

River City Middle School Rezoning

Context and Proposed Timeline

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Venue: Richmond City School Board Meeting

Date: November 8, 2021

River City MS

River City Middle School was built for 1,500 students. The data below indicates the need to rezone several hundred students to Thomas C. Boushall MS and Lucille M. Brown MS. Please note that the current number of students physically attending River City MS is closer to 1,500 given that some students zoned for the school are attending Richmond Virtual Academy (RVA) or other speciality schools in the division.

Table 1: Number of Students Zoned for River City Middle School (Capacity: 1,500)

Grade	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
6	526	541	623	576
7	543	525	541	623
8	557	543	526	541
Total	1,626	1,609	1,690	1,740

Given the data above, the Administration is formally requesting the Board's approval to begin the rezoning process for River City Middle School with the goal of making final decisions by the April/May 2022 Board Meetings.

Source: Data is from RPS's Student Information System, Aspen, on October 12, 2021. Future enrollment projections are based on currently enrolled students and their school zone data given their current address.

Thomas C. Boushall MS

Table 2: Number of Students Zoned for Thomas C. Boushall MS (Capacity: 885)

Grade	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
6	181	184	196	181
7	163	181	184	196
8	166	163	181	184
Total	510	528	561	561

Source: Data is from RPS's Student Information System, Aspen, on October 12, 2021. Future enrollment projections are based on currently enrolled students and their school zone data given their current address.

Lucille M. Brown MS

Table 2: Number of Students Zoned for Lucille M. Brown Middle School (Capacity: 779)

Grade	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
6	139	129	137	158
7	148	139	129	137
8	151	148	139	129
Total	438	416	405	424

Note: Brown's current enrollment is 584 given the large number of open enrollment students attending school there.

Source: Data is from RPS's Student Information System, Aspen, on October 12, 2021. Future enrollment projections are based on currently enrolled students and their school zone data given their current address.

Proposed Rezoning Engagement Goals

- Community members living in the impacted communities receive timely and up-to-date information on the rezoning process.
- Community members living in the impacted communities understand the rezoning process and how it will impact their children.
- Community members living in the impacted communities know how to share their opinions and ideas with the School Board.
- Key community partners and leaders are engaged to encourage community participation.
- A diverse rezoning committee is formed to provide recommendations and feedback to the School Board based on community engagement.

Proposed Rezoning Engagement Strategies

- Rezoning Committee Work Sessions (~ 8) – These work sessions will be held twice a month. Their goal will be to explore options and craft recommendations for the School Board.
- Schools Board Public Hearings (2) – These in-person School Board meetings will be held on-site at Brown MS and Boushall MS in the winter/early spring to engage impacted community members.
- Community Meetings – A variety of meetings will be held in-person and virtually to engage diverse stakeholders in the rezoning process. These will include meetings co-facilitated by community partners.
- Community Walks (20) and Community Corners (15) – These are strategic walks and strategic presence at community-based organizations in neighborhoods impacted by rezoning to share information with families and community members.
- Home Visits (100) – RPS engagement staff will identify specific families impacted by rezoning and conduct socially-distanced visits to their homes to provide information and get feedback on rezoning.
- Arrival/Dismissal Engagement (Ongoing) – Weekly presence at impacted schools to provide information.
- Communication Platforms – All information will be provided in English and Spanish for all the activities above and through the following platforms: RPS Direct, Remind app, RPS website and social media platforms, RPS Live! and ¡RPS en Vivo!; and all media channels (radio, TV, print).

Proposed Rezoning Committee

- The Rezoning Committee will meet regularly to discuss rezoning plans and community feedback, and ultimately make recommendations to the School Board.
- Recruitment will focus on of a diverse group of community members who will be impacted by the rezoning process.
- The application to serve on the committee will launch on Tuesday, November 9, and closes on November 28. Committee members will be selected and notified the week of November 29th.
- The committee will have a kick off meeting in December and then meet at least twice a month throughout the engagement period. Meetings will be a combination of virtual and in-person.
- The committee will be chaired by Luke Hostetter (Director of Strategic Planning) and Erin Brown (Director of Family and Community Engagement), and will include:
 - 2 community members
 - 2 parents/caregivers
 - 2 students
 - 2 teachers
 - A representative from the Transportation Department
 - The principals (or designees) from impacted schools
 - The School Board Members from the 8th and 9th Districts

Proposed Rezoning Calendar

November 8	Rezoning Engagement Plan shared with Board
November 9	Rezoning Committee application launches
November 28	Rezoning Committee application closes
Week of November 29	Notification of Rezoning Committee Selection
December	Rezoning Committee Work Session
December	(1-2) Community Meetings
January	(2) Rezoning Committee Work Sessions
January	(3) Community Meetings Community Walks & Home Visits
February	(2) Rezoning Committee Work Sessions
February	(3) Community Meetings Community Walks & Home Visits
February	School Board Public Hearing #1 (@Boushall MS)
March	(2) Rezoning Committee Work Sessions

March	(3) Community Meetings Community Walks & Home Visits
March	School Board Public Hearing #2 (@ Brown MS)
April	Rezoning Committee Work Session
Board Meetings April/May	Rezoning Committee presents recommendations to School Board; School Board votes to approve new zones