

Board of Education Mary Gebara President, 2022-2023	Okemos Public Schools <a href="mailto:board@okemosk12.net">board@okemosk12.net</a> <a href="http://okemosk12.net">http://okemosk12.net</a>	4406 Okemos Road Okemos, Michigan 48864 Phone: 517-706-5010
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*This agenda is for general informational purposes only. Based on board policy, the board of education may revise this agenda and may take up other issues at the meeting.*

**6:00 PM**

**MEETING AGENDA  
Wednesday, January 10, 2024**

**OHS Library**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Tom Buffett, Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn, Andrew Phelps and Jayme Taylor

**WELCOME AND MEETING FORMAT**

Welcome to this special meeting of the Okemos Board of Education held in public for the purpose of conducting the business of the school board.

**There is one opportunity for public comment:** Citizens who wish to address agenda or non-agenda items will have an opportunity at the end of the meeting. In-person individuals who wish to address the board must complete a blue form, located with the agendas near the room entrance, and present it to the board's secretary prior to the start of the agenda item.

At the appropriate point in the agenda, the board president will call upon individuals who have submitted a blue card for their comments.

**WORK SESSION/COMMUNITY FORUM**

The board will engage with the community in a work session for the purpose of discussing the proposed Hiawatha car line and bus loop redesign. The following format will be followed:

- Listening Breakouts
- Break
- Board Summary and Discussion

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

At this time in the meeting, citizens have an opportunity to address the board regarding any item(s) of interest. Individual comments at this time will be limited to three minutes but may be extended at the discretion of the board president. A designated timekeeper will communicate to the individual who is addressing the board at three minutes. The board highly values public comment; however, our meeting format does not allow the board to engage in conversation with speakers. Questions or concerns may be assigned for follow-up by the board or the administration at a later date.

**ADJOURN**

*Special Meeting*

# BOARD WORK SESSION

COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSION

2022 Bond Program - Hiawatha Elementary  
Safety Improvements - Student Drop Off / Bus Loop

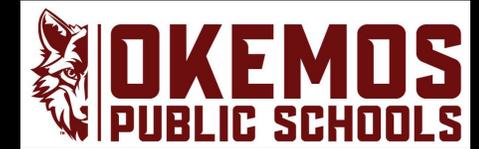
January 10, 2024

TowerPinkster  
Architecture · Engineering · Interiors

CHRISTMAN  
BUILDING SINCE 1894

VERIDUS  
GROUP

# Summary of Meeting (Tentative)



TIME	AGENDA ITEM
6:00 pm	Normal Business
6:15 ish	Work Session Begins
6:30 - 7:00 pm	Listening Breakouts (30-45 minutes)
7:00 - 7:15 pm	Break
7:15 -7:45 pm	Board Summary and Discussion
7:45 pm	Public Comment



## Work Session Details

- Introductions
- Meeting Norms
- Existing Conditions, Redesign Goals
- Design Iterations
- Community Listening Session, Q&A
- Board Summary and Discussion
- Public Comments
- Next Steps





## Okemos Administration

John Hood - Superintendent  
Liz Lentz - Executive Dir. of Finance  
Stacy Bailey - Assist. Superintendent  
Katie Diehl - Dir. Safety and Security  
Corrinne Karpinski - Dir. Transportation  
Joseph Corr - Principal, Hiawatha

## TowerPinkster

Ed Talaga - Senior Project Manager  
Andrew Howard - Project Manager  
Alex Phelan (H&S) - Civil Engineer  
Matt Hull - Landscape Architect

## Okemos Board of Education

Mary Gebara  
Melanie Lynn  
Andy Phelps  
Katie Cavanaugh  
Jaimie Taylor  
Tom Buffett  
Shulawn Doxie

## Veridus Group

Landon Martin - Project Executive  
Tim Jensen - Project Principal





## Meridian Township

Marna Wilson - Township Trustee

Rick Grillo - Chief, Meridian Township Police

Mark Polsdofer - County Commissioner

Nyall Nunn - Senior Project Manager, Meridian Township

## Ingham County Road Department

Kelly Jones - Ingham County Road Commission

## The Christman Company

Rob Crowe - Vice President

Shane Lounsberry - Project Manager

# Community Q&A Norms

## *For the Benefit of All Participants*



- Stay focused on the goals for the session
- Allow for participation by as many attendees as possible
- Be positive role models for our community & children with our behavior
- Be respectful of differing perspectives
- Respect timelines for meeting
- Clarity and brevity - be brief!
- Stay quiet until called upon
- Assume positive intentions
- Seek to understand
- Expect non closure





# EXISTING CONDITIONS



- X Does not separate car/bus entrance
- X Causes site congestion
- X Causes vehicles to back up on adjacent roads
- X Single emergency access
- X Does not provide special event parking



## Increase Safety and Efficiency of Hiawatha Car / Bus Loop

### Goals for Redesign at Hiawatha:

- Separation of car line and bus loop
- Decrease congestion on site
- Reduce backup on to adjacent roads
- Increase access points for emergency response
- Provide additional parking during school special events

### Other Considerations:

- Budget, sensitive to environment, impacts to recreational space and neighborhood



- Community/Staff Members: Share information regarding the guiding questions on index cards and can speak briefly to share.
- Board Members/Township Officials: Listen to guiding questions and responses, and ask for clarity, if needed.
- Christman/Tower Pinkster/Veridus: Help answer questions or provide clarification regarding the proposal, if needed. Hand out and collect additional community input and questions.
- OPS Admin and Staff: Help facilitate the session. Repeat norms, listen and be sure that people have the chance to write on index cards and add verbal comments if needed.



## Okemos Public Schools - 2022 Bond Program

- Implementation of bond program
- Improvements to district property
- Work with governmental agencies (ICRD) to meet requirements and determine the most effective design where improvements interact with public infrastructure
- Communication with staff and community

## Ingham County Road Department

- Plan Review and Approval



## Improved Car / Bus Loop Design Iterations

- Triple Stacking / Use existing conditions
- Jolly Road Entrance
- Fairhills Entrance near Jolly
- Fairhills Entrance at Elk Lane



- ✓ Addresses Design Goals
- + Improves, Does Not Eliminate Concerns
- ✗ Does Not Address Design Goals

# TRIPLE STACKING

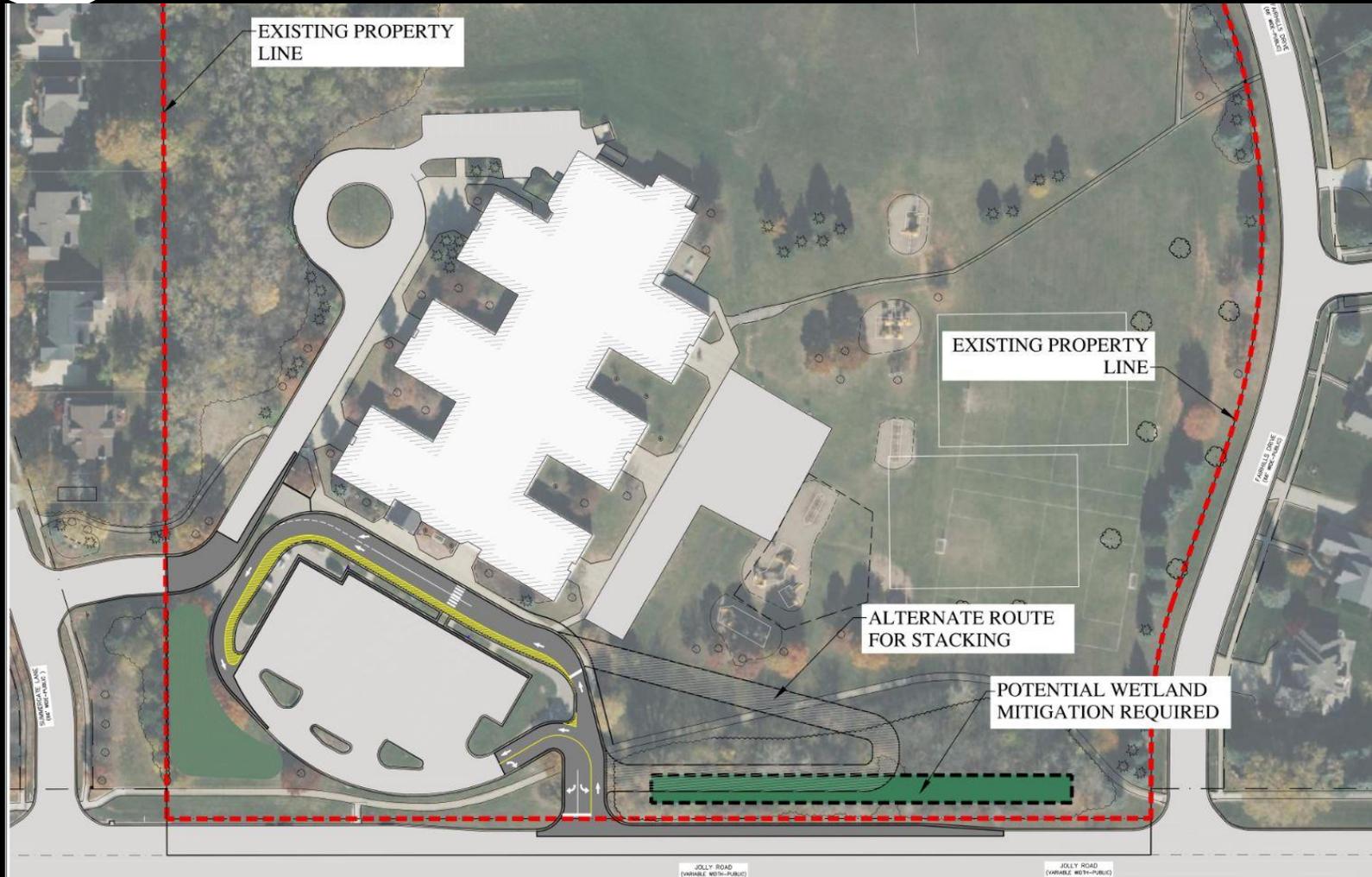


- ✗ Does not separate car/bus entrance
- ✗ Increases congestion
- + Reduces back up on adjacent roads
- ✗ Does not improve emergency access
- ✗ Does not increase parking
- ✓ Financially feasible
- ✓ Sensitive to environment
- ✗ Does not address ICRD concerns



- ✓ Addresses Design Goals
- + Improves, Does Not Eliminate Concerns
- ✗ Does Not Address Design Goals

# JOLLY ROAD ENTRANCE

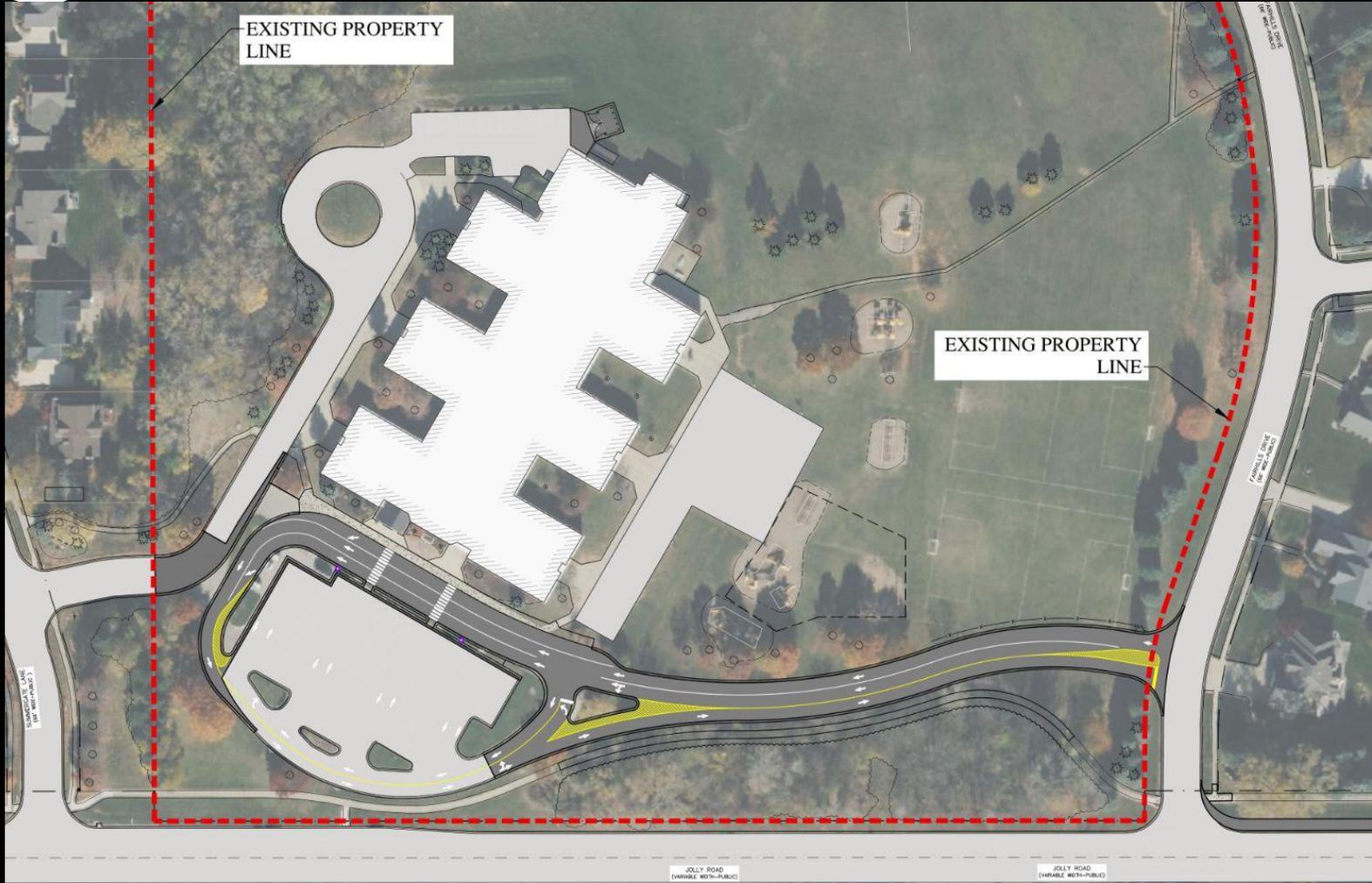


- ✓ Separates car/bus entrance
- ✗ Does not eliminate congestion
- ✗ Does not reduce back-up on adjacent roads
- ✓ Increases emergency access
- ✗ Does not increase special event parking
- ✗ Not financially feasible
- ✗ Sensitive to environment
- ✗ Does not meet ICRD requirements
- Least neighborhood impact



- ✓ Addresses Design Goals
- + Improves, Does Not Eliminate Concerns
- ✗ Does Not Address Design Goals

## FAIRHILLS NEAR JOLLY

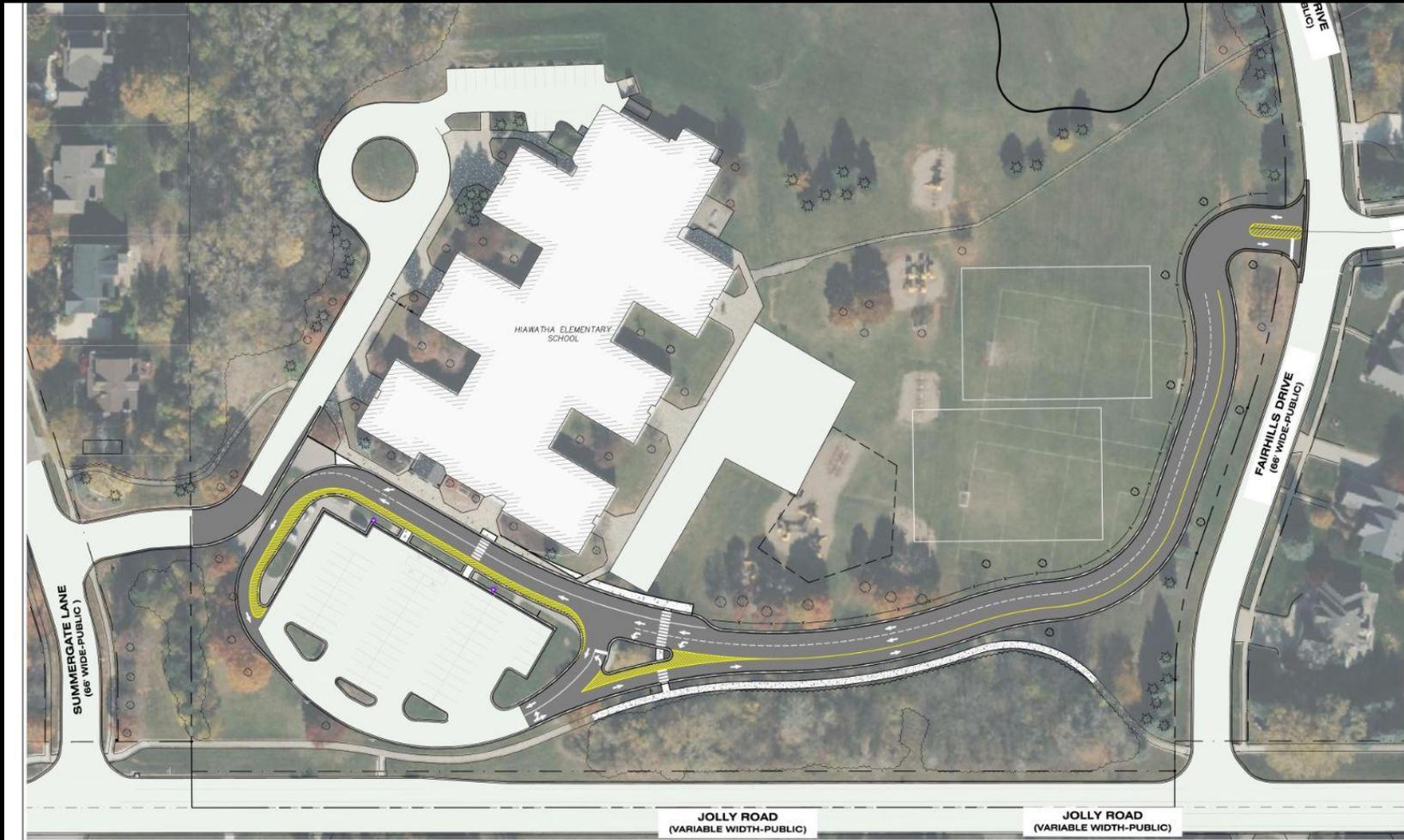


- ✓ Separates car/bus entrance
- + Improves stacking capacity but does not eliminate congestion
- + Reduces some back-up on adjacent roads, does not eliminate concern
- ✓ Improves emergency access
- ✓ Provides additional parking
- ✓ Financially feasible
- ✓ Sensitive to environment
- ✗ Does not meet ICRD requirements



- ✓ Addresses Design Goals
- + Improves, Does Not Eliminate Concerns
- ✗ Does Not Address Design Goals

## FAIRHILLS DRIVE AT ELK LANE



- ✓ Separates car/bus entrance
- ✓ Improves stacking capacity and eliminates congestion
- ✓ Reduces back-up on adjacent roads
- ✓ Improves emergency access
- ✓ Provides additional special event parking
- ✓ Financially feasible
- ✓ Sensitive to environmental conditions
- ✓ Meets ICRD Requirements

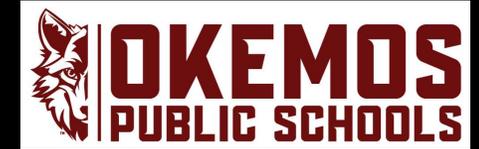


- ✓ Addresses Design Goals
- + Improves, Does Not Eliminate Concerns
- ✗ Does Not Address Design Goals

# DESIGN ITERATIONS

	Separate Car / Bus Entrance	Decrease Site Congestion	Reduce Backup on Adjacent Roads	Increase Emergency Access	Increase Special Event Parking	Financially Feasible	Sensitive to Environment	Addresses ICRD Concerns	Neighborhood Impacts
Triple Stack Existing	✗	✗	+	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	Summergate Area
Jolly Road Entrance	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	None
Fairhills Near Jolly	✓	+	+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	Fairhills Area
Fairhills & Elk Lane	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Fairhills Area

# Community Feedback Themes



## Increased traffic:

- On Fairhills Dr. and in the subdivision (600 cars)
- Cars driving through the neighborhood between Dobie Rd. and school

## Impacts to:

- Residents, esp. those near the entrance to Fairhills
  - Cars, congestion, headlights, pollution (noise, fumes)
- Park-like, quiet feel of neighborhood
- Green space at school, playground

**Additional themes shared tonight will be captured for consideration!**

## Safety Concerns:

- Students walking to school: crosswalks, paved path to school
- Sight lines from Jolly Rd. to Fairhills
- Turning into and out of Jolly Rd./Fairhills intersection (dangerous)

# Community Feedback Themes



## Potential Solutions

- Create entrance off of Jolly Road
- Add traffic light or roundabout at intersection
- Use Summergate Drive to not impact the neighborhood
- Extend length of the current loop
- Increase bussing of students
- Create official “school zones” with ICRD and Township in area
- Stop development of the idea, drawbacks outweigh benefits
- Pause and see if we can develop a mutually agreeable solution together
- **More will be shared and captured this evening!**

# Listening and Sharing Breakouts

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- Community members get index card with a color to indicate breakout group
  - All are invited to fill out an index card and/or ask a question, share thoughts, or share new ideas for consideration
  - Cards will be collected and summarized for the Board
- Honor time, sharing opportunity with all participants:
  - Ask one question at a time
  - Limit time to allow as many to speak as possible (time keeper to assist)
  - Allow us to move on - if you have other thoughts to share, public comment at end of meeting



# Three Guiding Questions

- 1. What do you see as the opportunities with the car line at Hiawatha?*
- 2. What do you see as the challenges with the car line at Hiawatha?*
- 3. What questions, clarifications, or ideas would you like to share regarding the car line at Hiawatha?*

# Grouping for Community Breakouts (30-60 minutes)



G1

G2

G3

G4

**Locate signage around the room!**

*\*Guiding questions are the same for all groups.*

# Breakouts: Locate Your Color

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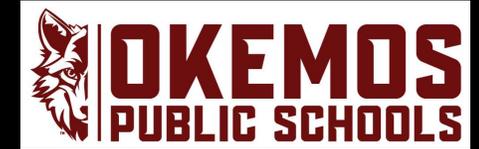
G1 (Ed Talaga, Shane Lounsberry, Marna Wilson, Mary Gebara, Shulawn Doxie)

G2 (Alex Phelan, Landon Martin, Rick Grillo, Andy Phelps, Tom Buffet)

G3 (Andrew Howard, Tim Jensen, Kelly Jones, Nyall Nunn, Melanie Lynn)

G4 (Matt Hull, Rob Crowe, Mark Polsdorfer, Katie Cavanaugh, Jamie Taylor)

# Summary of Meeting (Tentative)



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7:00 - 7:15 pm	Break
7:15 - 7:45 pm	Board Discussion
7:45pm	Community Comments

# Board Discussion



- Framing the Evening - Superintendent Hood
- Sharing Out - Question Themes/Discussions heard during breakout sessions

# Public Comment





- Board of Education
  - January 16
    - 7 pm: Special Meeting
    - Discussion, Action
- District Information
  - District Website
  - School Newsletters
  - Community Email Service

