



Superintendents from decades ago chose where our high schools were built based on areas of growth back then. Since the hurricane, however, our populations have migrated and so we must ensure that we're wise stewards of taxpayer dollars by maximizing enrollment in under-utilized facilities through rezoning.

You can see from the chart below that several of our schools have plenty of room while others are at, or almost at, enrollment capacity per board policy. The enrollment capacity is defined as 90 percent of the number of students who can be physically squeezed into a facility. It's important that we try to stay at that 90 percent capacity to allow for new students to move into the zone throughout the year.

**PRESENT REALITY**

BAY DISTRICT SCHOOLS ENROLLMENT AND CAPACITY

School	Capacity	Enrollment	Capacity %AGE
A.C. MOSLEY HIGH SCHOOL	1838	1907	96.38%
BAY HIGH SCHOOL	1468	1265	85.01%
DEANE BOZEMAN SCHOOL (HIGH)	526	678	77.58%
J.R. ARNOLD HIGH SCHOOL	1933	1615	83.55%
RUTHERFORD HIGH SCHOOL	1094	867	73.76%

**DIVERSITY**

We also need to rezone because we have some racial imbalances at some of our schools. We're responsible for trying to keep each school's racial balance near the district's percentages, and so we must move some students in order to achieve the diversity we all want to have for our students.

**EQUITY**

And finally, we must rezone to ensure that all of our high schools are of an equitable size so they can offer equitable programs. Smaller high schools have trouble funding the vast array of courses that larger high schools can offer and we want to ensure that ALL BDS high school students have access to similar selections of academic, and extra-curricular, offerings.

And so, change is inevitable.

Earlier this month, we held a workshop (you can watch that workshop to hear the plans and see if your student will be impacted at <https://vimeo.com/758071757>, the zoning discussion begins about the 1:40:05 mark) so School Board members could begin to explore the rezoning ideas and next month

there will be two public meetings where those impacted can have a chance to speak to the board about their concerns. These two meetings, in addition to regular School Board meetings, are scheduled for:

**Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 3-4:30 p.m., Nelson Building, 1311 Balboa Ave., Panama City, FL 32401**

**Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, from 5-6 p.m., at the same location.**

There is MUCH more conversation to be had about this before decisions are made and we know that there's no way to please all of our stakeholders but we do want you to be aware of a few caveats that typically accompany any rezoning.

It will be my recommendation to the School Board that we:

1. Grandfather in all students who are currently attending schools impacted by rezoning.
2. Honor "sibling links" which means middle school siblings rising up to high school would be able to attend the same high school their older siblings are currently attending.
3. Keep the same school choice and hardship application process as options for anyone impacted by rezoning.

I firmly believe that, going forward, rezoning will have to occur more frequently to continue to accommodate the growth we're seeing in certain parts of the county. This current rezoning effort by the School Board is an important first step in that process.