

River City Middle School Rezoning

Committee's Final Recommendation for Approval

Presented By: Michelle Hudacsko, Chief of Staff

Venue: Richmond City School Board Meeting

Date: May 2, 2022

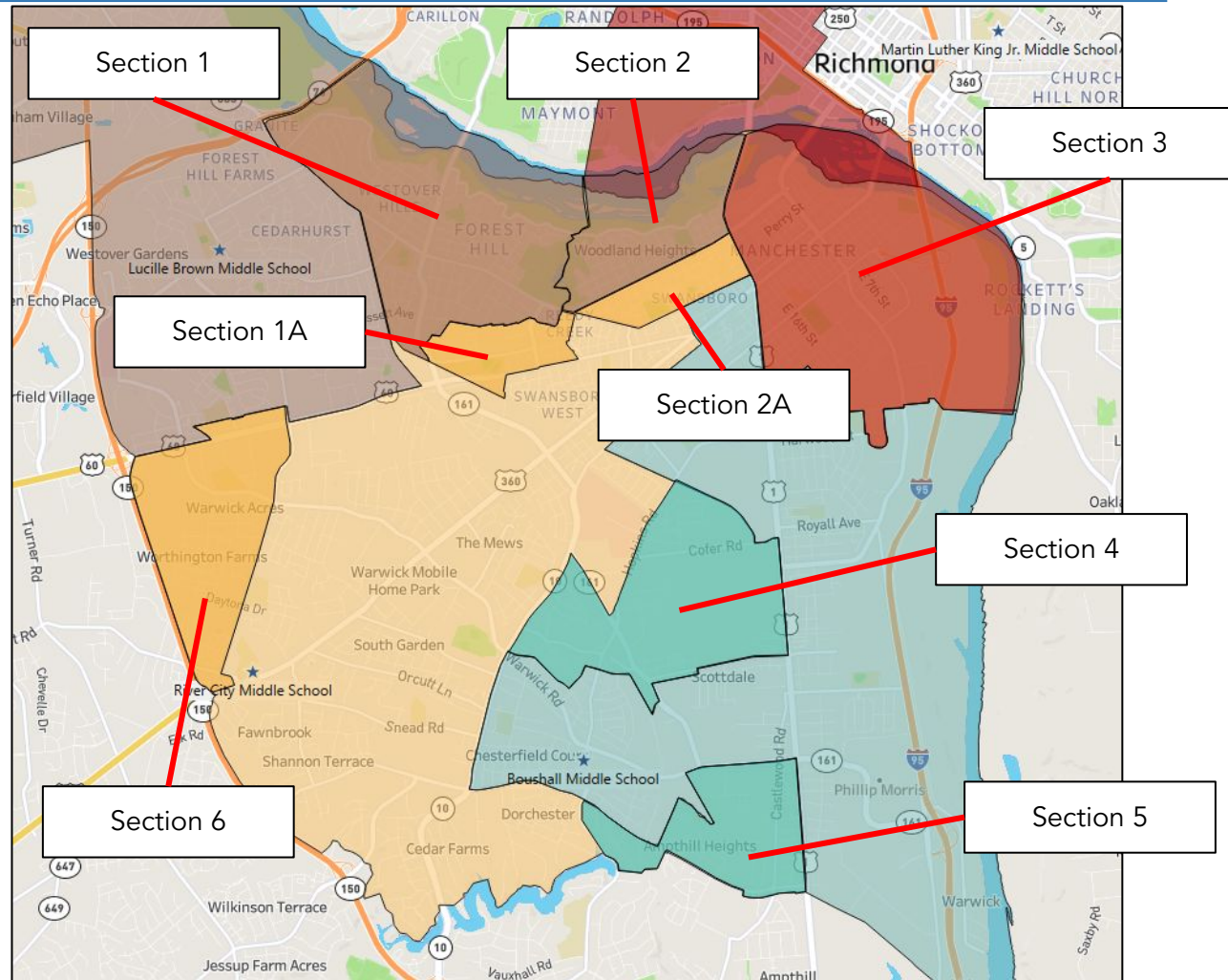
Updated Map for Approval- Review

Updated Sections Per Feedback:

- Section 2 moves to Lucille Brown Middle School
- Section 2A is created; remains in River City Middle School zone

Same as First Read

- Section 1 and 2 move to Lucille Brown Middle School with Section 1A remaining in River City Middle School
- Section 3 moves to Binford Middle School (same as original first read proposal)
- Section 4 and 5 move to Boushall Middle School (same as original first read proposal)
- Section 6 remains at River City Middle School (same as original first read proposal)



Enrollment Projections - Review

If rezoning is fully implemented next year, the projected utilization rates of the impacted middle schools are:

- Binford Middle School - 74%
- Boushall Middle School - 74%
- Lucille Brown Middle School - 76%
- River City Middle School - 78%

Notes about the data:

- Students move in and out of the division, and within the division to a new zone, throughout the year.
- Cohort sizes vary some year to year. For example, cohort sizes in the rezoned sections for lower grades (e.g., 3rd - 5th grade) are larger than the cohort of next year's middle school students (e.g., current 5th - 7th graders).
- Out-of-zone seats are allocated with in-zone enrollment in mind, so can be adjusted accordingly.

Facilities Upgrades at Binford

The Administration, Facilities Director, and Binford principal have walked the building to determine facilities upgrades needed to support the approximately 140 River City students coming to Binford. These projects are outlined below and will be completed this summer.

Upgrade	Amount
Enlarge dance studio (update floor, mirrors, add storage) to allow more students in class	\$40,000
Remove built in counters and old internet poles in several rooms to allow more students in class	\$25,000
Divide the science room into two classrooms (remove built in counters and add lights)	\$20,000
Remove lockers in hallways	\$5,000
Redesign parking lot to clarify parking versus other usable outdoor spaces (painting, etc.)	\$1,000
Add furniture as needed (desks, flexible seating, etc.)	\$20,000
TOTAL	\$121,000

Welcoming New Students at Brown and Boushall

While neither Brown nor Boushall require facilities upgrades to accommodate additional students, both schools will be given a budget to help welcome the new students.

Upgrade	Amount
Brown (~60 new students)	\$25,000
Boushall (~180 new students)	\$75,000
Add furniture as needed (desks, flexible seating, etc.)	\$30,000
TOTAL	\$130,000

Transportation - Routes

The committee reviewed routes of randomly selected students in Section 3 who would have gone to River City, but in this proposal, would go to Binford. For each student, the distance to school as well as time on the bus is reduced.

Student	Route Distance to Binford (miles)	Time on Bus to Binford (minutes)	Route Distance to River City (miles)	Time on Bus to River City (minutes)
Student A	4.49	8:02	5.15	11:03
Student B	3.38	6:29	4.21	8:52
Student C	3.70	6:32	5.63	11:53
Student D	3.03	5:14	5.03	10:32
Student E	3.10	5:58	4.65	9:40
Student F	4.80	9:46	6.57	15:02
Student G	5.95	13:50	8.47	19:45
Student H	5.22	10:57	7.92	18:30
Student I	4.49	8:02	5.68	12:40
Student J	4.49	8:02	5.34	11:31

Transportation - Bus Operator Recruitment Efforts

There is no transportation plan specific to rezoning. However, we recognize that our current bus driver vacancy issue means that our transportation department does not run as smoothly as it should. We have robust recruitment efforts underway to ensure we start the school year fully staffed. We will provide updates on hiring over the coming months:

Bus Operator Recruitment Plan

- \$3,500 signing bonus for new hired CDL-licensed bus operators
- Host in-person, biweekly hiring events at the Transportation Office on Belt Blvd
- Provide tutoring for new drivers to pass the CLD
- Continue online and radio advertising campaign
- Connect with local nonprofits and churches
- Increase advertising with assistance from community liaisons

Staffing - Next Steps

- Once the Board approves the new boundaries for River City, we can begin our work to determine how to allocate resources, including staffing and other non personnel resources.
- The first step is to run the middle school lottery so families can make determinations about where their child will go to school next year. Once we receive family decisions (likely by the end of May), we will be able to determine what resources need to follow children to their new school.
- Staffing considerations will include content teachers, LIEP teachers, Exceptional Education teachers, social workers, counselors, office staff, and more.
 - Some of these staff will come from River City based on their new population
 - The administration recommends using ARP funding to fill other immediate needs, especially at Binford and Brown which will have higher short term enrollment for the next two years.

Other Post-Decision Next Steps

There is much to do once new zones are approved. We are already planning for that step.

- Rezoning Committee will reconvene to discuss resource allocation and next steps for implementation.
- Family liaisons will make home visits to families who are moving to a new zone.
- We will hold community meetings for students and families in impacted areas.
- School counselors will receive lists of students and their middle school assignments; students with a new middle school assignment will be flagged for additional support.
- Online locator maps will have previous and new middle school zone map options for families to identify their zones and whether they are impacted by the change.
- Central office teams will build support plans for schools receiving new students to ensure a smooth transition.
- Operations departments will receive data on new zones and impacted students to inform their planning, including possible building space/use adjustments as needed.
- Run the middle school lottery and share results no later than the week of May 9.

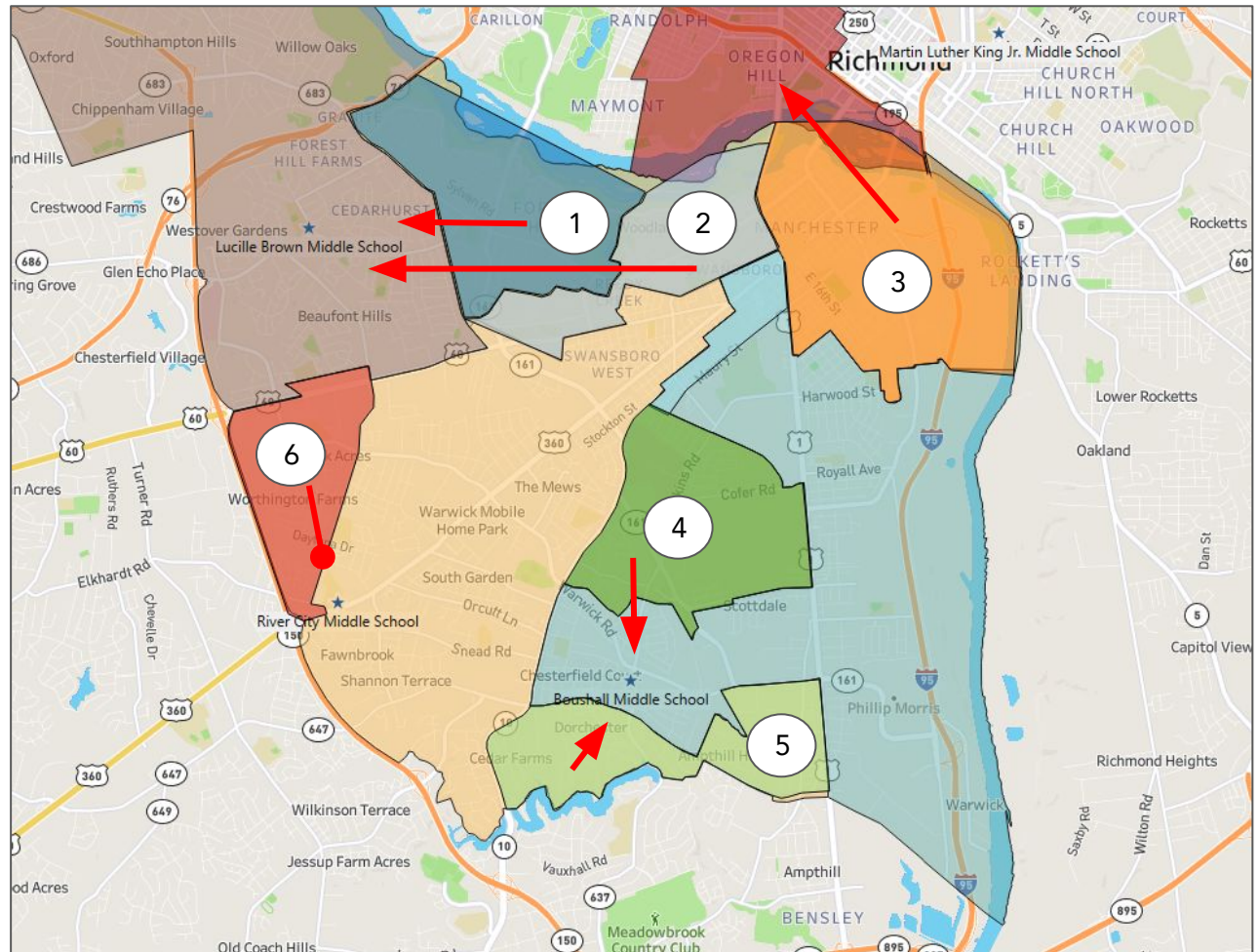
Appendix

(Earlier versions/maps presented)

Committee Configuration A

- Section 1 and 2 (combined to envelop the Westover Hills ES zone) move to Lucille Brown Middle School.
- Section 3 moves to Binford Middle School.
- Section 4 and 5 move to Boushall Middle School.
- Section 6 remains at River City Middle School.

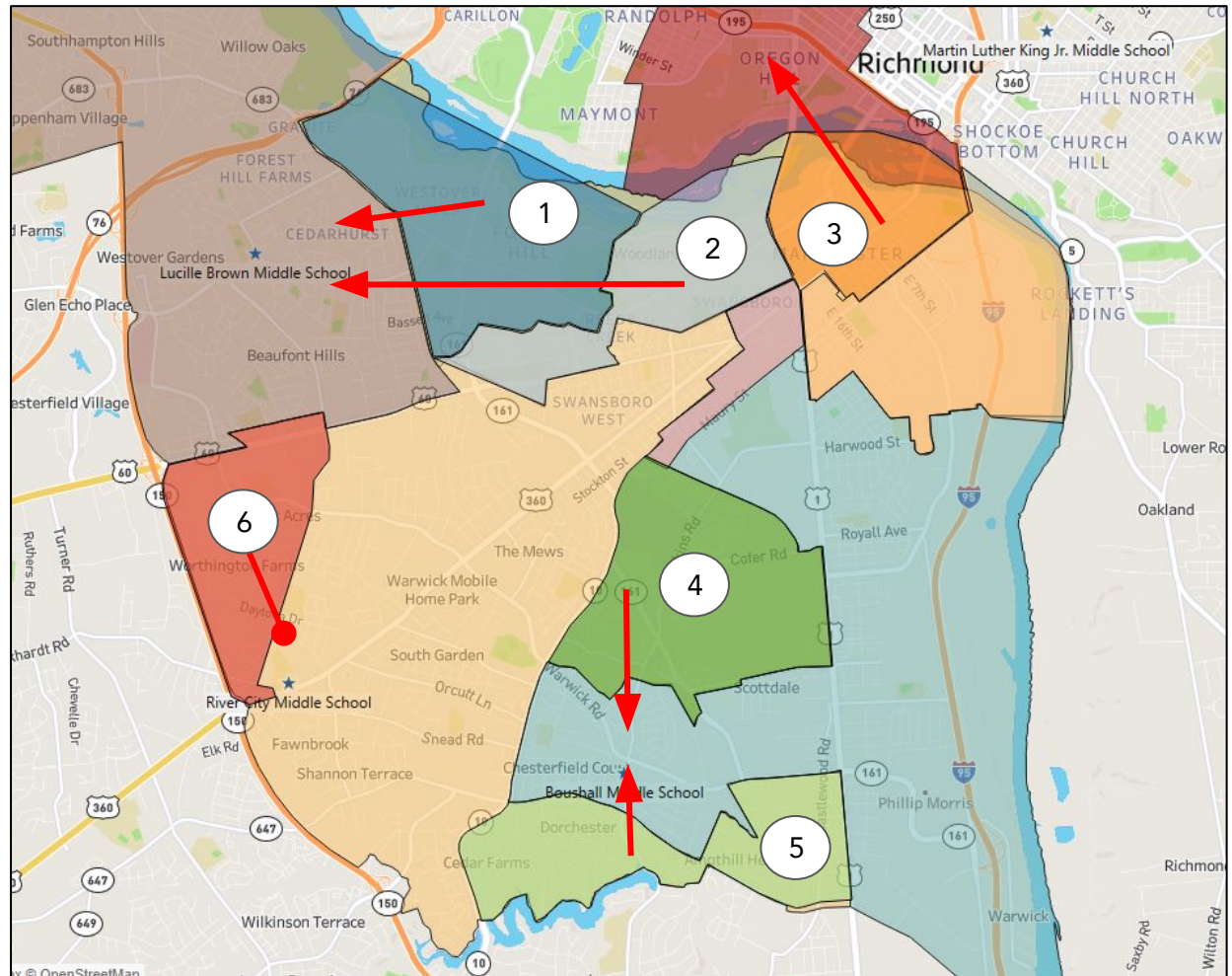
The Committee determined this configuration moved too many students to Lucille Brown and Boushall, essentially over-correcting the overcrowding at River City.



Committee Configuration B

- Section 1 and 2 (combined to envelop the Westover Hills ES zone) move to Lucille Brown Middle School.
- A portion of Section 3 moves to Binford Middle School.
- Section 4 and 5 move to Boushall Middle School.
- Section 6 remains at River City Middle School (RCMS).
- A small area of the Boushall zone (purple) was added to the RCMS zone to connect the new RCMS zone.

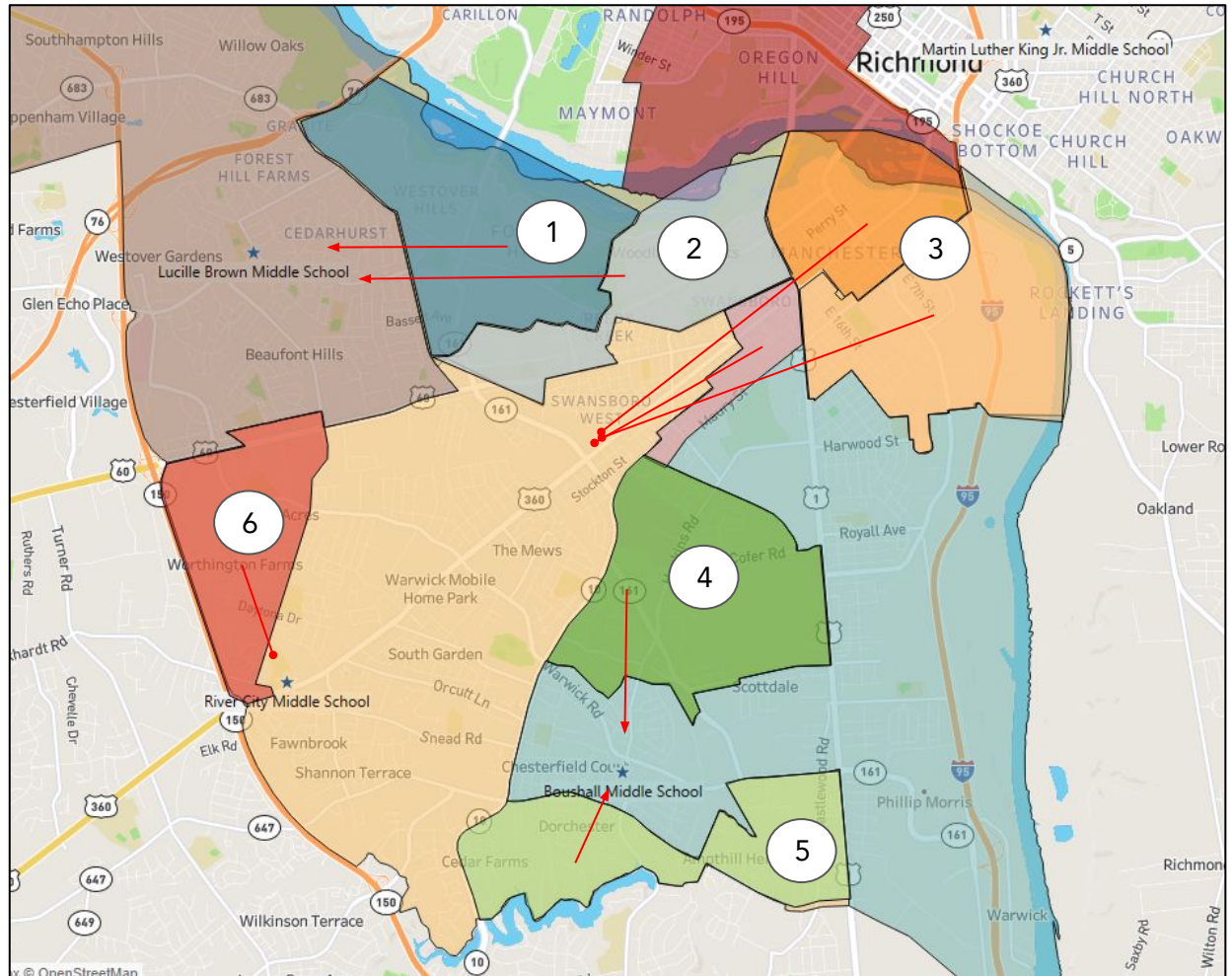
The Committee determined this configuration moved too many students to Lucille Brown and Boushall while also moving too many students from River City.



Committee Configuration C

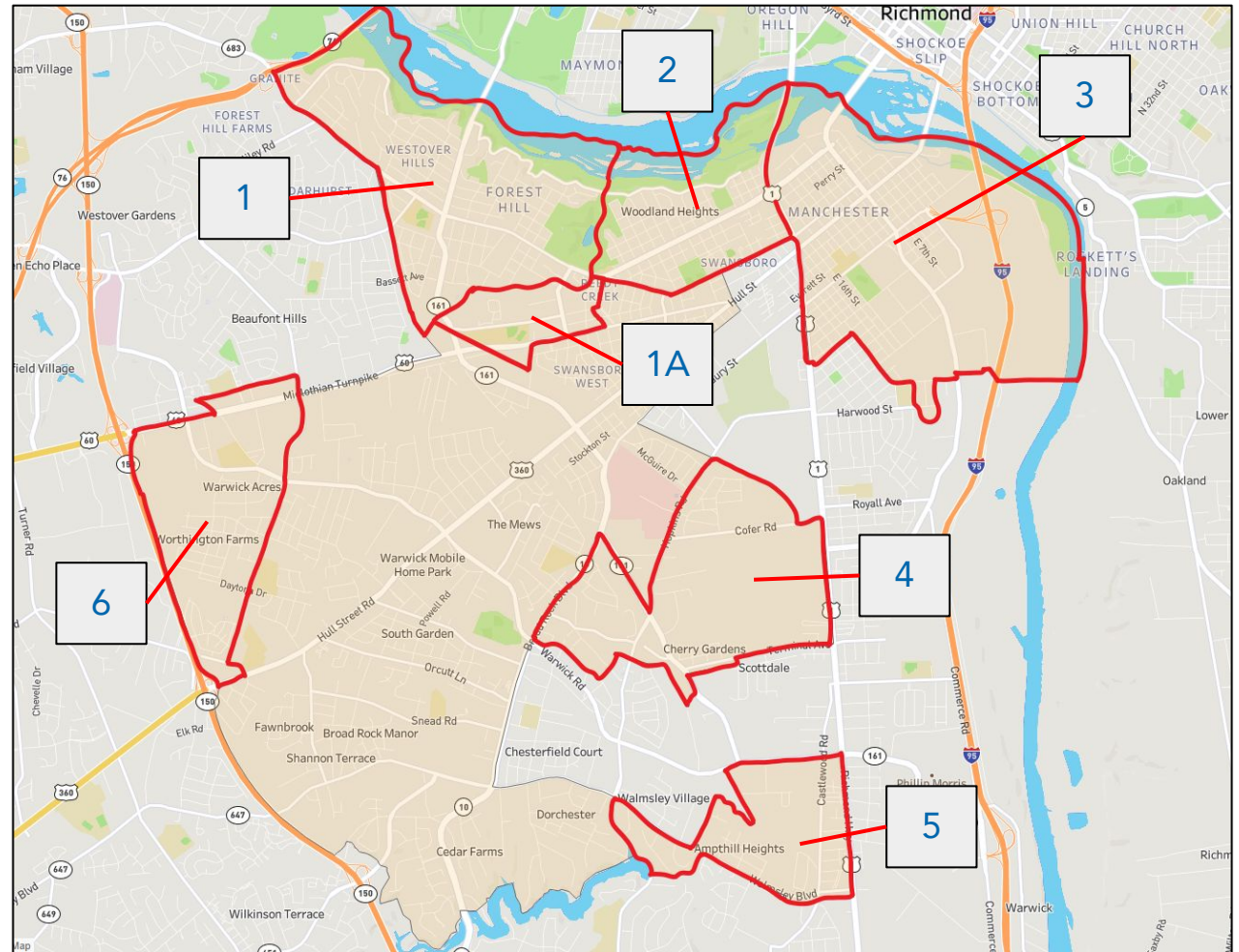
- Section 1 and 2 (combined to envelop the Westover Hills ES zone) move to Lucille Brown Middle School.
- Section 3 remains at River City Middle School (RCMS).
- Section 4 and 5 move to Boushall Middle School.
- Section 6 remains at RCMS.
- A small area of the Boushall zone (purple) was added to the RCMS zone to connect the new RCMS zone.

The Committee determined that not including a northside middle school would lead to new overcrowding problems at other southside middle schools.



Original First Read Final River City Middle School Rezoning Proposal

- Section 1 would move to Lucille Brown MS.
- Section 1A would remain in the RCMS zone.
- Section 2 would move to Binford MS.
- Section 3 would move to Binford MS.
- Section 4 would move to Boushall MS.
- Section 5 would move to the Boushall zone.
- Section 6 would remain in the RCMS zone (the Committee considered this as a potential area for rezoning but removed it from consideration due to proximity to the school).



Original First Read Final River City Middle School Rezoning Proposal

