

## **Falmouth Elementary and 2019 SCPS Redistricting – PTO Perspective**

**WHO ARE WE?** Falmouth Elementary is one of the oldest elementary schools in Stafford County. Our current population is 658 students and we have experienced over 27% growth since 2015. The school has a growing ESL population, three special education classrooms and is one of several Title I\* schools in Stafford County. The school currently serves the south Stafford community to include Clearview Heights, Carriage Hills and England Run along with several surrounding neighborhoods. Falmouth has engaged learners, involved families, caring staff, skilled teachers and an excellent administration.

**WHY IS STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REDISTRICTING?** SCPS is doing a county-wide elementary redistricting due to the movement of pre-school classes out of county elementary schools (SCPS purchased a new pre-school facility to open in 2019-2020 school year) and due to some schools being at or over capacity and others being significantly below capacity. To give perspective on Falmouth Elementary, without redistricting Falmouth Elementary is projected to be at 81.54% capacity for the 2019-2020 school year.

**IS THERE A CURRENT REDISTRICTING PLAN ON THE TABLE?** Yes, there are currently two proposed plans created by the consultant hired by the Stafford County School Board. The School Board is currently scheduled to vote/approve a redistricting plan on 26 February 2019 and changes will be in place for the next school year, starting August 2019.

**WHAT DO THE PROPOSED PLANS MEAN FOR FALMOUTH ELEMENTARY?** The two proposed plans are referred to as Plan A and Plan B. Both proposed plans include movement of special education programs throughout the county, and for Falmouth Elementary the proposals include the removal of our multiple disabilities program and the addition of an emotional and behavioral support program. Additionally, larger class sizes may result in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades given that Falmouth Elementary will retain Title I\* status - Title I\* requires no more than 24 students in K-3, therefore teacher position funding will go primarily to K-3. We will continue to have limited space for small group pull out, math or reading specialists, and FOCUS students as all classrooms will be used for K-5 classes. Additional classrooms could mean an earlier start to lunch and six day rotation for encore classes. There are other impacts for Falmouth Elementary; below highlights only a few of the impacts:

Plan A:

1. England Run North (single family homes) and Clearview Heights neighborhoods will be moved out of Falmouth Elementary. Clearview Heights has been districted for Falmouth Elementary since it's opening over 50 years ago.
2. Capacity is projected to increase to 86.67% in 2019-2020 and over 91% in 2025-2026.

Plan B:

1. Carriage Hills and Clearview Heights neighborhoods will be moved out of Falmouth Elementary. Clearview Heights has been districted for Falmouth Elementary since it's opening over 50 years ago.
2. Capacity is projected to increase to 89.23% in 2019-2020 and over 90% in 2025-2026.

Neither plan is particularly great for Falmouth Elementary – we will start 2019-2020 approaching 90% capacity

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?** Stay informed and be involved! Reach out to the Falmouth District School Board Member, Dr. Sarah Chase at [chasesd@staffordschools.net](mailto:chasesd@staffordschools.net), SCPS Superintendent, Dr. Scott Kizner at [kiznersr@staffordschools.net](mailto:kiznersr@staffordschools.net), and Falmouth District Supervisor, Ms. Meg Bohmke at [mbohmke@staffordcountyva.gov](mailto:mbohmke@staffordcountyva.gov) to share your questions and concerns. Attend one or more of the meetings listed below and speak at a School Board meeting to share your concerns.

January 23<sup>rd</sup> – SCPS Redistricting Town Hall Meeting, HH Poole Middle School, 7-8:30 pm

February 4<sup>th</sup> – Meeting with Dr. Sarah Chase and Ms. Meg Bohmke, Falmouth Elementary, 6:30 pm

February 12<sup>th</sup> – SCPS School Board Regular Meeting, public comment for 3 minutes each, School Board Chambers, 7pm

February 26<sup>th</sup> – SCPS School Board Regular Meeting, public comment for 3 minutes each, School Board Chambers, 7pm

**\*WHAT DOES TITLE I MEAN TO MY STUDENT & FALMOUTH?** Title I is a federal grant program designed to give educational assistance to students living in areas of high poverty to help ensure that all children meet challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards. Title I designation is based on the percentage of students at the school who qualify for free or reduced priced lunch. As a Title I school, Falmouth Elementary receives additional federal funding for additional resources to help ensure all students meet academic standards. While there may be challenges in a Title I school, all students benefit from the additional resources including staff, technology and training that comes with the Title I designation.