

Memo to Oak Hill Residents

Subject: Rockwood School District Boundary Changes

Date: Jan. 24, 2004

From: Oak Hill Board of Trustees

The Rockwood School District is considering changes to its borders which will have a direct impact on the Oak Hill subdivision.

Under the current proposal, children living in Oak Hill will be removed from Woerther Elementary and assigned to Ballwin Elementary, effective this fall.

Woerther Elementary is .89 miles from the entrance to Oak Hill while Ballwin Elementary is 2.75 miles from Oak Hill. This proposal would mean children living in Oak Hill would no longer attend the nearest school to their neighborhood.

This proposal affects all Oak Hill residents, even those who do not have children attending Woerther. If enacted, this proposal could make selling homes in Oak Hill more difficult and could also negatively impact property values when you consider the considering the facts below:

- Potential home buyers in most cases prefer having access to the closest schools possible. Woerther Elementary is .89 miles from the entrance to Oak Hill while Ballwin Elementary is 2.75 miles from Oak Hill. This proposal would mean children living in Oak Hill would no longer attend the nearest school to their neighborhood.
- Woerther Elementary is rated as one of the top-performing elementary schools in the Rockwood School District. The school is an asset to our subdivision.
- Ballwin Elementary consistently scores below Woerther in Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) testing. Proficiency scores at Ballwin are significantly lower across most subjects when compared to Woerther's proficiency scores. This is of concern to parents in Oak Hill and **to prospective buyers of homes in Oak Hill.**
- Ballwin also does not currently offer many programs available at Woerther. Ballwin does not have complete full-time for physical education, art and music. This proposal discriminates (based on geography) against students living in Oak Hill by taking the full range of programs, curriculum and staff away from them and giving them to students who would be transferred to Woerther from other elementary schools.

This proposal is part of a district wide revision of school boundaries and currently includes not only Oak Hill, but Whispering Oaks and two other nearby subdivisions.

The rationale behind this move should be of great concern to all Oak Hill homeowners. Children of residents of one of the newer subdivisions located off Kiefer Creek Road have attended Westridge Elementary (north of Manchester Road) since their subdivision was built. These residents have reportedly hired legal counsel and are preparing to sue the school district to alter Woerther's borders to include their subdivision.

Currently, these residents have between 70 and 75 children attending Westridge who would attend Woerther if their efforts are successful. To make room for these student – most of whom live two to three miles from Woerther – Oak Hill students will be forced out of the school that has served the subdivision since its inception. These residents were aware of the schools their children would attend before they bought their homes and now expect Oak Hill residents to pay the price of the district's accommodating their needs.

In light of these facts and considerations, the Oak Hill Board of Trustees strongly opposes the current proposal, and requests you lend your support in defeating this proposal:

- A petition opposing this proposal will be circulated through the subdivision beginning Jan. 24.
- The Citizens Redistricting Committee meets at 7 p.m., every Tuesday at the Rockwood Administrative Annex, room A-11 to discuss these plans. We urge you to attend and voice your opposition to this proposal.
- The Rockwood Board of Education meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month (Feb. 5 and 19). The board is expected to vote on this proposal at the last meeting in February. Again, residents may address the board and we urge you to make your objections clear to the board.

As additional information becomes available, we will keep you abreast of further developments and efforts to oppose this change. In the meantime you may keep informed by visiting www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/

Sincerely,

The Oak Hill Board of Trustees

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