

Smoke Rise Boundary Proposal Meeting- January 23, 2025

Remaining Questions

1 If this is voted in, what is the strategy for communicating and making some of the decisions we've discussed here? [If the Board approves this proposal, we will notify families whose attendance boundaries have changed for the 2025-26 school year. The new school will provide opportunities for students and their families to visit before the school year begins.](#)

2. We definitely appreciate the term transition. However, providing equity for one group at the expense of another group is concerning. SR families will be further divided, esp with school choice. We just came out of a major leadership change and are still working through the culture and climate of that change, allowing the equity to happen holistically, which would be the best case scenario. Can we please address more opportunities for teacher/staff feedback for SR?

[All stakeholders had the opportunity to participate in the district process for reviewing options for the Idlewood rezoning and to offer feedback on the project and the proposed options. This includes staff at all impacted locations, Idlewood & Smoke Rise Elementary \(3 face-to-face sessions and 2 virtual options\).](#)

[If the Board approves the plan, then teachers and staff at both schools will have the opportunity to offer feedback on key details for successful transitions. For example, feedback from both school staffs will be needed to plan activities to ease transition. Those activities include welcoming teachers as one Smoke Rise faculty through orientation, room assignments, grade level teams, and of course team building so that staff will get to know each other and become colleagues. Teacher feedback will also be needed to create and provide opportunities for families and students to get to know each other and embrace each other as one Smoke Rise family.](#)

[Professional expertise from teachers will be called upon to ensure that students are scheduled accurately and supported both academically and socially. Teacher feedback will be valuable and very helpful throughout the process of ensuring that students are supported with their programs and needs.](#)

[In addition to school-based staff, the Area 2 team remains committed to supporting all families, students, and staff with any upcoming transition events.](#)

3. The Idlewood Sessions were NOT well advertised to the Smoke Rise Community at ALL - We get weekly emails and Dr. Horton's weekly "On the Road" with Horton - WHY hasn't this initiative been properly proactively communicated to ALL the parents at both Smoke Rise AND Idlewood - To state that it was posted on the District website is completely unacceptable!! - what parent has the time to constantly monitor the DCSD website! - This type of project should be communicated early and often!!! [In addition to being posted on the district website, the three Idlewood meetings were communicated in 5 editions of the district newsletter \(Hitting the Road with Horton\), advertised on DSTV, posted on district social media \(11/22, 11/25, 11/29, 12/2, 12/4, 12/5, 12/10, 12/13, 12/16, 1/7, and 1/8\) and also sent in 7 school messengers \(12/12, 12/16 and 1/8 were sent to Idlewood, Smoke Rise and Brockett parents and staff\).](#)

4. Will you take an assistant principal from Idlewood to give the students a familiar face when they arrive next year?

We will staff based on the number of scholars that attend. This includes staffing of administration.

5. Can the Idlewood Parents & Smoke Rise parents be included on the next Board Meeting Agenda to ensure that the BOE has the proper opportunity to hear from the effected stakeholders that they represent!

Currently, there are open slots available under the Community Input Session for the February 10, 2025 BOE meeting.

If the Idlewood and Smoke Rise parents would like to secure a slot on the Community Input Session of the Board Meeting Agenda, they can submit their requests to the following email address: CommunityInputSpeakerRequests@dekalbschoolsga.org

Additionally, someone is always in the front lobby until 5:30 pm on the day of the board meeting to take requests for those who want to sign up to speak (if the allotted slots are not filled).