

Redistricting Public Hearing
December 8, 2016
Jessica Buchanan

Thank you for the opportunity to speak [tonight](#). My name is Jessica Buchanan & I am a resident of valley Drive & a parent of a GMES student - a current kindergartner & a future GM Dragon in 2018. The residents of Valley Drive have hosted a Labor Day picnic for over 30 years.

I am concerned about the current proposals that use Valley Drive as a border street between PB's 8 & 72. In these maps, our street is being split down the middle between the east and west sides.

Each proposed map the redistricting consultants have produced will send the east side of the street to GMES, while sending those of us on the west side to either Cbes or Dmes. I am asking for your help [today](#) to keep our close knit neighborhood street united in one elementary school - GMES, where all of our children walk to & currently attend.

The blocks of valley drive homes from W Braddock to Allison, form a neighborhood that would be eviscerated by this convenient- to - the - consultants arbitrary line that splits us in two. It destroys the network of friends parents & our children have made by walking to & attending GMES. The maps current border would leave out 8-10 children on our street, which does affect the capacity issue on a large or worthwhile scale.

I urge you to think of the hearts of your constituents and the logic of splitting off a part of the community by shuttling neighbors on one side of the street to one school across town while those friends across the street walk to another. Please do not make our neighbors be bussed to a school that our children are not familiar with when can easily walk to a school 6 blocks away.

Thank you.