



Q&A

Newton County Schools  
FY 12 Rezoning Proposal  
Question and Answer Running Record

*It is the intention of the administration to present this Q&A in a running record format, (IE), it will be added to and updated on an ongoing basis prior to the school board's expected vote on December 14.*

**1. What sequence of events necessitated the need for elementary school rezoning?**

On January 19, 2010, the NCBOE approved a resolution requesting that the Facilities Section of the State Department of Education provide technical assistance to the system to develop a new five-year facilities plan. On Feb 9, 2010, the NCBOE approved a resolution requesting that the State Department of Education phase-out Newton High School, Ficquett Elementary School and Palmer-Stone Elementary School. This phase-out was based on the district's desire to ultimately have all schools in the district equipped with the technologies required in today's classrooms, the fact that these schools lagged behind others in the Board's initiative to provide facilities that are state-of-the-art and the need to maximize state facilities funding. On March 9, 2010, the NCBOE approved the required Proposed Organization to be submitted to the Georgia Department of Education. This proposed organization depicted how the district will be organized once this new five-year plan is completely implemented. On May 26, 2010, the NCBOE approved a resolution adopting the district's new Five Year Facilities Plan. Finally, in the June 2010 meeting of the State Board of Education, the district's new facilities plan was approved. Now that the plan is being implemented and new elementary school #15 is being constructed, there is a need to rezone. Simply moving both FQES and PSES to the new school would create another overcrowded elementary school in the district; thus the BOE's decision to conduct a comprehensive elementary school rezoning effort that maximizes space and leaves room for future growth at each school. *(November 19, 2010)*

**2. When will the final elementary school rezoning decision be made?**

The Superintendent will recommend the 2011-2012 elementary school zones for Board approval at the combined board meeting to be held December 14, 2010. *(November 19, 2010)*

**3. Why is the current board making this decision, given that a majority of the members will be rolling off the board?**

The current board of education has worked through the entire facility planning process. As a body, they possess the background knowledge needed to make an informed decision in this area. In addition, if the rezoning process is drawn out too far, the district runs the risk of not being able to get all of the logistics, associated with the process completed. These logistics include, but are not limited to: parent notification, bus routing, and employee transfers. *(November 19, 2010)*

**4. Based on rezoning, many children may elect to attend the Theme School. What is the district's plan if more students apply for the theme school than there are slots available?**

The current theme school students will have first priority to attend the theme school in the upcoming school year. In addition, each grade level at the theme school will have an enrollment cap. If more students apply in a given grade than there are available spaces, the district will use a lottery to determine entry into the theme school. Additional recommendations related to the theme school, for 2011-2012, are to be announced in the near future and, hopefully, prior to the first public meeting on rezoning to be held at Eastside High School on November 30, 2010, at 6:00 P.M. *(November 19, 2010)*