

December 2017- RM Cluster Report to MCCPTA Board

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The cluster met on Nov 21 to discuss RMES boundary study, BOE voted for option B, details and related documents are included in the RMES boundary information folder.

We also discussed next steps-

- a) Principal and staff selection process
- b) Establishing a PTA at RMES5,
- c) Continued advocacy for IB at ES5,
- d) Possibility of language instruction (Chinese) for all students and thus taking advantage of CI program
- e) Arranging trips to the new school for students from B6S, B5S, B7, RP2, RP6, B2, B3 and CI as well as CG3 to Beall
- f) Continued advocacy for modernization of Twinbrook ES
- g) Advocacy for continued support and resources for TES

Lessons learnt from the boundary study and suggestions for future studies-

- 1) PTA to conduct an in-depth survey, reach out to parents well in advance of the initiation of a BS process. RM had 650 responses-these numbers were considered insignificant by one BOE member!!
- 2) Conduct bi-lingual online and paper surveys since online survey reaches only a fraction of the community
- 3) Reach out to LSAAG (Latino student achievement action group), Asian American and African American student achievements group and NAACP parent representative. Insist on transparency in any communication with the groups and same attendance requirement as other committee members. During the RM boundary study-none of the afore mentioned individuals were present. The NAACP parent representative's opinion was not considered at the last stage of the process.
- 4) Role and participation of civic associations- MCPS is required to communicate with them at the start of the process and they are invited to the meetings.
- 5) Integrating programs into boundary study and early involvement with DLRP (many schools have one or more programs that could be moved), can these be moved -so as to keep neighborhood students?
- 6) BOE may be considering changes to the FAA-RA to include scholastic achievement solely based on test scores- are we on board with this?
- 7) Numbers, numbers and numbers along with DATA- know them and challenge any discrepancy early on.