

12-14-10 Board of Education Work Session

The Board of Education Work Session focused on *student assignment*, in a far ranging meeting that had Board members pouring over maps, questioning staff recommendations, and working to expand the number of reassignments for next year beyond the current moves included in the third year of the three-year assignment plan, possibly affecting more students and more schools.

Despite the [headline in the News & Observer](#) (“SE Raleigh students to stay put next year”), it was **not clear** that moves affecting Southeast Raleigh students and neighborhoods **will not** take place in the 2011-12 school year. Specifically, one move under consideration would reassign students who live close to Garner High but attend Middle Creek High to be reassigned to Garner High School. Board member John Tedesco has repeatedly pushed to have these nodes reassigned from Middle Creek to Garner, and he also has stated that Garner needs more magnet seats and is overcrowded. Garner HS currently has 39 mobile classrooms, including a mobile cafeteria to relieve lunch crowding. In order to make room for the reassigned Middle Creek students, create more magnet seats, and relieve overcrowding, more reassignments would be needed, and Mr. Tedesco has repeatedly proposed that nodes in southeast Raleigh be reassigned from Garner to Southeast Raleigh High School. Several nodes last year were reassigned from Garner to Southeast, and Mr. Tedesco has proposed additional reassignments this year. Board member Debra Goldman expressed a concern about students living near Garner High not being assigned to the school but she also restated a concern about moving other students out of their current assignments. Board member Deborah Prickett, throughout yesterday's meeting, continued to push for reconsideration of several reassignments affecting southeast Raleigh students, moving those students from suburban schools and back to downtown schools. Those moves would create overcrowding in downtown magnet schools and could reassign up to 6,000 students, including high school students. A story on yesterday's meeting from WRAL is [available online](#).

The next Board work session on Student Assignment will be at 11 am (time subject to change) on Tuesday, January 4, 2011.

Public hearings will be held in January:

Monday, January 10, 6 pm, Cary High School

Tuesday, January 11, 6 pm, Millbrook High School

Thursday, January 13, 6 pm, Heritage High School

Wednesday, January 19, 6 pm, Southeast Raleigh High School

Thursday, January 20, 6 pm, Garner High School

The Board is scheduled to take a final vote on Student Assignment for next year on Tuesday, February 1. The current Student Assignment proposal is available online <http://ap2008.wcpss.net/assignment-proposal/index.html>, and it is subject to change. Also, comments from the public are being accepted online at this time. All comments from the November community workshops are also [available on the WCPSS Web site](#).

Please Give WCPSS Input on next year's Budget: The school system is asking for community input into next year's budget; you can [submit budget comments online](#). The district faces a reduction of more than \$70 million next year, due to state budget cuts and reductions in federal funding as economic recovery/stimulus money phases out.

Magnet Parents: Want your student to remain at your magnet school? The deadline for completing intent forms to remain or leave a magnet school assignment is now **January 10, 2011**. [The form must be completed online](#).