

Abby Collier
October 8, 2018
ENGL 470
Dr. Guler

Bad News Letter

Prompt: Public school rezoning

You are a Chesapeake city councilor who has received a letter from parents asking you to rethink the rezoning of six of the city's public schools. Making up any additional details that you need, write a letter to the parents making them understand why school rezoning must take place before the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

See next page for letter.

Works Cited

Connors, Mike. "‘You Should Be Ashamed’: Parents Outraged by Chesapeake School Board's Decision to Rezone 6 Schools." *Virginian Pilot*, The Virginian Pilot, 9 Jan. 2018, pilotonline.com/news/local/education/public-schools/article_82ab15c9-ae80-587e-b156-499bdb06e213.html.

City of Chesapeake School Board
312 Cedar Road Chesapeake, VA 23322

March 15, 2018

Dear Parents:

Subject: Request to rethink rezoning six of Chesapeake's schools

Children, of all ages, deserve to receive the best possible public education. Knowing that children are accumulating a wealth of knowledge is a reassuring aspect of our city's public schools.

You have requested the members of the Chesapeake school board reconsider the decision to rezone six of Chesapeake's public school, prior to the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

The decision to rezone has been a long, agonizing process. Considering the effects on parents and students is of utmost importance. Currently, six of Chesapeake's schools, Hickory High School, Hickory Middle School, Great Bridge High School, Great Bridge Middle School, Hugo Owens Middle School, and Deep Creek Middle School, are either above capacity or under capacity. As of June 2017, Hickory Middle School and Great Bridge were both above capacity. Hickory Middle School has a capacity of 1,300 and its current enrollment is 1,635. Great Bridge Middle School has a capacity of 1,275 and its enrollment is 1,402. The other four school, Hickory High School, Great Bridge High School, Hugo Owens Middle School, and Deep Creek Middle School are all well under capacity.

This plan to rezone will lower the capacity of Hickory Middle School, Great Bridge Middle School, and Hickory High School. The outcomes of this rezoning project will raise attendance levels at Hugo Owens Middle School by about 110 students and Deep Creek Middle by 250 students. Also, these changes will decrease Hickory Middle Schools attendance by about 285 students and Hickory High Schools attendance by about 140 students.

The school board wants the community to be completely satisfied with the decision to rezone. In order to ensure complete satisfaction, the school board has elected to allow all rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors at Hickory High School and Great Bridge High School to remain at their current school until graduation. Also, families, that are effected by the rezoning process, can rest assured that their child's new school will be no more than 15 miles from his/her current school.

Chesapeake Public School's strives to ensure some of the finest and top of the line education to children. The superintendent as well as the members of the school board acknowledge that this change will take some getting used to, but it will ultimately benefit the largest number of students.

If you would like to receive more information about the rezoning process or a map of the new school zones, please do not hesitate to contact the Chesapeake school board at (757)547-0153.

Yours Sincerely,

Abigail M. Collier

Abigail M. Collier
School Board Member