

November 10, 2010

Newton County School System Announces Proposed Elementary Rezoning for 2011-2012 District to Hold Two Public Meetings for Community Input

In preparation for the 2011-2012 school year, which includes the opening of a new elementary school on Airport Road, the Newton County School System has begun the rezoning process for all elementary schools. The proposed boundary changes for the 2011-2012 school year were presented to the Newton County Board of Education on Tuesday, November 9 for review. A copy of the presentation is posted on the NCSS website, www.newtoncountyschools.org and information will soon be available at all elementary schools for public input.

School district officials will also hold two public meetings for parents and community members to hear information and provide feedback before the school board approves the final version of the 2011-2012 school zones. Meeting information is as follows:

<i>Tuesday, November 30</i>	<i>Eastside High School</i>	<i>Auditorium</i>	<i>6:00 PM</i>
<i>Monday, December 6</i>	<i>Alcovy High School</i>	<i>Auditorium</i>	<i>6:00 PM</i>

Parents may attend either or both meetings to obtain information regarding the proposed changes to the elementary school zones. The Newton County Board of Education is currently scheduled to approve the zones at its combined work session/monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 14, 2010.

“We encourage parents of elementary students to attend these meetings,” said Newton County School System Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Dennis Carpenter. “We will be showing maps of the existing school zones and the changes recommended in the new plan. This will be the best opportunity for parents to view the maps and ask questions.”

The proposed zones, as currently presented, will zone students for the new elementary school and thus eliminate overcrowding and maximize classroom space at the existing elementary schools. The proposed zones also eliminate the current need for portable classrooms in the elementary schools. Included in the rezoning proposal is the conversion of Fairview from a theme school back to a regular zoned elementary school for 2011-2012. Starting in August 2011, Fiquett Elementary School, which was included in the board’s phase out plan earlier this year, would house the school system’s theme school until approximately 2016, when Eastside High School is converted into a K-8 theme school per the district’s approved five-year facilities plan.

Under the current proposal, all students currently attending Palmer-Stone Elementary School will attend the new elementary school on Airport Road next school year. Current Fiquett Elementary School students would be rezoned to the new school, East Newton Elementary, Middle Ridge Elementary, and Heard-Mixon Elementary based on their physical address.

For more information on the rezoning process, please contact the Department of Public Relations at 770-784-2908.
