My name is Kristi Belcher, and I am the president of Fox Chapel Elementary PTA, and I am here today to speak for our school community.

Fox Chapel PTA’s official position is:

**We want our students to have the resources they need to succeed, wherever that may be.**

I want to be clear that although we are option agnostic that does not mean we do not have concerns about the boundary study.

We specifically address the issue of resources because Fox Chapel has a FARMS rate of ~60% and ESOL rate of ~35%. These are significantly higher than the county averages, and among the top rates of all the elementary schools in the up-county clusters involved in this study. Redistributing Daly and Fox Chapel from Neelsville to Rocky Hill per the recommendation will create more equitable FARMS and ESOL rates between the schools. There is value in that, but, moving students to lower those rates without also moving resources to support those students, is a recipe for failure. Ensuring success is not strictly about the physical location of students.

Additionally, I want to address two things about this boundary process that have concerned our PTA.

First, the disparaging remarks we have heard from some members of other communities. Fox Chapel is a wonderful, diverse, and caring community. Our community cares just as much about their children, and their children’s education, as any other. The ethnic and socio-economic make-up of our student body does not make them any less worthy of attending good schools with the resources needed to be successful.

Secondly, we want to encourage the board to investigate why engagement was low in our community, and to improve the process to ensure communities are not unintentionally neglected. There are valid reasons our families were not engaged. That the options and survey were initially only released in English was problematic. The multitude of options and wording of questions did not make the process easier. I spend much of my day working with data in excel and I found it overwhelming. We were told a door-to-door canvas would take place because of the low engagement, but that did not happen.

Our PTA felt it unethical to take any position on the options or recommendations because our families were not engaged. That does not mean we unequivocally support another option. Nor does it mean our families do not care where their children attend. Individually, our families hold a range of opinions that we fear are not being heard.

Thank you for the opportunity to ensure the Fox Chapel community has a voice in this process.