

Community Housing Development Updates

Dr. Kari McGann, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Dan Bland, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

May 2, 2022

The Superintendent's Ad Hoc Equity Committee has been meeting regularly to analyze the growing disparities in school enrollment and the lack of instructional space in some schools which inevitably leads to larger class sizes.

Growing disparities in school enrollment and the lack of instructional space in some schools may result in the inability to implement instructional programs using the same activities and materials.

The inability to implement instructional programs will result in a lack of equity in programs.



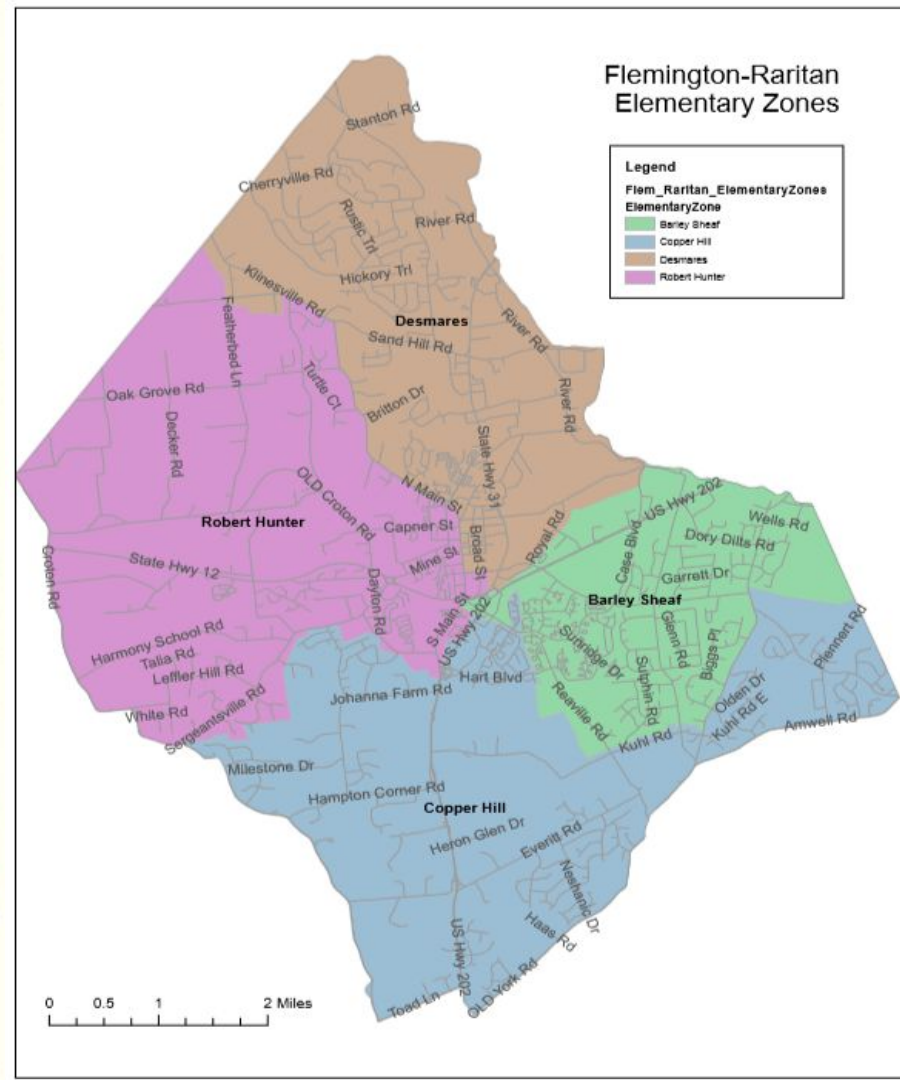
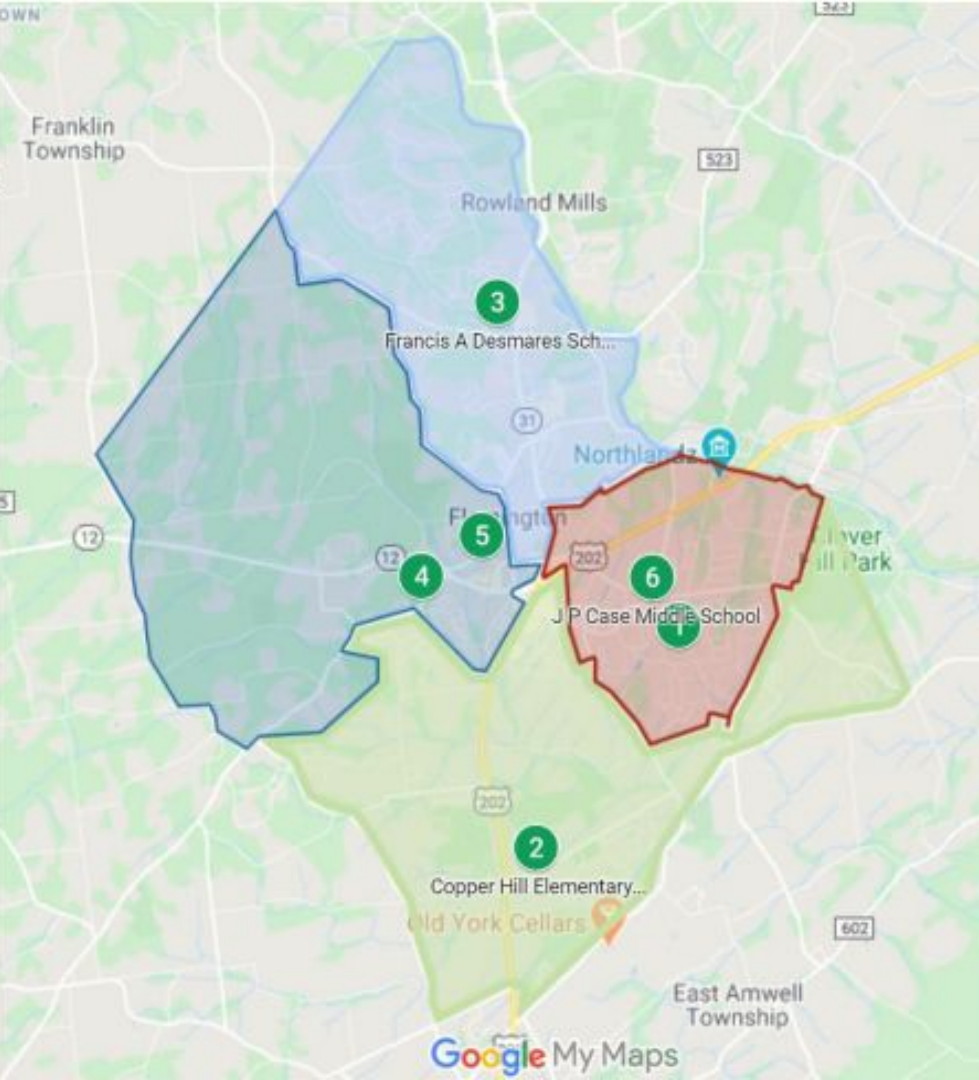
The Ad Hoc Committee is a diverse group of individuals representing many facets of our community.

The committee has representation from the Board of Education, Raritan Town Council, Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Administrators Association, PTO Presidents, parents, faculty members, building administrators, Flemington-Raritan Education Association Leadership, and District Diversity, Equity and Opportunity Coordinators.

The District's sincere appreciation to the members for their powerful thinking!

My appreciation to the Superintendent's Equity Ad Hoc Committee Members for their time and energy:

Jessica Alonso	Pamela Baker*
Hanan Attiyah	Amanda Fernandes
Kristen Boyce	Dan Bland
Karen Gabruk	Brad Currie
Yvonne Patel	Jesse Lockett
Ana Washington	Lindsay Shirvanian
Laura Hernandez	Lilian Colpas
Julie Bell	Murty Varanasi*
Lori Castronuovo	Megan Pacyna
John Giotis	Jessica Braynor
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Meredith Weil	Mark Masessa
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Dawn Hlavsá-Suk	
Katherine Rayburn	



The Superintendent's Ad Hoc Committee recommended redistricting to address growing disparities in enrollment and building capacity issues, especially at Francis A. Desmares Elementary School. The recommendations by the committee included the following:

- Address functional capacity issues especially at FAD;
- Review and address the functional capacity disparity between Copper Hill Elementary School and other elementary schools;
- Address special education disparity in buildings;
- Address and balance the percentage of economically disadvantaged student enrollment among schools; and
- Address and balance the percentage of English as a Second Language student enrollment among schools.

RARITAN TOWN SQUARE

18-22
Students

140 Total units

- 1 bedrooms = 62
- 2 bedrooms = 72
- 3 bedrooms = 6

Building E (134 Route 31)

- 4 floors residential
- 101 units

Building F (142 Route 31)

- 1st floor retail
- 2-4 floors residential
- 39 units



Building F Completed = August 2021
Building E Completion = February 2022

22

THE ENCLAVE

8-14
Students



200 units

- 1 bedroom = 55
- 2 bedrooms = 137
- 3 bedrooms = 8

Site work underway; unlikely to be occupied by June 2022.

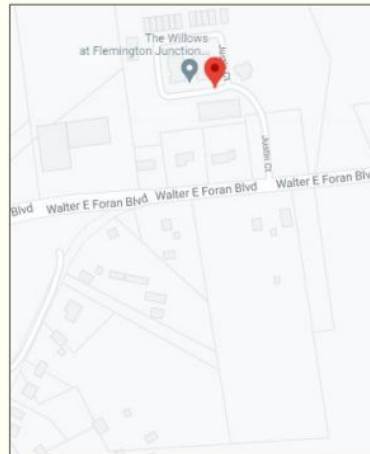


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WILLOWS SOUTH

48-52
Students

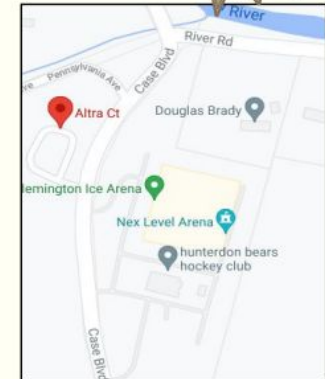
- 100 total units
- 9 buildings
 - 1 bedroom = 18
 - 2 bedroom = 57
 - 3 bedroom = 25
- Framing and sheathing currently in progress
- Date of occupancy unknown



HUNTERDON CREEKSIDE

4-6
Students

- 50 condos designated as affordable housing.
- Four buildings two streets
 - Altra Court – sold & occupied
 - Cain Court – sold & and soon occupied



All construction is anticipated to be completed by January 1, 2022.

Additional Developments we are watching closely:

COURTHOUSE SQUARE (UNION HOTEL)

1.



Total of 206 units

- Studio units = 6
- 1 bedroom/1 bath = 82
- 2 bedroom/2 bath = 125
- 2 bedroom Duplex = 9
- 5% or 14 units of affordable housing

Completion date unknown;
not likely before 2023

3.



MAIN STREET AT FLEMINGTON



Agway Property

Building 1 – 62 units on three floors

Building 2 – 38 units on two floors

55 one bedroom units
45 two bedroom units

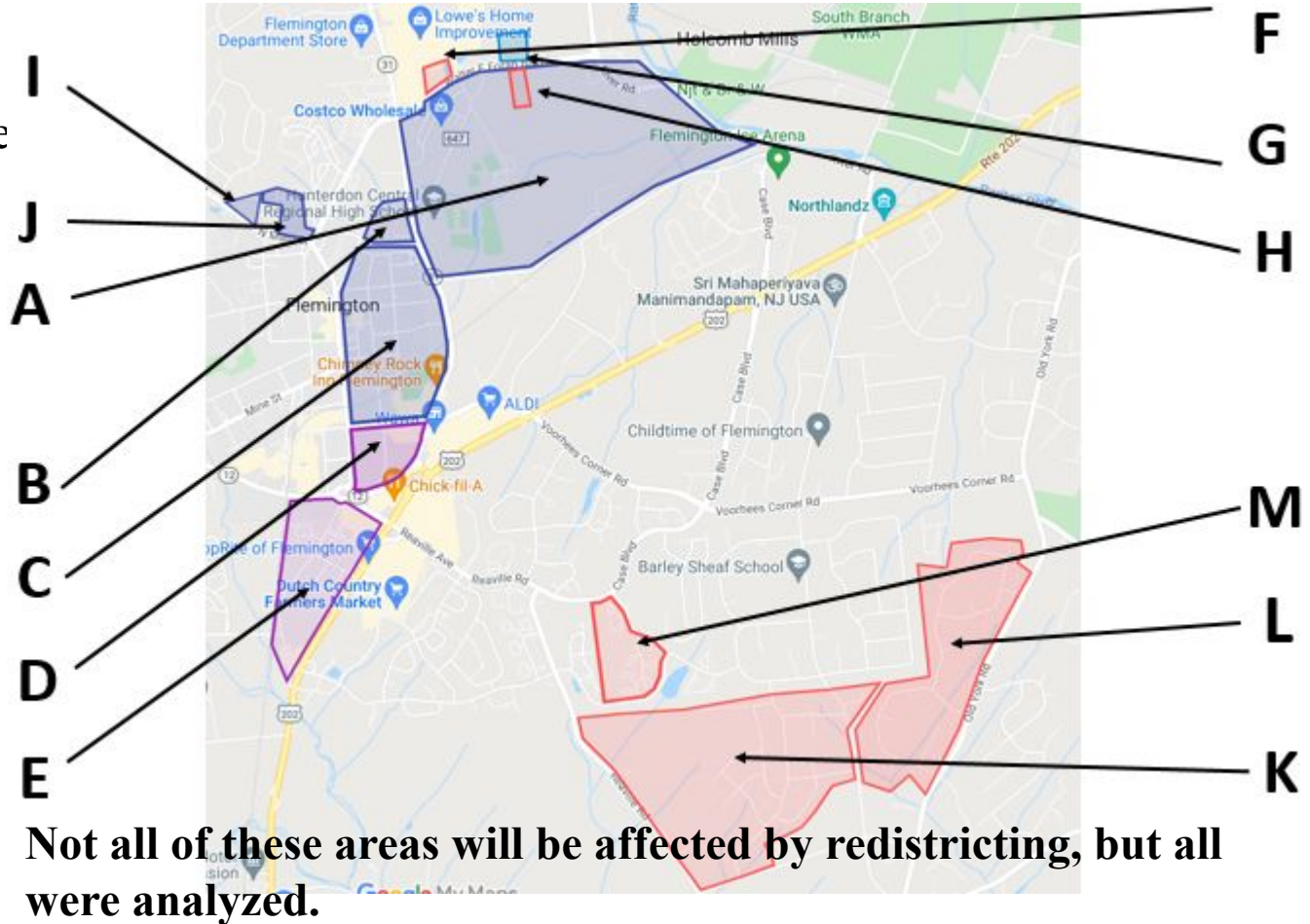
2.

Additional development:

4.

COSTCO, or Raritan Township 2.0

To address the recommendations by the committee, multiple areas were researched for possibilities for redistricting. A multi-year plan has been developed with the first transition in September, 2022 for the first year of redistricting. Long-range redistricting plans for years 2, 3, and 4 have been developed.



To Address Functional Capacity Issues- Year 1 Plans:

- To respond to the committee's recommendation, functional capacity issues, especially at FAD and CH will be addressed. All elementary schools will be affected by redistricting in September for the 2022-2023 school year.
 - Some elementary schools will be affected more than others, with Francis A. Desmares Elementary School and Copper Hill Elementary School being affected the greatest.
 - During the first two weeks in May, parents will be notified through phone calls and letters if their students are affected by redistricting.

To Address Special Education & ESL Disparity- Year 1 Plans:

- All elementary schools will be affected by the committee's recommendation to address the disproportionate percentage of English as a second language learners enrollment and special education disparity among elementary schools.
 - During the first two weeks in May parents will be notified through phone calls and letters if their children are affected by redistricting.

To Address Community Housing Developments- Year 2-4 Plans:

- Raritan 2.0 (Costco) community housing development has been addressed and factored into year 2 planning.
- Union Hotel area *and* Main Street at Flemington, *and* Liberty Village potential growth have been addressed and factored into years 3 and 4.

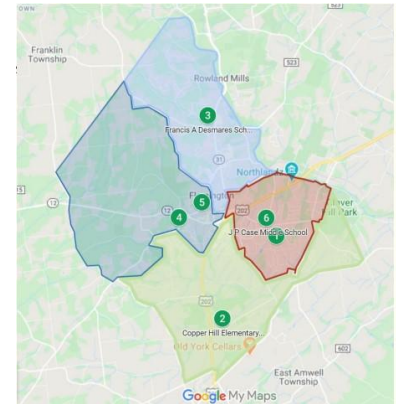


The committee participated in heavy lifting, diving deep in data on multiple evenings for hours at a time. The group analyzed carefully variables to drive toward previously established goals. They used data on housing developments, school enrollment, capacity percentages, and economically disadvantaged numbers to develop proposals. Proposals were then analyzed to provide strengths and challenges for each redistricting proposal.



The District will continue to provide the following:

- School and district newsletter information in the months preceding any redistricting;
- School-based parent “question and answer” programs;
- Assignment of small groups of redistricted students to the same new homerooms the upcoming fall;
- Involve staff from both schools in the placement of students;
- Discussion at Superintendent Talk-a-Latte Events
- Continued development of through the Superintendent’s Equity Ad Hoc Committee.



To keep the community advised of the new residential properties and adjustment the District must make, the [December](#) and [January](#) and [March](#) issues of the Community Newsletters featured information on enrollment trends and residential construction. [A link on the District's website](#) is also available to provide information.

Specific information will be shared with affected families in the beginning of May.



Community Housing Development Updates

Next Steps:

- Discussions with the transportation department are occurring tomorrow, May 3.
- Communication with Building Administrators
- Communication with the Superintendent's Ad Hoc Committee
- Communication with the Ad Hoc Committee
- Communication with affected families
- Communication with faculty and staff.



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