



Owen J. Roberts School District

Administration Building

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"Inspiring Each Student for Success Today and Greatness Tomorrow"

Dear Owen J. Roberts Families,

Since last spring, the school district has been developing a plan to create new attendance boundaries for our five elementary schools. A redistricting committee comprised of 30 parents and teachers representing each of our schools and administrators met six times since last April to develop possible options for redistricting. The working group performed a thorough evaluation of enrollment projections. They closely examined housing developments which are either underway or planned in the district's seven townships and examined the many factors affecting transportation of students. The committee thoughtfully established a list of priorities. Using those guidelines, the committee explored many possible boundary scenarios. Ultimately, however, the recommendation must come from my office. I want to thank our parents and teachers for volunteering their time to this cause.

Last evening, I presented the Board of School Directors with four options and a draft recommendation for redistricting our elementary schools. The presentation can be found [here](#). Please note that the Board did not vote on new attendance areas last evening but rather received the information and asked clarifying questions. The Board will continue this discussion in January, 2016.

The goal in redistricting is to create five elementary schools with equitable enrollment numbers for the next 7-10 years while moving the fewest number of students. Currently, our populations in North Coventry and East Coventry are larger than our other elementary schools and we anticipate increasing numbers in West Vincent in the coming years. Additionally, the District is constructing a new East Vincent Elementary School and will be building a new East Coventry Elementary School over the next two years. Other factors that we must consider when creating new attendance lines include: transportation routes, special education programming and requirements, and potential new housing developments. Furthermore, keeping students who live in the same neighborhood together is a priority.

Originally, I proposed a timeline that included effecting the new attendance lines in September of 2016. However, I have recommended that the Board of School Directors implement this change for the fall of 2017 primarily due to the construction at East Vincent Elementary School. Please take a few minutes to review the presentation. In the coming days, we will create a page on the District's website that provides our residents with the opportunity to submit questions regarding this draft proposal. We will create a Frequently Asked Questions page with the information that we receive and update our website regularly.

We are fortunate to have five excellent elementary schools in Owen J. Roberts with a dedicated faculty and staff, strong PTA/PTO's, and wonderful families.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Christian, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools