Redistricting Forum #3
Walled Lake Western Media Center
Summary of
Comments, Questions & Concerns
December 5, 2011

1. There are 20 Schools of Choice students at Commerce Elementary. This parent believes the law reads that Schools of Choice students should be kept in the buildings they were accepted into. This parent is requesting the District look into the law regarding this. RESPONSE: Schools of Choice (SOC) students are accepted to the District. School vs. District on this specific issue.

2. There are 57 Transfer students at Pleasant Lake Elementary. This parent is wants to? RESPONSE: The Redistricting Committee is compiling several different plans. We will have a transfer process, as we have had in the past, and the District will accommodate as many transfer students as possible.

3. Hickory Woods Elementary parent acknowledged HWE students may need to switch. It’s a painful process and many various subdivisions may be switching.

4. A parent thanked the Committee for its work. “It’s a huge project.” Did I hear the current fifth-grade will attend the middle school they have been assigned to? RESPONSE: Yes, the current fifth-grade students will attend the school they have already been assigned to in the current feeder pattern.
5. A Chelsea Park parent noted there are 300 homes in this subdivision. The parent asked to please assign Chelsea Park Walnut Creek Middle School. **RESPONSE:** The Redistricting Committee is compiling several different plans. No decisions have been made to date.

6. Did I hear that School of Choice (SOC) students will be accommodated by Walled Lake Schools? **RESPONSE:** The vote was split by the Redistricting Committee.

7. Two different Pleasant Lake parents, who have five Schools of Choice students collectively, kindly requested that they remain at Pleasant Lake and that their five children remain together since they car-pool together.

8. A parent of a 7th-grade transfer student requested to remain at Walnut Creek Middle School and to keep her child at the school with the students he/she has been going to school with.

9. A Birkdale Pointe parent asked if there were current recommendations. The parent noted: There is a full bus from their sub that goes to Commerce Elementary. Please keep this neighborhood together at Commerce. **RESPONSE:** No there are 6 work groups and they are looking at the data and putting together different plans. The committee may put together 3-4 recommendations for the Board. Nothing has been preconceived.

10. Another Birkdale Pointe parent didn’t know about any of this. Never received anything. Don’t understand why given an opportunity to contribute. Selected the specific schools; that are why they built there. Not giving more information about it. **RESPONSE:** The District utilized building and
District newsletters, the website, cable, newspapers and School Messenger to send information to parents.

11. Two daughters SOC at Keith: How will it be decided who gets to stay? RESPONSE: These requests will be considered through a process after the new boundaries are selected. Up to 5 percent of school population can be SOC is the District policy.

12. In District transfer…please reconsider the “reset” button. The numbers are so few per grade. I would not have done it if I thought he would have to move.

13. Bought our house to go to Central. Talk about the feeder patterns. Some groups have identified feeder patterns. RESPONSE: With declining enrollment we may have space with the transfer process.

14. Board to reconsider the decision about 5th-graders. That decision may have been made because of scheduling. As a parent looking at this and I’m on the committee…..We had proposed that current 5th-graders stay at the middle school they are assigned to. Request that we get additional input from the community.

15. Schools of Choice at Keith…all of his needs have been met. Consider children of special needs; this school has gone above and beyond. Where do SOC stand? Are they considered after transfer students? RESPONSE: By Board policy, transfer students will be considered in a process similar to what has occurred previously in the District.

16. Decision on the 5th-graders…with younger siblings there is a possibility that siblings would be going to two different middle schools. Reconsider the decision on the 5th-graders.
17. Teacher in Farmington…we closed 4 schools…it’s a hard and painful process. I have 4 children in WLS…tear the band aid off….It’s just hard and painful. Speaking from experience, prefer that it be done. Let’s get past this.
18. Fifth and eighth graders…where will they go next year: **RESPONSE:** They will go to the schools they are already assigned to attend.
19. Although I feel for the parents whose schools are closing, we built in Birkdale Pointe for Commerce Elementary specifically. This is challenging. I feel like I’m not going to have a choice. **RESPONSE:** We will have a transfer process as usual and accommodate requests where there is space.
20. Committee’s thoughts on busing. At what point is a ride too long? We will be looking at this. **RESPONSE:** Although this is not the charge of the committee, is it in our parameters and we are looking at ‘reasonable’ bus rides.
21. In how many years will we be looking at middle and high school redistricting? **RESPONSE:** After the Elementary Redistricting process is complete. We will evaluate the feeder patterns and make a determination if there is a need for secondary redistricting. Secondary school enrollment is not declining at the same rate.
22. Are you looking at a Head Teacher for Keith Elementary since the enrollment has hit the contractual…600 students? **RESPONSE:** That decision is being handled within our Human Resource Department.
23. What parameters are guiding the Redistricting Committee conversations? **RESPONSE:** ALL of them are
being considered...difficult decisions...what should guide us? Why only the Committee voting on the Parameters?

24. Clarification …if the feeder patterns change at HS. 
RESPONSE: The Committee is looking at the redistricting of the elementary boundaries. They are cognizant of the feeder patterns as much as possible.

25. I have a fifth-grader. I found the District from out-of-the state. I’m impressed the curriculum the same in every building. I think about the District and if my child is in any WLCSD school, he/she will be getting a high quality education. I’m impressed that the Committee is trying to move neighborhoods together. Advocate for the District.

26. Parent asked that the feeder patterns be looked at simultaneously.

27. It seems we are spending a lot of time looking at transfer and SOC students. I want to go on the record: My sentiment is that if my child has to move schools as a result of either a transfer or SOC child going to my school; it is not fair.

28. The parents at Pleasant Lake have supported, contributed toward and paid for the Leader in Me program. If a child is moved; families who have supported this program may be without it. It is an important program and it is unique that Pleasant Lake has this program.

29. It’s not the building....the issue is the changing of schools. Liked the fact that the feeder pattern keeps children together. Want the kids to stay together through their school career. Maintain the small town atmosphere.

30. I understand this process is about building utilization; I’ve heard the District wants to operate at 93 percent.
RESPONSE: The District wants to be more efficient and operate more cost-effectively. The analysis of Plante Moran CRESA’s data shows us we can be more efficient.

31. Why are we not doing all the redistricting now?

RESPONSE: We have four large MS and three large high schools; we anticipate that there will be space at the secondary level.