

David Yoke (DEPT OF FACILITIES & OPERATION)

From: Daniel Drake (DEPT OF FACILITIES & OPERATION)
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2018 3:51 PM
To: Hans Williams (DEPT OF FACILITIES & OPERATION); David Yoke (DEPT OF FACILITIES & OPERATION); Giovanni Marrero (DEPT OF FACILITIES & OPERATION)
Subject: Fw: Concern regarding John Lewis ES redistricting
Attachments: jl-es-opt2-r2-min.pdf; jl-es-opt1-r2-min.pdf

FYI...please provide any feedback on this. Also please add to the official public comment.

Daniel E Drake, PE
Interim Chief Operations Officer (COO)
DeKalb County School District
1780 Montreal Rd
Tucker, Georgia 30084
678-676-1332 (telephone) 678-676-1469 (fax)
daniel_drake@dekalbschoolsga.org

From: Scott E. Zweigel <sez@phrd.com>
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2018 3:34 PM
To: Marshall Orson (School Board Members)
Cc: R. Stephen Green (Superintendent's Office); Daniel Drake (DEPT OF FACILITIES & OPERATION)
Subject: RE: Concern regarding John Lewis ES redistricting

Mr. Orson,

Thank you very much for passing this along and for your quick response. Thank you also for looping Dr. Green and Mr. Drake onto this email chain. I've attached a low-tech version of what I was thinking in item 5 below. Specifically, I've added some comments/annotations to the PDFs available online with the two options. If Option 2 was selected, there are 15 students in Brookhaven Renaissance that I am suggesting stay in Ashford Park. That number could be offset by including the Tanglewood Circle/Clairmont Terrace neighborhood that is included in the group moving in Option 1, but not Option 2. If Option 1 was selected, there are only 25 students in the Ashford Park neighborhood on Bamby/Carlton/Skyland corridor that I'm advocating remain in Ashford Park ES (or only 16 if you leave just S. Bamby, Carlton and Skyland in the Ashford Park ES zone). With either option, there are ways to easily offset keeping the low number (15 or 25/16) in Ashford Park ES that are currently part of the Ashford Park ES community.

To that end, item 1 below is my primary concern. The traffic/safety impacts of Option 1 cannot be overstated. There are two main avenues that people use to get to Ashford Park: 1) Caldwell on the north side and 2) S. Bamby/Skyland on the south side. If Option 1 was selected, it would create a traffic/safety nightmare for our pocket of the Ashford Park neighborhood.

Thanks again for hearing me out on this. I know there are many others within my neighborhood that feel the

same way that I do. I hope they will all comment online so that you can see the impact and I will encourage them to do so.

Have a great weekend.

Best,
Scott

Scott E. Zweigel
Partner
Parker, Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs LLP
303 Peachtree Street NE
Suite 3600
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
(404) 420-4338 direct dial
(678) 533-7803 fax
sez@phrd.com

From: Marshall Orson (School Board Members) [mailto:marshall_orson@dekalbschoolsga.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2018 1:45 PM
To: Scott E. Zweigel
Cc: R. Stephen Green (Superintendent's Office); Daniel Drake (DEPT OF FACILITIES & OPERATION)
Subject: Re: Concern regarding John Lewis ES redistricting

Scott,

Thank you for taking the time to share your comments. In light of the limitations with the on-line form, I am taking the liberty to share them with the Administration so they can be included with other responses. I think it could be constructive to also share a visual of your model including what you believe the numbers would be if your suggestions were adopted.

Regards.

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From: Scott E. Zweigel <sez@phrd.com>
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2018 1:31:10 PM
To: Marshall Orson (School Board Members)
Subject: Concern regarding John Lewis ES redistricting

Mr. Orson,

Thank you for your representation and your assistance with the redistricting project. I wanted to make a few comments directly to you, as the online survey didn't allow enough space and I think these issues are extremely important and warrant attention. Specifically, I am very concerned about a particular piece of Option 1 that was presented -- the removal of portions of the Ashford Park neighborhood north of Dresden from the Ashford Park Elementary School and Chamblee cluster. To be transparent, my household would be negatively impacted by "Option 1": we moved to South Bamby a few years ago specifically so that our children could attend Ashford Park, Chamblee Middle and Chamblee

High. The main problem with Option 1 is that S Bamby, Carton and Skyland, which are in the Ashford Park neighborhood, would be ripped from Ashford Park. This causes a few issues. Some more specific comments and concerns are outlined below:

- 1) Having children walk across Dresden to get to John Lewis would be extremely dangerous. Not only are there no sidewalks on most of these streets, but if Option 1 is accepted, there will be heavy traffic going towards Ashford Park down S. Bamby. Indeed, the Brookhaven Renaissance neighborhood in option 1 would have to drive down South Bamby to get to Ashford Park. If we are moved to John Lewis, I will be very nervous about my children given the traffic. If it would be helpful, I can video the heavy traffic down S. Bamby during carpool time so that you could see that S. Bamby is a major artery for residents of Drew Valley, Brookhaven Renaissance, houses on Dresden, and other neighborhoods to get to Ashford Park ES. It does not make sense, and would be a huge problem and potential liability for DeKalb, to move these streets outside of the Ashford Park zone. These traffic and safety concerns are my most significant concerns with the “geographic proximity” model and believe they should be given heavy consideration.
- 2) Even though S. Bamby, Carlton and Skyland north of Dresden are in close proximity to John Lewis ES, they are also very close to Ashford Park ES (all less than a mile and some closer to .5 a mile). Although the FAQs state that those within walking distance are least likely to be redistricted, we are in walking distance of both schools. Also, the Brookhaven Renaissance neighborhood, which is on the same side of Dresden as John Lewis, for some reason is not redistricted in option 1, but is in option 2. Given the community ties, it makes most sense to me to keep the streets north of Dresden in the Ashford Park neighborhood (S. Bamby, Carlton and Skyland) in Ashford Park AND to keep Brookhaven Renaissance in Ashford Park.
- 3) Option 1 would result in incomprehensible split feeders and a much longer commute for students on Bamby/Carlton/Skyland in Middle School and High School. It would be a huge inconvenience and result in strange and unnecessary attendance zones to move streets within the Ashford Park neighborhood outside of the Chamblee cluster.
- 4) Many neighbors have younger siblings who do not attend school yet, but will attend DeKalb Schools. If moved out of Ashford Park, the older “school choice” siblings would be going to different schools than their younger siblings and wouldn’t have the same German Immersion options, which is problematic for a number of reasons.
- 5) There are many ways to address these issues. In the public commenting portion of the redistricting meeting, Montclair ES parents advocated hard to send their kids to John Lewis, which was included in Option 1, but less so in Option 2. To help the numbers while leaving the AP neighborhood intact, it would make sense to include additional students from the neighborhoods around Plaster Road to go to John Lewis without redistricting streets within the Ashford Park neighborhood. This would address the overcrowding issues at other schools and remedy the concerns addressed herein (including the traffic/safety issues). I would be happy to discuss specific numbers and ideas that I think would lead to the best of all worlds for the families of Montclair and Ashford Park.

- 6) Option 1 ignores the overwhelming number of comments in Meeting 1 (on October 2, 2018) to keep the Ashford Park community together. Streets within the Ashford Park neighborhood should go to the Ashford Park schools and school zones.
- 7) It would not make a large impact on numbers to keep the streets in the Ashford Park neighborhood going to Ashford Park ES.
- 8) Adding the 40 students in zone I (Option 2) and zone H (Option 1) to John Lewis would also address these concerns and result in better numbers. The apartments in those cluster zones are very close in geographic proximity to Cross Keys (a lot closer than Bamby, Skyland and Carlton).
- 9) The FAQs suggested there would be a third option. Why were only 2 presented?
- 10) In short, Option 1 ignores most of the secondary criteria for the residents of S. Bamby, Carlton and Skyland (safety and traffic patterns, balancing of special programs, school feeder, intact neighborhoods, and efficient/economical operations) and I am strongly against moving these streets from Ashford Park/Chamblee.
- 11) Ideally, a combination of options 1 and 2, with the portions of the Ashford Park neighborhood that are north of Dresden (S Bamby, Carton and Skyland) are not moved from Ashford Park Elementary would be best, but I am very strongly against (as are all of my neighbors) removing S. Bamby, Carlton and Skyland from Ashford Park ES and the Chamblee cluster.

Thank you for reading and thank you for your time.

Best regards,
Scott

Scott E. Zweigel [Bio](#) | [vCard](#)
Partner

Parker, Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs LLP
303 Peachtree St. NE, Suite 3600
Atlanta, GA 30308
Direct: (404) 420-4338
Fax: (678) 533-7803

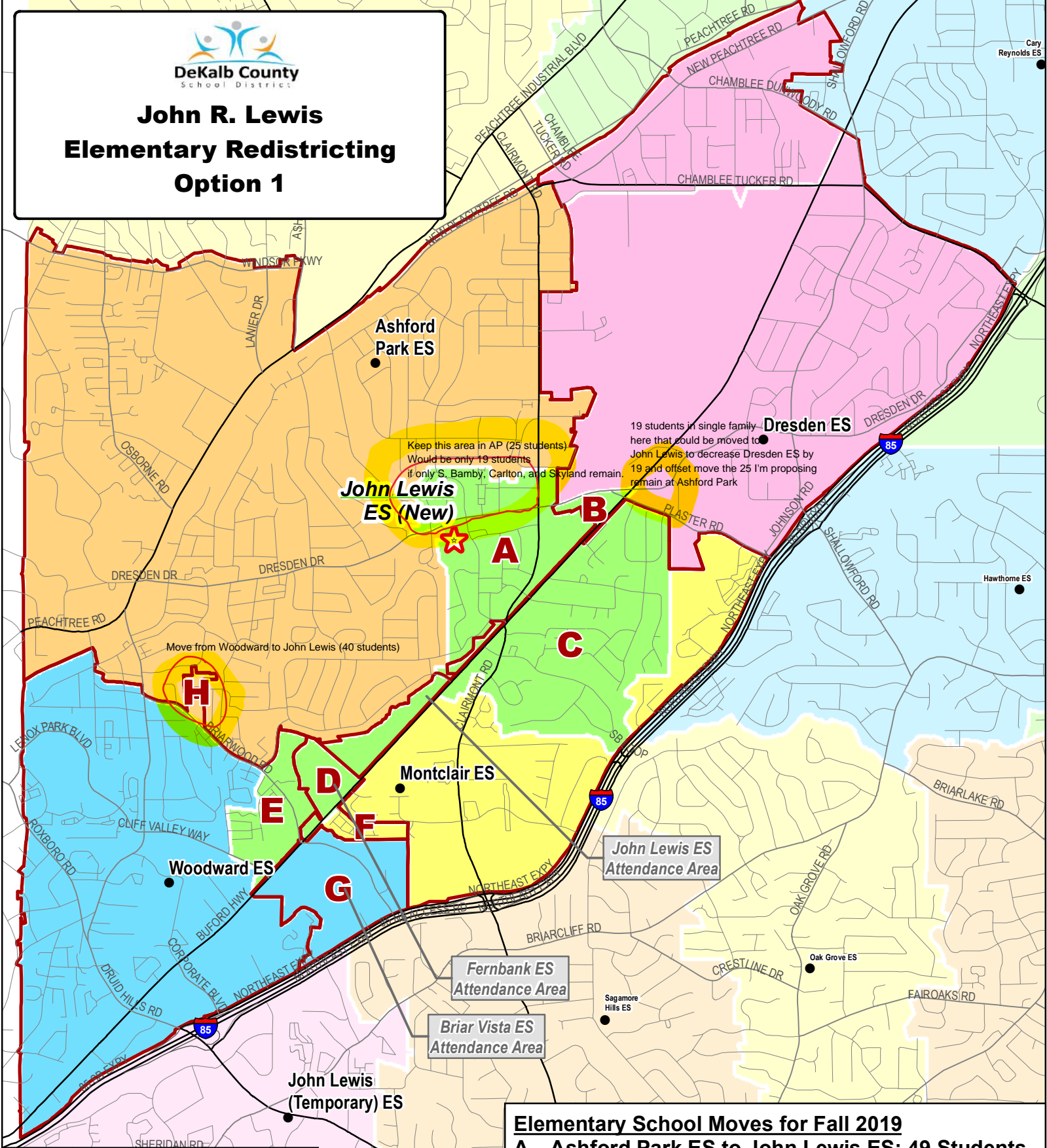
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John R. Lewis Elementary Redistricting Option 1



Legend

- New John R. Lewis Facility
- Schools
- Existing Attendance Areas
- Proposed Elementary Attendance Areas

10/18/2018 - 4:45:27 PM

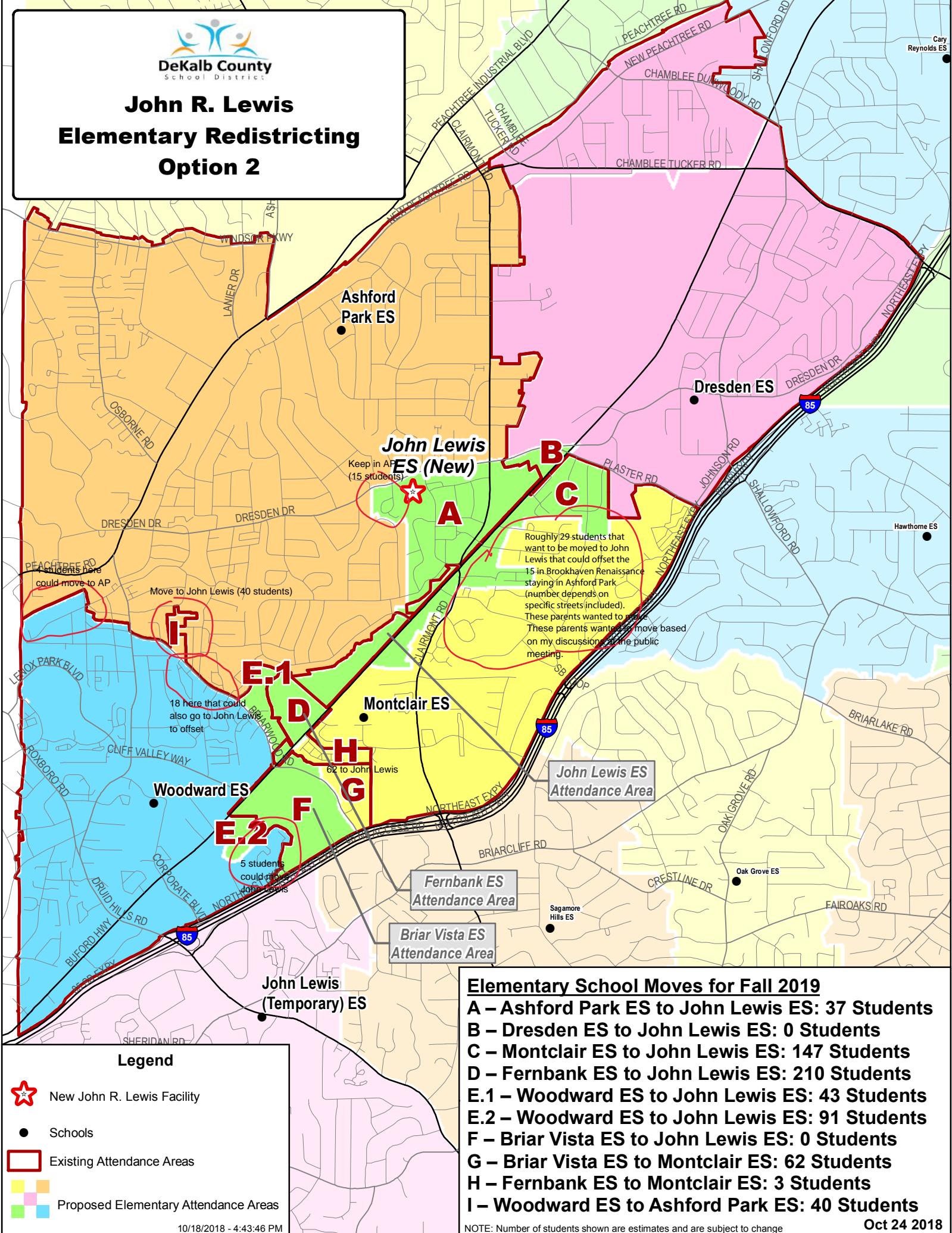
Elementary School Moves for Fall 2019

- A** – Ashford Park ES to John Lewis ES: 49 Students
- B** – Dresden ES to John Lewis ES: 0 Students
- C** – Montclair ES to John Lewis ES: 93 Students
- D** – Fernbank ES to John Lewis ES: 210 Students
- E** – Woodward ES to John Lewis ES: 178 Students
- F** – Fernbank ES to Montclair ES: 3 Students
- G** – Briar Vista ES to Woodward ES: 62 Students
- H** – Woodward ES to Ashford Park ES: 40 Students

NOTE: Number of students shown are estimates and are subject to change

Oct 24 2018

John R. Lewis Elementary Redistricting Option 2



Legend

- New John R. Lewis Facility
- Schools
- Existing Attendance Areas
- Proposed Elementary Attendance Areas

Elementary School Moves for Fall 2019

- A – Ashford Park ES to John Lewis ES: 37 Students**
- B – Dresden ES to John Lewis ES: 0 Students**
- C – Montclair ES to John Lewis ES: 147 Students**
- D – Fernbank ES to John Lewis ES: 210 Students**
- E.1 – Woodward ES to John Lewis ES: 43 Students**
- E.2 – Woodward ES to John Lewis ES: 91 Students**
- F – Briar Vista ES to John Lewis ES: 0 Students**
- G – Briar Vista ES to Montclair ES: 62 Students**
- H – Fernbank ES to Montclair ES: 3 Students**
- I – Woodward ES to Ashford Park ES: 40 Students**