



Amherst County Public Schools

Every Child Every Day

To: Dr. Dana Norman

From: Brendon Albon

Date: APRIL 5TH , 2016

Subject: Implications for Proposed Magnet School at Pleasant View Elementary

TRANSPORTATION IMPLICATIONS

Below are the options for transporting the elementary Talented and Gifted Students to a proposed ACPS magnet gifted school at Pleasant View Elementary

Option 1 - New routes from all areas

For the school division to provide transportation from homes to Pleasant View for all 59 currently identified TAG students would require the addition of five or six additional buses to the ACPS fleet. This is not possible under the current economic environment in the county.

Option 2 – Relay routes from base schools

Under this option, students would ride buses from their home to their “base school”. Once arriving there, they would board a second bus that would transfer them to Pleasant View. The county would need to assign two buses to pick up from multiple schools en route to PVES.

Under this option, students on the Madison Heights, Amelon & Elon bus would spend up to 1hr55min in transit, each way. Students on the Central, Amherst Elementary & Temperance bus would spend up to 2hr18min in transit, each way.

Option 3 – Parent transportation to designated pickup points

Under this option, the county would identify two pickup points, one in Madison Heights and the other in the Town of Amherst, where parents will transport their children and they would ride a bus for about 45 minutes.

Option 4 – Parental transportation

Under this option, parents would transport their own children to and from Pleasant View, each day. For this option to be viable, the county would need to survey parents desire to do so and commitment to maintain the viability of a TAG magnet school at PVES.

Caveat

Under all options, it needs to be noted that of the current population of 74 elementary TAG students, 9 attend Temperance Elementary School. The creation of a TAG magnet school would thus remove up to 9 of the 82 Temperance students. Therefore, such a program might create similar problem to the Temperance school community.

INSTRUCTIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Option 2 would necessitate shortening the school day for those students to 5hr15, which would put Amherst County Public Schools in violation of the Virginia Standards of Accreditation.

Professional development and curriculum creation will need to occur to assure a differentiated instructional model to suit the needs of these students.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

Due to current personnel allocations and endorsements, under all options, students would not be guaranteed access to teachers already endorsed in Gifted and Talented Education.