

Atholton High School PTSA



Board of Education
Howard County Public School System
10910 Rt. 108
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

March 26, 2009

Dear Dr. Cousin and Members of the Board of Education,

I am writing on behalf of the Atholton High School Parent Teacher Student Association Executive Board (AHS PTSA) to express our support for the revised proposal on calculating High School Capacity as detailed in the March 26, 2009 report to the Board of Education. This report was available on Board Docs on March 24, 2009 and shared at our AHS PTSA Executive Board meeting that night.

The AHS PTSA recommended adopting the state formula with further consideration of the real differences among the twelve high schools when decisions based on capacity will be made during our testimony last month. Thank you for evaluating whether the 110% capacity threshold would remain viable for all twelve high school buildings when realistic capacity calculations would be used under the new formula.

We appreciate that the proposed revised formula calculates capacity using a Utilization of Space at either 80% or 85%, reflecting differences in existing buildings.

The AHS PTSA understands and appreciates that decisions made by Boards in the past to support program equity at all high schools resulted in capacity being set at 1332 students for all buildings. We recognize that this was the best decision, with information available, at that time.

We continue to applaud the considerable investment in the Gilbert Study and the tremendous value of the resulting data. Now, with this data, new information, and current regulations, this Board has the opportunity to revisit the capacity issue and look at the reality that all twelve high school buildings are not the same, and thus allow capacity to reflect each building's uniqueness. Being intellectually honest will result in serving our students fairly and most certainly will support both Goal 1 and Goal 2.

The AHS PTSA supports approval of the proposed revision to the high school capacity formula.

Thank you for having the fortitude to move forward with capacity calculations which are fair and realistic and should allow countywide redistricting to be delayed until 2016.

Sincerely,

Caryn D. Lasser
AHS PTSA President



AHS PTSA ♦ Partners Together Supporting Atholton ♦

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