

Hello Opal resident... **How do you feel about your children going to Fauquier High School?**

You are probably aware of the recent redistricting of school borders by the Fauquier County school board in preparation for the new Kettle Run High School. The school board has been reviewing many plans all of which have kept the Edgehill neighborhood and residences from Lees Mill Rd & 29 to Opal Rd. just within the boundaries of Liberty High School. The December 5th issue of the local paper provided some details about the various plans.

What you may not be aware of is yet another plan has been quickly put in place at the last minute, made public Friday Dec. 7th on the FCPS website only, which now has all residences from Lees Mill Rd. & 29 to Opal Rd., including the Edgehill neighborhood, placed into Fauquier High School's district. If this plan is approved, everyone from Lees Mill Rd. at 29 to Opal Rd., including Edgehill, will have to attend FHS. According to county officials, unless your child will be a senior at Liberty next year (junior now) they will not be grandfathered and will have to switch to Fauquier High School starting in the fall of 2008.

We propose that our neighborhood, from Lees Mill Rd. and 29 to Opal Rd., including the Edgehill subdivision, belongs with the rest of Opal in Liberty High School's district so as not to fracture Opal. Reasons include:

- Remington's M. M. Pierce elementary school territory, which we are districted for, goes out of its way to include "the triangle" encompassing Edgehill and Lees Mill Rd. from Opal Rd. to 29, along with the rest of Opal. If our section goes to FHS, children who have spent elementary and middle school together will be split up for high school.
- Splitting Opal at Opal Rd. into two high school areas goes against the High School Redistricting Committee's second Selection Evaluation Criteria "Avoid Splitting Neighborhoods". The High School Re-Districting Committee, made up of people from the community, included "the triangle" in the LHS district in all their proposals for a reason.
- According to the local newspaper, the latest proposal was not reviewed by the High School Re-Districting Committee, rather, it was the staff that came up with this plan. This approach resulted in a boundary based on magisterial district lines, (just following the Cedar Run District boundary), without consideration of the committee's goal to keep neighborhoods, like Opal, together.

Schools student capacity, which, in either option, was shown to be 90 percent. The school board asked staff to come up with two more options which would alleviate Liberty's crowding and send some of its students either to FHS or KRHS. On Friday, the public can see the new options at the school division's Web site.

Excerpt from Fauquier Times Democrat

There is one last chance to provide your comments to the authorities Monday December 10th, before they vote on Dec. 17th.

More details are available on the school web site <http://www.fcps1.org/>. Select "High School Redistricting" from the menu on the left and also read the press releases near the bottom.

FYI: Options previously presented by the committee to the school board were Options C and E. The school board requested another option and Option C was altered resulting in Option SB-A. The picture to the right is Option SB-A. In the picture, red is Fauquier High School, Blue is Liberty and Green is Kettle Run. Areas circled in black and highlighted yellow are changes that were made to Option C. The pink circle is "the triangle" portion of Opal that we are speaking about above.

If you agree, **please show up Monday, December 10th, 7 PM at Brumfield Elementary School** to make your voice heard. Please contact EACH school board member as well to voice your opinion, their info is below.

Duke Bland, Marshall District
dbland@fcps1.org

Jay VanGelder, Cedar Run District
jvangelder@fcps1.org

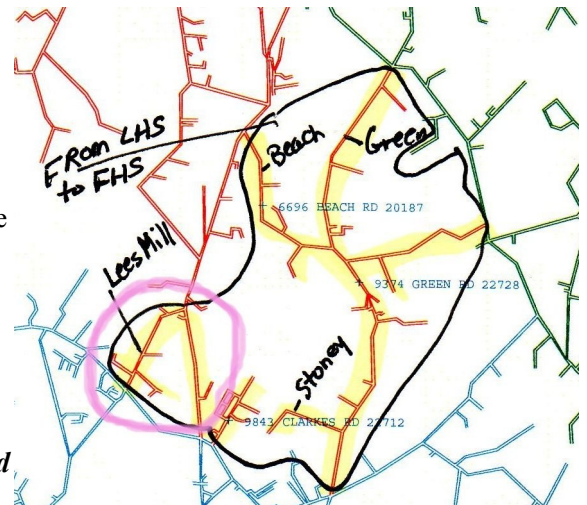
Ernest Gray, Lee District
egray@fcps1.org

Sally Murray, Center District
smurray@fcps1.org

Robert Sinclair, Scott District
bsinclair@fcps1.org

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Regards,
John and Kimberley Huggins
7317 Ridgedale Dr.



Excerpt of Option SB-A Map