

Elementary Redistricting Committee Questions
COMMUNITY FORUM
January 19, 2012

YANKEE RIDGE Participants' Responses

1. How important are neighborhood schools?

- Very important – but resources should be balanced. People move to specific areas to attend specific schools. Moved from Champaign (Schools of Choice); didn't attend school with neighbors/didn't know families.
- Based a move on current map and in YR.
- Know the kids and parents; neighbors go to same school.
- Would consider private school if moved to school made up of significantly different SES.
- Like sense of community with neighbors going to same school.
- Keep both sides of street in the same school
- Most attendees believe that neighborhood schools are very important to their families.

2. What is the most important aspect about redistricting that above all else must be considered by the committee?

- Families that don't want to change schools. Time on buses is a problem (50 minutes too much for a K child). Some parents willing to drive.
- No! to any form of "schools of choice". Wanted to know exactly what school their child will attend.
- New subdivision/new home concerns if changed. May not be as desirable to buy if not in a certain school neighborhood.

3. What are your feelings about students having to change schools if it may create more socio-economic and class size balanced attendance centers?

- Would love to see this happen but selfishly don't want to have their child change schools.
- Schools are social networking for schools.
- You choose where you live and that choice is often based on a school.
- Most Urbana neighborhoods are pretty diverse.
- Are there things that can be gained through programs at different schools? Like mini-magnet programs?
- Afraid it will turn into a school of choice situation.
- Change way of life.
- Take away from one to benefit another.
- Urbana has residence options for all SES in all 4 corners. People have the option to move to a desired "neighborhood".
- To balance SES among schools- Suggestion: Keep the YR people we have and maybe add low SES students that are close geographically.
- Change more disruptive to the older children. Grandfathering desired if possible.
- Incoming parents on the borders concerned about how to proceed in school search. Wants YR but will go private. Anxiety about when decision will be made; how to plan for next year for children.

Other:

Where are new homes being built? BOE needs to be aware of newer developments (and where families want to attend school).