

**Committee on Refining the Criteria for Redistricting
Minutes from the August 25, 2009 Meeting**

The Committee on Refining the Criteria for Redistricting met on Tuesday, August 25, 2009 in Room A in the James City/Williamsburg Community Center. Present were committee members Dr. John Alewynse, Ms. Denise Koch, and Mr. James Nickols. Also present were Dr. Robert T. Becker, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Ms. Jane Haley, Child Nutrition Services Supervisor, Mr. Earl Tyler, Director of Transportation, and Ms. Janet Cerza, Deputy Clerk of the Board. There were no citizens or the members of the press present.

Call to Order – Mr. Nickols called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was stated: Defining the three criteria for redistricting: Proximity, Capacity and Diversity.

Public Comment – There were no comments.

Defining the First Criteria: Proximity – It was noted that the RFP has been issued for a company to do the (redistricting) maps. There was discussion on how “proximity” should be defined – in miles or time? Dr. Becker suggested that a time be used to define how long students should be on a bus (30 minutes) with flexibility built in.

During the following discussion, the following definitions were brought up: time vs. distance (with time having precedence over distance), time and distance (equal preference), time, or distance. It was decided that time vs. distance were the preferred parameters to define proximity.

The buses need 45 minutes between runs on the tier. The magnet school students are on the bus longer (approximately 1 hour.) The free and/or reduced lunch students are also a factor. The latest census data should be used to determine socio-economic data. This data could be compared to the free and/or reduced numbers. Dr. Becker will provide information on projected enrollment for the four PreK sites and K-5.

The number of new buses that will be needed when the two new schools open was discussed. Dr. Becker stated that additional buses will be needed for the elementary school, but not the middle school (students will transfer from James Blair). The special education buses are also longer runs than the 30 minutes. These families should be notified that W-JCC is aware of the length of the special education bus runs and their special needs.

It was decided that the remaining two criteria discussions could be done at the next meeting. Dr. Becker will provide capacity information to the committee. Also, it was decided that there would be four public forums: two in December and two in January, with the meetings on separate weeks to allow for optimal attendance.

The committee will present their information to the School Board on September 15, 2009 as a written report. The information will also be on the website for the public. October 6, 2009 the committee’s information will be on the School Board agenda for approval.

The meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.