# Harnett County School Redistricting Update

## Harnett County School Redistricting Update

*Thomas S. Frye*
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# Harnett County Schools
Office of Superintendent

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**Harnett County Board of Education Continues Work on Middle School Assignment Patterns**
*Proposed Options Available for Public Review and Hearing Scheduled*

On Monday, June 30, 2014, the Harnett County Board of Education held a work session to continue the school assignment planning process for middle schools. Having thoroughly reviewed the March 6, 2014 recommendation for middle school assignments as presented by the Community School Assignment Committee (SAPC), the Board made the following determinations:

- The Highland Middle School District was accepted by the Board on April 7, 2014 and will remain as recommended and presented by the SAPC.
- The most critical overcrowding situation is now at Harnett Central Middle School. An assignment plan that provides considerable relief at Harnett Central Middle School is the top priority.
- The recommendation of the SAPC to combine the Coats-Erwin Middle School and Dunn Middle School attendance area into a single attendance area with a sixth grade academy located at Dunn Middle School does not address the pressing overcrowding issue at Harnett Central Middle School. Additionally, this plan further underutilizes Dunn Middle School's capacity and puts Coats-Erwin Middle ($7^{th}$-$8^{th}$ configuration) over its capacity.
- Any middle school assignment changes with the exception of Highland Middle School will not go into effect until the 2015-2016 School Year.

After its evaluation of the recommended plan, the Board developed two potential options for middle school assignment planning (described below) and then asked Mike Miller with OrEd Laboratories to develop maps and facility utilization totals for both options. Mr. Miller has now developed the maps for the two options, and they are available for public review.

**Options**

**Option 1**: Create a $6^{th}$ grade center for Harnett Central Middle School students (potentially at the former Shawtown Primary School). This option also requires extending the Western Harnett Middle School attendance boundary into the existing Harnett Central Middle School attendance boundary. The Board asked the Superintendent's staff to evaluate the cost (rough estimate) and logistics of re-opening the former Shawtown School and updating the facility to accommodate sixth grade students. Under this option the Coats-Erwin Middle and Dunn Middle School assignment areas would remain as they are now - separate districts with each school serving students in grades 6-8.

**Option 2**: Extend the Western Harnett Middle School attendance boundaries to capture all Harnett Central Middle School students currently residing west of the Cape Fear River; Harnett Central Middle would remain a grades 6-8 school. Under this option the Coats-Erwin Middle and Dunn Middle School assignment areas would remain as they are now - separate districts with each school serving students in grades 6-8.

The Board of Education will have a public hearing on July 23, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. to provide the public an opportunity to respond to the two options prior to the Board making a final decision regarding the middle school assignment plan. The meeting/hearing will be held at the Lillington Education Complex, which is located at 900 South 11th Street in Lillington.

The maps of the two options requested by the Board of Education are posted on the school district's website (http://www.harnett.k12.nc.us) under the School Assignment Planning news item. Additionally, the maps are available for public inspection at the Board of Education office, which is located at 1008 South 11th Street in Lillington (Hours: Monday through Thursday – 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.).

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***HARNETT COUNTY SCHOOLS***
*OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT*

# NOTICE

## BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

**DATE:** **Wednesday, July 23, 2014**

**TIME:** **6:30 p.m.**

**PURPOSE:** **Public Hearing for Middle School Assignment Plan**
**Special Session/Work Session**

**LOCATION:** **Lillington Education Center**
**STAR Academy Cafeteria**
**900 South 11th Street**
**Lillington, NC 27546**

Thomas S. Frye

**Superintendent**

**Posted 07/10/2014 by T. Byrd**