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School moves approved

Plan's been modified since first proposed

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The Campbell County School Board approved by 4-1 a redistricting plan recently modified by Superintendent Anthony Strong.

The plan will move about 600 students to new schools. About 80 parents attended the meeting Monday at the Reiley Elementary School gym.

"It's never easy when you're moving students - drawing a line," Strong said. "We gave parents and families a choice. They have options."

The change is needed to fill the new Crossroads Elementary that will replace Highland Heights Elementary.

The original plan provoked parents. It used U.S. 27 as a dividing line determining who would attend which school. Children in the middle section of the county who lived to the west of U.S. 27 would go to Cline Elementary. Those on the east - even those who lived within walking distance of Cline - would attend the new Crossroads Elementary.

"After looking at and listening to the community, there were a few issues that bore adjustments to the plan," Strong said.

Under the new plan, 71 of the students would have been reassigned to their third elementary school. To prevent this, Campbell Ridge Elementary will take children that live on streets entering Poplar Ridge Road on the north side between U.S. 27 and the AA Highway.

To address the concern that students who live in Alexandria would be attending four schools, now students living west of U.S. 27 between Breckenridge and Panorama Drive will attend Campbell Ridge Elementary.

If the two changes don't address a specific concern, the revised plan allows parents of current K-4 students to apply for a waiver to attend their current school. The family, however, would be responsible for transportation. Waiver forms can be picked up at the district's main office at 101 Orchard Lane and are due by Jan. 31.

Before the vote, several parents expressed appreciation to the board for the changes. "They are more than fair, and you've met us more than halfway," Dan Reynolds said.

Board member Richard Mason voted against the plan.

His main objection was that Cline Elementary is not within the district it serves.

"To me, it doesn't make sense. It's not reasonable to expect that the kids attend the closest school, but it should be part of the neighborhood," Mason said.

Angela Sharp recently bought a home near Cline, which her two children attend.

Even though they will be redistricted to Crossroads Elementary, she isn't bothered by the waiver process.

"I'm satisfied," she said. "I appreciate their efforts, but economically, it doesn't make sense to pay for gas to bus kids down the road past Cline to Crossroads."

Strong said he hoped that the plan would solve districting problems for the next five to 10 years. He is concerned about the effects that development in the southern part of the county will have on the schools.

"Growth will come and quite substantially," he said.

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