the West Ashley Middle building would be home to the 6th graders. The transition from grade 5 to middle school can be stressful for children and parents. This solution could provide an opportunity to bring all of our elementary schools into one middle school program where the first year is focused on core classes as well as art, music, physical education, gifted classes, remedial classes, technology and providing our students an opportunity to transition into secondary education where the focus is on the importance of practicing responsibility and respect. A year of preparing these students for middle school success could pave the way for an easier transition into a larger setting of 7th and 8th grade where you have even more options available being next to the community high school and the new CAS.

The District 10 Board feels strongly that a 6th Grade Academy and a standalone 7th-8th middle school will be beneficial to the West Ashley community. This will give every student in District 10 the equity they deserve, from 6th grade through 12th grade.

We are willing to do research on other schools in the country that are 6th grade only and ones that are 7th and 8th grade with your support and assistance. This would eliminate the decision of possibly removing feeder schools and drawing lines. One middle school. One high school. One community. Preparing our children for a better and brighter future.

Kind regards,



Mr. Rodney Lewis
D10 Constituent Board Chair

**St. Andrew's Constituent
District 10 School Board**

Rodney Lewis
Chair

Cynthia Anderson
Vice Chair

David Bell
Secretary

Elizabeth (Lisa) Niemeyer

Jennifer Osteen