

**IMPORTANT K-6 ELEMENTARY COMMUNICATION
FROM THE FARMINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Attention: June 3, 2024, 7:00 p.m., Board Meeting at FHS in the Library

This is an update to a May, 2024 communication to all families, faculty and staff regarding the work of the Elementary Ad Hoc Committee.

On May 13, 2024, the Farmington Board of Education met and reviewed the recommendations from the Elementary Ad Hoc Committee. You may view the **presentation** and **video** (begins at 19 minutes and 48 seconds) of that section of the meeting by clicking **here**.

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be **June 3, 2024**. During this meeting, the Board will further discuss and take possible action on a final decision related to the recommendation of the **Elementary Ad Hoc Committee**.

The work of the Elementary Ad Hoc Committee began in March 2023 with their final meeting occurring in late January 2024. **The purpose of the Elementary Ad Hoc Committee was to review elementary school enrollment projections, assess overall utilization of the elementary school facilities and to identify options that the district can implement to balance enrollment across facilities.**

These scenarios and options, including the Ad Hoc's recommended scenario (**Scenario 3, Option 3**), are available for viewing here: **Elementary Enrollment Ad Hoc meeting slides and/or video recordings from the meetings held on December 11, 2023 and January 22, 2024.**

Scenario 3, Option Three is defined as follows:

Effective in the 2025-2026 school year PreK programming shifts from Noah Wallace Elementary School to West Woods Upper Elementary School and also includes redistricting of designated streets/addresses from the East Farms Elementary School neighborhood zone to either the Noah Wallace Elementary neighborhood zone or the Union Elementary School neighborhood zone:

IMPORTANT NOTE: 2025-26 redistricted streets from Scenario 3, Option 3 are included in the Elementary Ad Hoc Q and A #4 below.

The Farmington Board of Education invites members of the public to attend a public meeting scheduled for **7:00 p.m. on June 3, 2024 at Farmington High School's Library**. All meeting minutes and recordings are available on the **Elementary Enrollment Ad Hoc Committee website**.

Sincerely,

The Farmington Board of Education

Elementary Ad Hoc Committee's Q&A:

1. Who were the members of the Elementary Ad Hoc Committee?

<u>Elementary Ad Hoc Committee Members:</u>
<u>Board of Education Liaisons:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Bill Beckert, Farmington Board of Education■ Sarah Healey, Farmington Board of Education (<i>Past Member-March 2023-December, 2023</i>)
<u>Farmington Public Schools Representatives:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Carolyn Fink, West District School Principal■ Scott Hurwitz, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations■ Sam Kilpatrick, Director of Facilities■ Laurie Singer, Director of Special Services (<i>Past Member-March 2023-June, 2023</i>)■ Seamus Cullinan, Director of Special Services (<i>New Member-July, 2023-Present</i>)
<u>Town of Farmington Representative:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Shannon Rutherford, Town Planner
<u>Community Representatives:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Sarah Burns, East Farms Elementary School Representative■ Tracy Smith, East Farms Elementary School Representative■ Jigesh Shah, Noah Wallace Elementary School Representative■ Kristin Perra, West District Elementary School Representative■ Diana Masulli, Union Elementary School Representative■ Heather Perin, Community Representative
<u>Ex-Officio Members:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Kathleen Greider, Superintendent of Schools■ Liz Fitzsimmons, Board of Education Chair (<i>Past Member-March 2023-December, 2023</i>)

2. What was the charge of the Elementary Ad Hoc Committee?

This was the charge of the Elementary Ad Hoc Committee approved by the Board of Education:

The work of the Elementary Ad Hoc will begin in March 2023, and recommendations will be brought forward to the Board by December 15, 2023. The purpose of the Elementary Ad Hoc Committee is to review enrollment projections, assess overall utilization of the elementary school facilities and to identify options that the district can implement to balance enrollment across facilities. The committee's goal will be to advise the Board of Education with recommendations to assist with balancing enrollment across facilities.

Therefore, the Board of Education charges the FPS Elementary Enrollment Ad Hoc to engage in a study of:

- Elementary (K-4) enrollment and projections (CES/SLAM will consult)
- Neighborhood districts
- School capacities and utilization by school
- Projected shifts in housing that would impact enrollment
- Other relevant information including state laws, history of district lines, and previous studies of enrollment in Farmington

At the conclusion of this study, the Ad Hoc Committee will provide up to three options with considerations for the Board by December 15, 2023 to address elementary enrollment and facility capacity and utilization K-4.

3. The charge speaks to a December, 2023 presentation to the Board of Education. Did that presentation occur?

No, the presentation was postponed until May 13, 2024 because the Elementary Ad Hoc Committee’s work required more time to meet all elements of the charge.

4. What is the Elementary Ad Hoc’s recommended Scenario 3, Option 3? What streets are proposed to be redistricted from East Farms Elementary School to another elementary school in the 2025-2026 school year outlined in the Ad Hoc’s recommended Scenario 3, Option 3?

ELEMENTARY AD HOC’S RECOMMENDED OPTION:
Scenario 3, Option 3 Redistricting-
 Shift Programs out of Elementary Schools by
 Shifting Pre-K to West Woods AND Redistrict

Scenario 3, Option 3: From East Farms Elementary School to Noah Wallace Elementary School Proposed Redistricted Streets (25-26 School Year)

Street Names Potentially Moving to Noah Wallace Elementary School in 25-26 School Year	Specific Home Numbers, Only If Applicable- Otherwise, It Includes ALL Residences On the Street
Bailey Court	
Brickyard Road	
Bridgewater Road	
Central Way	
Diamond Glen Road	
Durham Lane	
Eastview Drive	
Farmington Avenue	#979 to #1276
Farmington Ridge Drive	
Fenwick Drive	
Forest Park Drive	
Grandview Drive	
Greenbriar Drive	
Hampton Court	
Hatters Lane	
Hidden Spring Lane	

Hilltop Road	
Lakeshore Drive	
Lenola Drive	
Melrose Drive	
Mountain Road	#1 to #136
Poplar Hill Drive	
Reservoir Road	
Round Hill Road	
Tunxis Village	
Theodate Ln	
Walton Way	
Westerberg Drive	
Worthington Drive	

Scenario 3, Option 3: From East Farms Elementary School to Union Elementary School
Proposed Redistricted Streets (25-26 School Year)

Street Name Potentially Moving to Union Elementary School in 25-26 School Year	Specific Home Numbers, Only If Applicable- Otherwise, It Includes ALL Residences On the Street
Farmington Avenue (FUTURE) No current students	#1293 to #1371 (odd numbers only)

5. How do I access the Elementary Ad Hoc Committee’s meeting videos, presentations and website to learn more about their work?

All scenarios and options, including the Ad Hoc’s recommended option (Scenario 3, Option 3), are able to be viewed in advance of the May 13, 2024 Board of Education meeting by reviewing the **Elementary Enrollment Ad Hoc meeting slides and/or video recordings from the meetings held on December 11, 2023 and January 22, 2024.**

Click the following link to visit the Ad Hoc’s website: **Elementary Enrollment Ad Hoc Committee**

6. Can I access the May 13, 2024 Board Meeting’s Elementary Ad Hoc Committee’s presentation?

Yes, you are able to access May 13, 2024 Board meeting’s Elementary Ad Hoc Committee’s presentation by clicking the following **link**.

7. When will the Board make a final decision about the Elementary Ad Hoc’s recommendation?

The Farmington Board of Education plans to take action on the Elementary Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation at their June 3, 2024 Board of Education meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Farmington High School (Library).

8. What school year will the final decision of the Board of Education be implemented?

The implementation year of any decision is scheduled to occur at the commencement of the 2025-2026 school year.

9. Please be specific about what Scenario 3, Option 3 includes and what families should expect who live on the identified streets.

The recommended scenario calls for the following shifts to occur:

- Moving PreK programming currently happening at Noah Wallace to West Woods Upper Elementary starting in the 2025-26 school year.
- Redistricting students currently attending East Farms to Noah Wallace. Future housing currently located in the current East Farms attendance zone would also be redistricted to Union School. Please see the charts above in Question #4 for specific information on the street locations.

10. Is it possible to send current 2nd graders to Noah Wallace earlier as this would allow them to be at Noah Wallace for three years (Kindergarten, Third and Fourth Grades)?

No, we do not have capacity to move students from the designated redistricting roads to Noah Wallace early due to the number of classrooms available at Noah Wallace in the 2024-2025 school year. The PreK will not move out of Noah Wallace until 2024-2025 and therefore, we do not have classrooms available to expand enrollment.

11. Do we still have flexibility at West Woods to accommodate PreK for the foreseeable future?

Yes, for the foreseeable future we have capacity to accommodate four PreK classrooms from Noah Wallace to West Woods during the 2024-2025 school year. If West Woods requires additional space, one potential solution would be to relocate and/or close one or more of the PreK classrooms.

12. What is the number of students per grade level at East Farms who will be impacted by Scenario 3's redistricting plan?

Based on October 2023 enrollment, there are 13 kindergarteners, 12 1st graders, 20 2nd graders, 15 3rd graders, and 21 4th graders who live in the East Farms redistricted area.

13. How were the neighborhoods selected in Scenario 3?

Neighborhoods were selected for Scenario 3 based on their location, transportation routes, and size of the student population. Areas of East Farms that are closer to Noah Wallace were selected as opposed to areas of East Farms that are further away in order to minimize travel times. In addition, the neighborhoods that were selected were large enough to relieve enrollment pressures

at East Farms, but not too large to cause enrollment pressures elsewhere. In addition, splitting residential developments between multiple buildings was avoided in order to maintain neighborhood cohesion to the greatest extent possible.

14. Who pays for the PreK playground at West Woods?

EXCL runs the Collaborative Preschool Program in Farmington. Thus, EXCL will pay for the PreK playground at West Woods. This has always been the practice in Farmington when PreK classrooms were added to a school.

15. If Scenario 3 is approved, how long will the redistricting changes last?

The projections produced by our professional partners are expected to hold true for at least ten years. They contend that the highest level of confidence occurs within the first five years of their projection.

16. What is the implementation plan?

Given the complexities of implementing Scenario 3, we will put together an internal group that will meet regularly to plan for all elements of the plan (communication, facilities, budgeting, teaching and learning, programming, playground construction, etc.)

17. What about future housing developments?

We monitor new developments and report out on any proposed changes in our annual Enrollment Report that is presented to the Board of Education in October of each school year. Recommendations are made for both short and long term recommendations as new housing developments are proposed and implemented.

18. What is the racial breakdown by school for each elementary school in 2023-2024 and projected in 2025-2026 with the implementation of the Scenario 3 option?

Percent Minority Students, by School: Existing and Proposed Scenario 3

School	Existing	Scenario 3
East Farms	51.8%	47.0%
Noah Wallace	49.3%	54.4%
West District	36.6%	36.6%
Union	39.8%	39.8%
Total (K-4)	45.2%	45.2%

Source: Farmington Public Schools October 1st enrollment database

19. Can we allow families who are scheduled to move to Noah Wallace in the 2024-2025 school year move to Noah Wallace earlier?

Only on a limited case by case basis aligned to Board policy. The PreK classrooms will not move out of Noah Wallace until the 2024-2025 school year. Thus, there is not enough room to begin implementing Scenario 3 during the 2024-2025 school year.

20. Did the Elementary Ad Hoc have assistance from experts in the field of enrollment projects and addressing overcrowding in school districts?

Yes, the work of the Committee was supported by Cooperative Educational Services (CES), a state Regional Educational Service Center. CES was assisted by SLAM, an integrated architectural and consulting firm with experience in enrollment and demography. In partnership with the Ad Hoc Committee, our professional partners developed three viable scenarios with additional options within each scenario for the Board of Education to consider in order to address elementary enrollment and facility capacity and utilization K-4.