



Special Committee on Redistricting

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To: Maura Leahy <mleahy@mansd.org>

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Dear Arthur, BOSC vice-chairman,

I am deeply chagrined by the assignments to the special committee on redistricting. As the Ward 12 representative, I volunteered for this committee, in writing, moments after it was announced. Northwest, housed in my ward, serves as the primary impetus for redistricting, and I have been vocal about the need to address the overcrowding there, as well as the issues with Parkside and West, to which children in my ward feed. I have brought ideas to Dr. Livingston in order to support the District's redistricting efforts, as well. I am also the Board member that brought up the idea that redistricting may not achieve the best educational goals if it is solely a matter of moving students around, as current proposals seem to try to do. I suggested that we look at our delivery systems for education, that we consider first what we want and need our schools to be, in terms of educational goals, before we decide how to package students in buildings. I suggested that conversations about K-8, middle school, junior high, 7-12, and other configurations should happen now, when we can readily effect any needed changes. I assume that my exclusion from the special committee on redistricting indicates that my idea was jettisoned without contemplation, even though two BOSC members directly indicated support and two others indicated interest when I first mentioned my idea last night. I had, however, still hoped to represent Northwest and the constituents of my ward on the committee.

Although I am disheartened that my idea was likely dismissed with my exclusion, I respect the Board members that have been named to the special committee. Less than three months into this term, however, every current Board member has been named to at least one special committee or is chairing a committee – or both, for the vast majority – except me. I am not on any of the special committees, and, after more than two years of service, which is more service than six members, I have never been a chair. I stand on my record of Board service, and despite the exclusions, I will continue to honor my obligation to the residents of Ward 12 and, in the fuller scheme, to the residents of our city.

Toward that end, I respectfully request that discussion of a plan for redistricting that I have crafted be put on the agenda for the first meeting of the special committee on redistricting.

Connie

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