

What do you believe is the best solution to managing the current student capacity issues of the Hoover city school system?

Use old Berry or get rid of it.....I personally think it should be revitalized and made the 3rd high school and send SMS there for HS

Enforce legal citizenship of parents whose children attend Hoover Schools.

This would depend on the distance a student would have to travel to the new school if rezoning were done. I am in favor of using the current facilities but not at the expense of a child traveling a long distance to get to school each day

Build new facilities as needed, but don't NOT use W.A. Berry. It is sitting there empty and could be put to good use.

Make the freshman center Hoover Junior High. Send 8th and 9th graders to this school. If some of the elementary schools are over-crowded, do some rezoning there.

Both, rezone and use the facilities we have now while the new HS and MS are being built. Forget about new ES in Trace Crossings for some time, that school sits almost half empty while DV and SSC are at almost full capacity. A new high school and new elementary school would solve our issues for quite a while. Let's get the process going before our kids are in portable and the Board is still trying to decide what to do. WE DO NOT WANT A HIGH SCHOOL WITH 3,000 KIDS IN IT!!

Get rid of the apartments!

Combination of the 2 options

A combination of both solutions

Have developers pay for new facilities required when building new homes, before approving their plans.

Combination of both approaches listed

I think that we should use the facilities we currently have until new facilities can be built to accommodate the growth.

Not sure, but review studies already done before proceeding

Target rezoning/reorganizing class setups only in zones where future facility growth is planned. Keep in mind traffic patterns and queuing of any rezoning. Neighborhoods with limited egress will be overburdened with any increased traffic.

Both, use Berry for something if we can't afford a new bldg immediately, consider restructuring grade levels at elem, & middle schools, i.e. place 7-9 at middle schools

Definitely need a new high school and could also use "old Berry" for middle or high school

Factor in the old Berry campus.

Create magnet schools and special interest divisions

We should use our own facilities/ re-open the old Berry Middle

We should use what we have and re-zone for now. Bumpus is way overcrowded with extra room at the Freshman building that we can use. Long term we will need to build, but use what we have for now, including the old Berry building.

Both, use the facilities we own and rezone students to balance and accommodate for the short term. New facilities are needed to accommodate long term growth.

We should use facilities already owned but should it be better to build new schools then build them so that the facilities are closer to our students home. Make long term decisions on facilities and not just a fix that will work for 2 -3 years.

actually both of the above but since that cant be managed quickly, just make sure that one child will not be attending 6 schools during his k-12 years as was in some of the proposals (one or two elementary schools, a sixth grade school, middle school, freshman campus, high school. Too many places too scattered.

A combination of new building and rezoning with minimal changes over the long term

Both! Hoover already owns old Berry HS, use it in some capacity and build a needed school, Middle or HS

We should use facilities we already own PLUS do some rezoning.

Replace old facilities with new ones; have city planners limit houses built in schools where facilities are already at capacity, do not bus in students from apartments where schools are at capacity and neighborhood students should have priority

Stop busing kids past area schools to accommodate numbers for apartments. That's why some choose to live in certain areas of Hoover, where there are no apartments!.

We have to build new facilities to keep campuses equitable

Rezone students to be close to their homes, use Berry, then build new facilities

Depends on state/age/appropriateness of current facilities

I believe that it will require a combination of both rezoning and new facilities as the over crowding effects several grade levels from HS all the way down to elementary schools.

Add on 9th grade wing to HHS so no one has to go to a 3rd high school and all 9th graders can participate in high school activities/academic/music programs. Freshman Center will be much needed 4th middle school to relieve overcrowding at Bumpus. Full capacity will not be reached immediately but as trends show, it won't take long, especially with the new BlackRidge neighborhood. Overcrowding at Deer Valley and SSC needs to be relieved. Trace Crossings students should NOT have to stay at Trace for 6th grade - that is completely unfair to them as all other 6th graders are in middle schools, which encourage maturity and responsibility.

a combination of both

If possible, use the old Berry and build new schools in high growth areas and rezone to fit within the schools we have now for next year 08-09

temporary portables until sensible strategic facilities plans are devised

Use the old Berry for Crossroads. Since our system is growing in numbers and there has been a greater need for more students to benefit from the alternative school environment. Although rezoning might temporarily "fix" the problem, I would hate to rezone again in three years because of growth. I heard the recent idea of a 5-6 building in the Regions Park area and that sounded like a great plan to reduce the elementary and Bumpus numbers and would create a building that could later be used for the new elementary school that would be needed.

Use the former Berry campus as a third high school/facilities already built/doesn't have to be 6-A size!!!! Spain Park and Hoover already have a bitter relationship. Let's not build another same size school that will tear us apart more. A 4 or 5A school would be just fine. It could be the finest 4/5A school in the state. Also the school board should be ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE AND NOT APPOINTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL. THERE IS NO ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.

YES BUILD NEW FACILITIES BUT FOR THE NEW GROWTH QUIT REZONING CURRENT RESIDENTS

stop annexing in new neighborhood, stop making students drive by one school that is close to go to another school that is farther away. Treat each community as a system itself and have the schools/facilities/staff to accommodate those students. No more universities (Hoover High).

Placing 5th/6th graders together in a new building

both-utilize what we have now as needed then when growth becomes more evident(due to slowing down of housing market-build)

Build new building as necessary, but also find a use for the old Berry campus that doesn't result in the closing of Simmons

build new facilities and zone children within reasonable limits to their homes

Our city leaders should be responsible for where our children will go to school when they approve development of neighborhoods. Don't approve expansion without a plan for schools!

We should have a combination of the above choices. However, SMARTER planning is needed than in the past. First move Apartment students closer to home and to a school that is not maxed out. It is UNSAFE to bus kids on the other side of the Mall all the way over to SSC and Dear Valley. These two Elementary schools are maxed. Move them to Trace or a closer Elementary that is not at capacity. This may also help with the Middle schools. Possibly use Old Berry for Simmons 6th graders, and pull some neighborhoods out of Bumpus and zone to Simmons? Otherwise - build a new high school and new 5/6 bldg NOW!!

Both build and rezone considering the LONG TERM for our school system and students

depends on situation. If we have facilities not being fully utilized, why build?

a combination of the above mentioned.

a mixture of the two...I don't think only one will solve any problem...maybe just be a bandaid

We should put the old Berry High School campus back into use, AND build new facilities elsewhere as needed.

Both are valid options.

I think we need a combination of new facilities and utilizing the facilities we have better. The old Berry School is sitting empty...what a waste when we need more facilities. But, we desperately need to build new facilities to keep up with the population growth in this area.

Both - apartments are not equitably distributed among elementary schools and we need more schools - definitely at LEAST one more another high school, another 2 elementary schools and another middle school

Correct overcrowding situations in apartment complexes in Hoover

Plan, rezone and possibly build - as directed from the plan

I believe which ever scenario will buy us the most time is the way to go. I don't want to be refacing these same issues 5 years from now. My oldest child is in kindergarten and I have two more stair stepped directly behind him. So my family is the future of Hoover city schools.

build new facilities and reconsider the rezone of the apartment children to some schools that have less. In my opinion, Hoover should be addressing the apartment issue in general.

A combination of both options. Use the facilities we own to reduce crowded WHILE we build new facilities. Make a comprehensive plan that looks at current and future residential construction and population growth, and use that to accommodate needs by using our current facilities and building new ones. Please don't continue a pattern of patching up problems, only to have more problems again when growth continues.

Build a THIRD HIGH SCHOOL NOW

We should rezone to get neighborhoods back to their schools and spread out the overcrowding to all the schools. Taking this simple step would make Simmons more in line with Bumpus and make Spain Park High School more in line with Hoover High School.

Any additional comments?

I think the Super and the BOE need to make decisions NOW rather than later. They have already waited to late as it is.

I understand that there is tendency to send all children who finish at one school on to the same school as they matriculate. That is an ideal situation, but not absolutely necessary. Unfortunately, the growth in the city of Hoover is not on the eastern side of town. Do you realize that in the last rezoning, HHS, the school that was already overcrowded, received 95 new students from SPHS and SPHS, the school that had classrooms not used, got 10 new students from HHS. What is wrong with that picture? I believe the BOE accomplished exactly what they set out to do, when you look at the student population that was transferred to HHS.

I think that it is very difficult to rank the attributes that are important because the expectation in the system should be that the level of education and student/teacher ratios should be similar at all the schools. The most important thing to me and my neighbors is that our children attend school close to our home but when you ask about the overall importance at the current schools our children will be attending, it is the level of education they will receive. I do not feel like moving kids out of neighborhood schools to relieve a few schools of overcrowding is the answer. Many of the schools in the system have been overcrowded before and while it is tough on the students and kids, long lasting effects have not been felt. Taking children out of their current track will have long lasting effects.

The final question is misleading. Children who live in apartments in the eastern section of Hoover and attend schools in western Hoover are directly impacted by the rezoning plans currently in the works. These children have not attended schools closest to them since the last round of redistricting. The published reasons for this treatment of apartment-dwelling students by the district do not stand up to scrutiny. Your survey implies that the values underpinning rezoning decisions equally apply to all students indiscriminate of their housing situation. Accuracy is essential regarding a controversial subject like this one which has already been blurred by competing agendas of special interest groups.

I don't mind the prospect of rezoning. However, I think it is important that each elementary school group be kept together as they move toward middle school, and each middle school group be kept together as they move toward high school. These transitional times are very difficult for students, and the upheaval of being split apart from the students you have gone to school with would just add to this. I think it is terrible that Deer Valley students who live in Ross Bridge have to separate from their peers and go to Simmons. However, their parents made this choice when they chose where to live. I have heard the idea put forth that Deer Valley students should be split, with some going to Simmons and some to Bumpus. I am not at all in favor of something like that. The middle school transition is difficult enough.

If Hoover would stop foolishly adding communities without considering the consequences for all Hoover residents, these problems would not occur.

I believe that Hoover SS should look closely into screening each child's household to make certain that they are living within the school zone, also evaluate how many Non US residents' children attend our schools. While each child deserves a chance for a good solid education, Children of Non-tax paying parent's are clogging the system. I am tired of wasting time and money on plans that try to make everyone happy. It can't be done. Rezone the way it should be done, not to try to send all the apartment kids to different schools to help test scores. We are wasting gas and money rezoning to try to manipulate test scores.

USE THE OLD BERRY MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCATION. It's there and would help alleviate some of the over population at the other middle schools. Then build a 3rd high school...

Need to rezone Hoover schools and not worry that the transient population gets concentrated at a few schools; will allow you to consolidate resources so they are not spread all over the system. This move should also allow for easier management and reduce some costs such as transportation. We also need to come to the realization that not all students can or will attend college immediately after graduation and need to develop vocational training programs to allow those students to immediately move into the work force as a productive community member. Serious overcrowding at DV, SSC and Bumpus needs to be addressed soon. Why is Trace Crossings sitting at about 60% occupancy while DV and SSC are almost full? And they want another new ES in Trace Crossings!! Rezoning students is a short term fix to a long term problem. It is not going to solve our capacity problems it is just going to shift them around for a while. The only way that rezoning will work is if you send all children to the school that is closest to their home. This way many of the apartment children who are currently attending Bumpus and Hoover High School will end up attending Barry Middle School and Spain Park. They live closer to those schools, it would be less cost for transportation as well as less distance for them to travel. In addition it would relieve some of the crowding at Hoover High School and make things more equitable between Spain Park and Hoover High School.

I do not feel that rezoning is the answer to all of the problems, we should utilize the property that we have to keep our children in their current schools.

Why don't you bus some of the Hispanics to Greystone? Why do you allow illegal immigrants to enroll in school?

Deer Valley and Bumpus need some relief now, our Board and Superintendent heard our wishes very clearly at the community meetings- we want a third high school! That lets the 9th grade building be a middle school, as it was supposed to be, and relieve Bumpus. Rezone some of Deer Valley students to relieve that crowding issue, and eventually build another elementary as needed when additional homes come on line. The third high school is crucial!

Developers should NOT be given approval for new homes without having a plan to provide schools for the additional school-children that will result from their proposed development.

I believe the most important aspect to review is how the children at Trace Crossing are doing academically. Obviously, due to our current numbers and test scores, we should not be given anymore apartments. Our percentages are already in excess of all Hoover Schools

I do not think that students should be shuttled between 3 different sites during their middle school years. This is a very difficult time for students and the yearly disruption would decrease educational efficacy.

This needs to be taken slowly with the KIDS best interests in mind. NOT what makes things easier for the adults in charge!!!!

Please, please keep in mind the growth of Ross Bridge. With new "neighborhoods" in RB and over 600 apartments slated, growth with boom! Nip the problem in the bud now.

I feel like the growth of Hoover needs to slow down. The development of the city is going at too fast of a pace and we can't accommodate all of the children moving into the Hoover area. Slow it down and take a look at what is the BEST option for the children.

I think it is critical to have equitable distribution of apartments across elementary schools. I think it is critical to bring all elementary schools to the same achievement level.

No one on the school board seems to be concerned with the northern areas of Hoover.

start making plans for 3rd high school with all opportunities

SPHS needs additional students to remove the overcrowding at HHS

The most important thing to me is for the plans to be as long range as possible. I had children in Berry (the original one) and Hoover High when the last rezoning occurred and hope that this rezoning is not as short sided as that rezoning was for Shades Mountain. Shades Mountain should have never been separated from the rest of the Bluff Park community in the first place. Now families have grown to love Spain Park and that is being taken from them. While rezoning may be the only answer, I hope that the school board honors their promise to allow Shades Mountain students and families to choose their high school.

The CC and the school board need to wake up and remember this city grew on the back of its school system, now it is riding it into the ground.

I have just recently learned of the above statement. I disagree with rezoning, yet again, and hope that our Superintendent and BOE realize that they need to plan and set goals for our increased population...new schools are needed, and do NOT need larger schools - MEGA High schools are not the answer. HHS is already TOO BIG! Our schools are too large to adequately address issues such as discipline, academic excellence and social problems. Education is the basis of schools, not athletics. Somehow we lost sight of that and the students are the ones suffering for it.

Please write questions which are less revealing about the intended direction of this questionnaire. Some of the wording is indicative of the feelings of the committee members.

You have asked about having a school big enough to have a good sports program, which is not important to me, but at the same time you have to have a large population to offer a large variety of classes. get it right -it is the most important thing our city can do-education

Stop paying three people to do the superintendent's job (or one to NOT do it because she was a very good super fired for no reason) Stop wasting money on lawyers. Get a BOE and super who have a clue about how to run a school system.

Rezoning is dangerous at the middle/high school level. Several children have been traumatized by the move and can't handle another one.

I attended the meeting at Berry Middle with Mr. Craig. He was very informative but it did not appear as if a decision had been in the direction of schools in the near future. I would like more specifics to make our own decisions on what to do next. Also, I do not herald the mega high schools. Too many things can go wrong with so many students and too few eyes to watch.

They are focusing on newer neighborhoods where the economic standings are higher and ignoring the needs of the smaller, older neighborhoods. I do not want my children to be bused an hour each way to a school on the other side of town. Those people may have larger houses and more money than I do, but I want to be considered an equal when it comes to the best interest of children. How can any school board feel that it is in the best interest of any child to have to ride a bus for two hours a day. That takes away time that could be spent on their studies. The Bluff Park and Columbiana area has a school facility that has been closed. Spend some money to update that campus (which would cost less than to build a brand new school on more expensive land) and keep our children close to home and give them the same quality education that is provided to the students that live closer to the Valley Dale Road and the Trace Crossings campuses. I attended Shades Mountain Elem, Simmons, and Berry High School and I kept my family in this area because of the wonderful education I had and the bond of the community where I have lived for the past 35 years of my life. I want the best for my 3 children and as it stands right now, to get that I will have to move them to a new neighborhood where they can go to school, live close to their peers they are attending school with and have that same warm feeling that I had as a child in the schools I attended. How can our children get a good quality education and still enjoy the pleasure of knowing the other children they are in school with? I guess the answer to that still remains an open issue. Stay and continue to watch our neighborhood children suffer, the parents suffer, and our community be overlooked or move to a community that cares? I don't want to see my children draw the short straw because I choose to stay in the Bluff Park/Alford Ave. Community. Their doctors and dentists are in our community. We have sports leagues for our community. Why can't we have schools in our community? I have heard the other parents in my neighborhood talk about trying to get to their children to take them to the doctor, the dentist, and any extracurricular activities that they have in our community and all I have heard is that between the distance and the traffic it is almost impossible to get to your child and get them where they need to be without having to leave work an hour to an hour and a half early just to go round trip. That is just nuts and I have no desire to have myself or my children having to jump through hoops because the Hoover Board of Education decided to cater to the needs and desires of the "new Hoover" communities over the communities that have stood faithful to the city for many, many years.

Our present middle and high schools are fine facilities! But with very little family/personal time at our home already - I cannot imagine my daughter spending 2 hours on a school bus every day or the time and expense to drive her from Shades Mtn to Berry. A new facility closer to our neighborhood or even 'old' Berry would be great if feasible. At present, although it would be a huge financial blow to our family and I would not be able to retire when I'd hoped - we are considering either a move in 2009 so that we can be closer to a good middle and high school or enrolling in a neighborhood private school.

Look at the employees-and see how many students are here on transfers: bus, cafeteria,-and do not allow out of district transfers. Rezone some apartments to Spain Park

I have had two children in Hoover schools. One graduated from Hoover and the other from Spain Park. If rezoning had been done correctly last time, we wouldn't be doing this again. Green Valley- Simmons - Hoover track should be evaluated.

The high schools have entirely too many students. That cuts down on team sport accessibility and every other opportunity.

I was surprised that the initial Town Meeting discussed the possibility of opening old Berry and making it a middle school. At the last meeting, this was openly ignored. I feel renovation and remodeling of this facility with appropriate teacher availability makes economic sense. Too many Hooverites are interested in the 'look'. Education can take place in most any environment if a love of teaching is there.

this is a professionally done poll? thanks for asking.

In light of the previous rezoning, care should be taken to minimize changes for neighborhoods and families. New facilities must be planned farther in advance to accommodate projected growth, rather than to appease certain constituents. Equity does not always come in the form of demographics.

When you decide to make your home in Hoover and raise your children, I think you should know when you buy a home exactly where your children will be attending school and it should stay that way. I live in Russet Woods and our neighborhood has been shuffled to too many elementary schools. We love Deer Valley and do not want to leave. We have thought of moving but where? It seems as if anything is fair game to be rezoned. If elementary schools are rezoned they need to stay that way and future growth taken into consideration. And perhaps stop building so many homes. Too much growth brings crime, etc. and people move out.

The first rezoning was a fiasco which ruined our school. If they rezone, I hope that it is done more equitably next time. We are overcrowded, overworked, and underpaid for what we have to put up with. If I wanted to teach in Birmingham City, that's where I would be, not in HOOVER.

Bumpus Middle School is busting at the seams. In the lunchroom, my 6th graders class has to share seats. In Adv. Reading and Math Team class there are over 30 students. How can a teacher be effective with that many students???? I question the safety of the school with so many children squeezed into the building. Crowd control alone must be a huge barrier to learning.

The rankings left blank are factors that are insignificant to our family. I moved to Hoover because of the diversity. My kids attend school with neighbors, but all Hoover schools have children attending schools with their neighbors even though Russet Woods and other large housing areas are divided. I believe this survey is slanted and does not allow the person completing the survey to answer "INSIGNIFICANT." IT IS THE CITY OF HOOVER that has created this challenge by the continued annexation of property, approval of housing developments, etc. The school system is left dealing with the problem that the city created. This information needs to go to the city council initially. The school system is limited in response when growth is inevitable. We live in the growth area of Hoover and realized when we purchased our home that rezoning may occur. If people are unhappy about this dilemma, they need to move to landlocked areas such as Homewood and Vestavia.

I am very concerned with this. I live 1 block from Bumpus Middle School and am being advised that my child "might" be bussed across town to go to school. There MUST be better options.

There needs to be a long-range plan for the schools in Hoover if more neighborhoods are going to be built. Don't just bandaid the issue to satisfy the select few.

traffic patterns and driving distances need to be considered when evaluating changes - with frequent early dismissals due to severe weather, and so many teenage drivers, safety in driving to and from schools should be a priority for the planners. It is impossible to get to and from these schools if they are so far from home and the traffic is heavy.

Please zone the Apartment kids to the appropriate schools that are closer to their homes. The new growth that Hoover is undergoing is basically due to the Birmingham School system turmoil, and the interest from majority of those parents wanting their children to have the opportunity to play SPORTS. Of course, nothing is wrong with everyone having fair opportunities, but again, when you invest a lifestyle for your child it shouldn't be hampered by busing the apartment kids to a school passing 3 or 4 schools to get in a certain community to have the opportunity to be their for non-academics only. This is where the growth spurt is hurting the quality of education that lowers test scores are deriving from is the lack of the Birmingham Educational System and the need for these parents to place their children in a more high profile situation regarding their children's athletic ability. Sorry for some of the typos, I am at work.

Move the apartment students back to their original school systems. Deer Valley students are becoming a number vs an individual. South Shades Crest is already at capacity, yet Trace has many empty classrooms. Move children to Trace.

My last comment was such that people have made choices to live in certain areas of Hoover for the school system. Not to accommodate those that have multiples living in apartments just to be in the school system. My suggestion is that you BUCKLE DOWN at registration. Deeds should always be provided, regardless if you're in the system, and court documents should be provided if you have a legal guardian. I have seen it too many times where others have moved into the area for school and brought all of the bad habits. Ask the teachers, they'll tell you that it happens daily. Enough! Maybe we should model our education after Vestavia and Mountain Brook? Any apartments? If so, not many! Are there test scores always at the top? Yes! We've got to quick being so politically correct and do what's right for our kids.....they're the ones getting LEFT BEHIND!!!!!!

Build a new facility! Don't bus kids all over the place. A Ross Bridge facility would accommodate Ross Bridge, Bluff Park and Deer Valley students.

Why are we considering splitting schools by grade levels (a 5/6 school) only in the western section. we are already splitting the 9th grade apart.

I don't think students should be moved from where they currently go, especially if it is very close to their homes. Hoover needs to build a high school near Lake Cyrus and Ross Bridge. The students in West Hoover near South Shades Crest Road and Hwy 150 would attend the new high school. The freshman center would become a middle school for central Hoover including Lorna Rd and Hwy 150 south of 459. This would reduce crowding at Bumpus. Russet Woods, Lake Cyrus and Ross Bridge kids would go to the new high school and attend Bumpus Middle School. This should solve our problem for several years. 3 high schools and 4 middle schools. Simmons middle

students would go to Hoover High when they reach 9th grade. An extra elementary school could be built in Ross Bridge or near the Freshman center if needed.

Proceed with caution.

The Hoover City Council and zoning commission has created this problem by continuing to approve large housing developments with no additional school plans. We need strong leadership from our city to say no to developers. Bigger is not best! It is time for Hoover to play "catch up" with our neighborhoods and schools. NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS!!! When we have caught up with the growth then the city needs to have a master plan before they let these developers build. Master plans need to include schools and roads to handle the growth. It's called smart city planning.

I believe students must attend schools close to their homes. You begin to lose a sense of "community" in the schools when you are sent far from your neighborhood and you greatly, greatly decrease parental involvement and extracurricular involvement when people have to travel a great distance to reach the school.

Although I would advocate rezoning to manage growth in the western side of town, it needs to be accomplished while making diversity, especially socioeconomically, equal in ALL schools regardless of location of home in relation to a child's zoned school.

Rezoning needs to be fair - don't rezone middle school students with the intention of rezoning them only for a couple of years - that is a very difficult time and it is unfair to them. Apartment complexes that are currently bussed throughout the system need to be bussed to ALL elementary schools EVENLY. If a school already has a very large apartment complex zoned for the school and is in close proximity, they should not have 4 or more other complexes bussed in from across town, when other elementary schools have no (or just one or two) apartment complexes bussed in.

Rezoning is not popular, but it may have to be done much sooner than indicated at the middle school meetings. We do not have any "bad" Hoover City Schools to which students may be zoned, so our leaders must be willing to take the flak and do what must be done for the good of the whole instead of a few vocal parts. Glad they are making the effort to get parents input BEFORE rezoning. Hopeful that a solid plan for all future growth is forthcoming.

SMES should continue on to Berry and SPSHS. (I have a 4th gr. @ SMES and a 10th gr. @ SPSHS)
KEEP OLD BERRY --Pricele\$\$ location for current AND FUTURE Hoover schools' needs and HOOVER COMMUNITY needs -- especially outdoor soccer for HOOVER schools.
STRONG desire by SMES parents for a BERRY After School Care Program*

I think a plan should be in place to allow students and their siblings to remain at the elementary schools they are presently attending regardless of the rezoning plan. What is the time frame for making these decisions? As a teacher at Bumpus and a resident living in the "questionable" area of Russet Woods, it would be greatly appreciated to have a time line in place for these solutions.

Hoover needs to build a 3rd high school sooner rather than later. Band aid solutions send the message that Hoover is becoming reactive instead of being proactive and planning for excellence. Teachers should be given more planning time, too.

The solution seems simple to me. A third high school is needed. Use taxpayer money wisely and refurbish existing old high school and not WASTE on starting from scratch. FIX the problem for the long term and not just bandaid the problem. Bumpus is too large and some of those kids (ie. Ross Bridge/some of Deer Valley could be rezoned for Simmons which is much smaller) Let Everything north of HWY 150 could go Simmons. Use Bumpus for some of Deer Valley and subdivisions on the west side of South Shades Crest. The Freshman building would become a middle school for Trace Crossings and east of South Shades Crest. The Simmons middle school would attend the new third high school. There would be room for growth for that school. Bumpus and new middle school (current Freshmen Center) would feed Hoover High. No need for building new facilities. One reason Deer Valley and SSC are so crowded are apartments being bussed in. Send them to Trace Crossings where there is room!!! or Rocky Ridge. Zone the apartments for the school closer to them!

All areas of Hoover should be subject to rezoning, even Green Valley.

A community team recommended building a third high school years ago. Why hasn't the school system started on this? It has long been obvious that Bumpus is overcrowded, and a third high school was planned to relieve it.

My suggestion, don't ask for permission...ask for forgiveness. You will never please the majority, don't try. Just do it. We should be grateful for all we have here in Hoover.

Do not bus students past other schools!!!! Our school is overcrowded no matter what the capacity is according to central office. Keep the students at their current school, but rezone the apartment children back to their neighborhood school and not bus them past other schools that are well below capacity!!!

WHY ALWAYS REZONE THE WESTERN SECTION, BECAUSE NOT HIGHER INCOME FAMILY. BUILD SCHOOL IN AREA OF GROWTH AND LEAVE CURRENT ZONES ALONE WESTERN SECTIONS WERE THERE BLUFF PARK, GREEN VALLEY AND THEY ARE THE ONES ALWAYS CONSIDERED FOR REZONING, BUILD A SCHOOL FOR ROSS BRIDGE AND LAKE CYRUS

I am in favor of the proposed plan to build a 5th & 6th grade school to alleviate crowding at Deer Valley, Trace Crossings, So. Shades Crest, and Bumpus. I would not think that additional taxes should be needed to build the next school, given that there is a capital improvement fund as well as Hoover's share of the Jefferson County sales tax money.

Some areas of Hoover appear to be untouched and protect by the Board while other areas have their students rezoned constantly. When someone buys a home and they have small children, they are usually buying for a specific school. Rezoning them out of that school is very frustrating to all those involved.

When purchasing our houses within the Bluff Park neighborhood of Hoover, our main criteria was to remain in the Bluff Park Elementary School zoning. I have had to battle zoning before in 2003 or 2004. I attended Bluff Park as a child and so did many of the parents of children who attend now. The School Board does not realize that many people choose where they are going to live not based on just Hoover City Schools, but specific schools. The school board itself needs to be an elected and not appointed position and then maybe the board would listen to the people who have children involved in the rezoning. My experience from the last zoning issue, is the board has no clue of what to do and each member of the board you speak with is on a different page from every other member.

I want to continue to attend the same schools my kids are currently tracked for-I would consider moving if changes were made to their present track. I moved here to attend these schools. They are close to my home and I have devoted time, energy and resources that have contributed to the schools that have helped shape them into what they are today. I would not be opposed to finding a new principle for the elementary school we attend. She seems to be lost in maintaining discipline and striving for excellence. that my oldest daughter experienced when she attend elementary school there. The recent population change in our schools due to the last redistricting has hindered my children's education.

I think that the school board and/or city council are in denial if they truly believe that people don't purchase homes in Hoover based specifically on their preference for an Elementary school. As a Bluff Park family, we located here because the environment provided by a small neighborhood school was what we wanted for our children. And I believe that is true for most (if not all) of the families in "Old Hoover". To disregard the educational/lifestyle choices of those families would be incredibly disrespectful.

I moved to this area because of the reputation of our schools. I am now seeking to move out because of the NEW reputation of our school systems. I am not alone in this opinion and if the growth continues and the facility issues are not addressed our school systems will crumble right in front of our eyes.

I'm willing to be flexible, but want to know that the community will be informed before decisions are made.

I have heard many ideas - but with the amount of money in Hoover proper - it is impossible to believe we can't match other systems. Build a new high school. Simmons - to the freshman center - old berry new Simmons. Get some forward thinking and "elected" school board members who are really invested - preferably with school age children. Thanks for asking - kudo's to Andy Craig for asking what we think instead of cramming it down our throats.

I live in Ross Bridge. Currently we are zoned for Simmons Middle. I believe we should be rezoned for Bumpus because 1. It is much closer and 2. Our children should be able to continue on with the other children they have gone to elementary school with.

Don't cater to certain neighborhoods just because of their implied economic status.

I am tired of being re-zoned and if it continues I will consider moving out of Hoover.

City of Hoover to stop new development until they have a plan of action. Such as the new development at Chase Lake and other new communities.

i am also aware of the potential for our area (russett woods)to get the short end of the stick again, because we don't have any political backing in our area!

I certainly have very little faith in the BOE and Superintendent. Look at their past. Someone with EXPERIENCE in the world of education needs to make these decisions. As a teacher and a parent, I have very little faith in someone (BOE and Super) who has never taught in a classroom. How do these people know what is best for my child?

Use the old Berry High School

I believe the best solution would be to give the Mountain area schools their own High School. This would include Gwin, Green Valley, Bluff Park and Shades Mountain Elementary, going to Simmons Middle School, then a reinvention of the old Berry Facilities into Shades Mountain, Shades Crest or Columbiana High School. This would eliminate the overcrowded area of Trace Crossing, South Shades Crest, Deer Valley, Ross Bridge, Bumpus, Hoover middle, Freshman and High School. With the schools in the Spain Park area, as Rocky Ridge, Riverchase, Indian Valley, Greystone, then the Berry Middle and Spain Park High Schools. Needed some up grade to The Old Berry and benefiting in using the Prime Property already being maintained and paid for by the residents in Hoover. The cost would be hiring teachers and administrators for a High School. THE benefit would be students from the area would not have to travel far to school, more individual attention, more opportunity for the students to excel in programs, academically and in athletics. To have more kids involved in positive programs and promote a stronger community. Thank you for strongly considering my comments. From a parent expected to travel 12.5 miles for one child to go to Berry Middle while Simmons is 4 miles from my house and the old Berry is only 3 miles from my home, with another child at Shades Mountain.

Middle schools need to stay as 6th 7th and 8th grade. We need to use the Old Berry Middle school and move Apartment kids closer to home. Quit using time and money to bus these kids so far away. Gas prices are rising and this can not be helping. This was a mistake and I am sure has caused an inconvenience to working parents. Your creating more traffic issues.

It is impossible to rank the negative impact of a school at or beyond capacity. ALL of the ramifications are serious beyond words. To think that football turf was discussed as part of rivaling school "fairness", at the possible cost of not having future money to build a high school is heartbreaking. Where is the fairness of shorter class periods, 1/8 or greater of making a team or club, more stressed/overworked faculty, less quality time with teachers? Donna Frazier personally told me that a solution would be to move to "Spain Park". ??????

Hoover residents are willing to "bite the bullet" if we know that there is a well-constructed long-term plan. Although I am disappointed that there have only been short-term solutions for the past several years, I am hopeful that our school leaders will develop a plan to accommodate both our current and growth needs.

The schools that are close to and/or over capacity would not be so if we stopped bussing kids in from other parts of Hoover. This action is creating a multitude of problems at the schools the kids are being bussed to. All parts of Hoover are not equally diverse. There is no reason to create a culture in the school that does not exist in the neighborhoods that should logically feed it.

I would like to see a Hoover school of the arts. Not every student is a gifted athlete or cheerleader. Nor is every student an academic wonder. A lot of students slip thru the cracks and become isolated because I feel that Hoover city schools puts such a strong emphasis on Sports and academic achievements. Which is fine, but if you look at the numbers most kids aren't straight A scholars, nor are they outstanding athletes. A school of the arts would offer those other students an alternative. When we lived in Franklin TN, they piloted a program and started a school of the arts and students were given a choice. It was a big success and a lot of educators were surprised at how many students choose to attend the school of arts. Something to think about.

If Hoover would stop allowing all these apartments to be built and get the mexican population under control this problem would not be so bad!

I would like to see discussion on how to deal with Teachers that have tenure and NOT teaching the students, but just going through the routine. What are the ways that these situation can be dealt with without your child being penalized?

Don't punish the schools that are not over crowded to make room for the ones that are. You will just over fill the stable schools.

While there will always be resistance to change, we have to trust that the board is taking this seriously and will do what's best for the kids... for example, I hadn't considered the impact new buildings would have on funding for activities/hiring new teachers until I got to this part of the survey. That would make me reconsider my opinion on building, maybe it would be wiser to use the facilities we already have???

I believe that students need to be kept with their neighbors and that there are some schools that have more room to grow and that we need to utilize that by ensuring zones are drawn to ensure that children are in close proximity to their school. It does not make sense since that there are times a neighborhood is closer to one school, but are then zoned to attend another.

It is such a difficult problem to solve...and no matter what you do, everyone won't be happy. Children should be thought of first...the quality of their education, and the repercussions of re-zoning

Please stop sending students from the western areas all the way to Spain Park HS and Berry MS.

It is not right to bus kids to S. Shades Crest that live way beyond Trace Crossings. It is not right to make our area suffer. We paid the price for our kids to be in the school they are in and the non-English speaking kids should go to school close to where they live -- it is not right. You are going to ruin Hoover schools with this rezoning!

I wish the name "Berry" would have never been given to a middle school that feeds into Spain Park High. There are many graduates of Berry High in this area that are now raising children/athletes in this school system. It is not right that Berry is now a black and blue team and rival of the buccaneers.

We made an investment in our child's education by moving into the Oak Park/Woodlands neighborhood so that he could attend SSCE and subsequent schools. I do not think we should be rezoned to accommodate those who have not made the same commitment. May God guide you in making the proper decision regarding my child's education. Thank you.

Every child should go to a school as close to their home as possible.

I think it's outrageous to build more schools when Berry is a beautiful campus and should be used instead of catering to all the people who have their own ulterior motives.

It's hard to rank these in order. Several of them are very important. Bumpus has classes where students have to sit on the floor. Bumpus also has a reading class just so they can put a 5th teacher on each hall.

Simmons is sitting under capacity. Opportunities are more abundant at Simmons. The rezoning done several years ago over-crowded the schools on the western end of Hoover (i.e. Deer Valley, SSC and Bumpus) while making other schools under capacity, such as Trace, Simmons, and Rocky Ridge.

The freshman center is so huge that teachers don't know kids names and if you aren't the "cream of the crop" there aren't many opportunities for you.

Why is it that Spain Park is way under capacity and Hoover High is way over? (1300 vs. 2400) There are many inequities. Winning is not as important as opportunity.

Also why aren't we utilizing the old Berry as another middle school. Two middle school should feed into each high school. Spain Park should bear more of the burden. I would drive my children there if that's where their friends were going.

Decisions need to be made soon. The longer we wait, the worse the problem gets.

I live within 1 mile of SSC elementary school. My husband and I chose and built this house with the number one reason of our children attending SSC. If we are rezoned to another elementary school, we in addition to a large portion of the South Shades Crest population will take all necessary legal action to protect our children's education our rights as residents of this section of Hoover. We will not send our children to another Hoover City elementary school!

The high schools are far too large. We need more schools and the apartment dwellers need to be more equitably distributed.

We have a child ready for 5k next year and have serious doubts about moving to Hoover because of the rezoning & growth issues. I attended elementary, middle & high school at Hoover. We have considered moving to Vestavia because we do not want to be REZONED in Hoover.

I do not believe in rezoning but would rather see a new building program be addressed.

Where is the City Council on these issues? Where is the City Plan that addresses these issues? Western Hoover (e.g., Deer Valley, Ross Bridge) is growing - I'd of thought that schools (rezone, build, etc.) were always in the Plan - otherwise; shame on us all (voters, politicians).

student teacher ratios are a top priority/having large high schools are more desirable over a mega high school

1. Do not want kids to be in their community k-4 then grouped together 5-6 then separated again 7-8, etc.
2. Also, do not think kids should be with friends k-5 then only a handful be separated for middle school.
3. Do not think kids should have to switch schools midway during the rezoning process.

Find the money and build a 3rd high school. Turn the 9th grade building into a 4th middle school.

The City Council created this problem by annexing repeatedly. They should produce some of the funding to help alleviate the problem.

I believe which ever option will buy us the most "fixed time" is the way to go. I don't want to be facing these same issues 5 years from now. My oldest child is in kindergarten and I have two more stairs stepped directly behind him. So my family is the future of Hoover City Schools, and I want the children to have a stable school environment.

Berry should not be an option for any Hoover School to be rezoned to.

We are in one of the few schools with the Quest, and as a parent of a Quest child and another coming in a few years, I do not want rezoning to a school that does not offer this program.

We need to stop the rezoning nonsense and make a long term plan for handling the growth of our school system. WE are DONE with the band-aid fixes and want real solutions!!! I hate not knowing where my child might go to school next year when I moved to this house ONLY because of the schools I wanted my children to attend. PLEASE STOP THE MADNESS!!!!

We should use the space at the Freshman Center to relieve crowding at Bumpus while we work on building the 3rd High School that most residents want. In my opinion the 3rd HS should be in the Ross Bridge area and be feed by Bumpus. Then convert the Freshman Center to its intended use, a 4th middle school. Hoover High would be feed by the new middle school and Simmons. On the Elementary level rezoning should be addressed to relieve crowding at SSC and DV. Trace has additional space for some students currently at SSC. Meanwhile get the elementary school started in the Regions area. This continues to be a bone of contention for me as there are no roads or infrastructure yet into this area that continues to be mentioned as the site for a new elementary school. How long can DV and SSC wait for this land to open up? Thank you for conducting this survey.

We moved here to have our kids in the good Hoover city schools. We feel that our kids should not be moved far away with buses. I would love to have a bus system for the freshmen center behind the regions park, or a walking path/bike path along stadium trace, so that the parents from park trace/scout creek/lake trace etc. don't all have to drive their kids to school separately.

Children should not have to go to five different schools to get through the Hoover system. (Elementary, sixth, middle, ninth, high school). Hopefully, that wasn't a valid plan, but if it was, I hope it is off the table.

I feel as a parent that the over crowding should be addressed were the problem is. Build a new school to handle the over crowding and leave rezoning out. Some of these children have already had to go through a rezoning and too make them do it again could be crucial. Children need stability and during these very crucial years change is not good for them.

REZONE and THEN MAKE PLANS TO BUILD A THIRD HIGH SCHOOL

I feel it is important to go to school in your community (meaning where you live) with your neighbors. I do not believe in "carving out" certain neighborhoods or sending kids around town when there is a school close by. If you start shipping kids around I feel our community loosing in the process. Also, it will negatively impact our property values.

Hoover needs to stop giving permission to developers - no new houses!

I do not want to be re-zoned for Trace Crossing!! I also want my children to go to Bumpus!!!

Possibility - Make Bumpus a 6 - 7 building and the freshman center a 8 and 9 building? That would help Bumpus, but Hoover is really large and it would help to make it smaller.

My main "pet peeve" about the Hoover School System is the rezoning that was done several years ago to "equalize" the schools. It totally changed the quality and atmosphere of our elementary and middle school. I believe this type of action was challenged in the courts in another state recently and was ruled illegal. Hoover

should really investigate this and make the necessary changes. All Hoover needs is another highly publicized court battle.

I am concerned that the school board members are failing to take into consideration the huge benefits of maintaining middle schools within communities/neighborhoods. The purported plan from what I am hearing would be quite disruptive for students and would dissuade the students from coming together as a cohesive group that extends into the neighborhoods. Such opportunity would assist to prevent other problems later including minor criminal behaviors/drug use/bullying as the students would live in the same area in which they attend school - this applies to elem and middle school years.

I am very frustrated with the lack of urgency to reduce overcrowding in some of our schools, especially Bumpus Middle. I have had a child there for four years and am very disappointed with the direction that the school is headed. Reducing the numbers there would eliminate most of the problems that I see happening. But if they don't do something soon, the kids there now will be done with middle school and therefore will have lost their opportunity to truly be well prepared for high school.

Honestly, I believe that the western area of Hoover is a "newer" area, and I would much rather they build new schools to accommodate the growth that the city has continued to promote.

All children in Hoover deserve the same quality of facilities and staff.

I do not want my child to be PING PONG'd all over the city... 3 schools is all they should have to attend in their school years...a elm.sch. (k-5), a Middle sch. (6-8) and a high sch.(9-12).right now our kids to attend 4 schools before they ever graduate. I have one of the poorest performing elementary. school (TCE)and you want to add MORE diversity. It is very important that my children have quality and low ratio per teacher/student education. Your middle school needs to communicate better with parents (Bumpus). I asked to be informed of the homework and I was told that was not their job and if I wanted the homework I better hoped that my child wrote it down. We need to STOP paying for websites these teachers DONT use! There is a place on each website for teachers to plug in homework. The teachers have to 'plan' anyways why can't they use the websites to do it.

I think it is hard for children to change schools once they begin at a certain school and there should be accommodations for those students if they are involved in a re-zoning.

The City of Hoover drastically cut the school budget several years ago. When the Superintendent complained she was fired. The City government and the school board composition heavily favors real estate developers who have sacrificed the integrity of our school system for somebody's business profits. I want to see a more equitable tax plan that collects more money from the developers and businesses in Hoover whose drive for growth and profits have led to the current crisis in our schools. I also want to see more educators on the school board and fewer real estate developers.

Rezoning students should only be in the Bumpus area because that is the problem. Redirect the elementary students going to that school to offset the headcount. It worked nine years ago...it will work now. If anything, rezone for the immediate future in that area and build a new school to accommodate the headcount ...leave the Simmons students alone. It is certainly not fair to cause the Simmons community strife just because the Bumpus community isn't necessarily working to be the most convenient for them. Do the right thing - not what is going to be a personal fit for the board members or a political gain!!!

Middle schools should be divided more fairly and each includes quality "historically" involved neighborhoods, not just based on proximity.

If we cannot keep up with the growth something needs to be done about the growth

We bought our house where we did because of the school. There are areas where houses were cheaper, that we did not buy in because we didn't want our children at those schools. Rezoning to balance ethnicity groups is very frustrating. Rezoning for overflow in that particular area is understandable.

I think Shades Mountain students should not attend Berry Middle at Spain Park. It is too far middle school age students and there are not that many of them to rezone.

If schools other than Simmons feeders are having problems from poor planning they should address that within their own community and stop trying to shove their problems off on Simmons and Simmons feeder schools. If the Old Berry is to be used it makes more sense to renovate and put a NEW school there. New students to that school will be less affected than moving an entire middle school's teachers and students. The cost effectiveness of moving all of Simmons compared to starting Berry from scratch is MUCH less.

Either quit adding new subdivisions or make sure there is a plan for a school at the same time. Also, common sense tells us that if you do add more homes there is already an increase in tax revenues and no need to increase taxes. Quit using our children as a means to get more taxes to be misspent!

Though it is not considered politically correct, the fact is that we chose to live where we do to improve the school system our children are in and because we pay hire taxes our children should benefit. We do not live in a socialist society and our schools should not be run that way. No one benefits from slowing every child down to the slowest child in the class, especially society as a whole, considering these children are our future leaders.

Growth in the western section of Hoover is no surprise. My daughter is 16 and our area has been growing since before her birth. Planning for that growth appears to be the problem. A student's high school experience involves more than classwork. Funding will always be available for advanced classes--parents can and will pay for this. However, being a part of an athletic team, debate team, being student of the month, an Ambassador, etc.-- these things aren't available to a majority of the students because there are just too many of them. I'm done with mega schools. It would be nice for these students to actually know each other.

STOP This re-zoning issue non-sense.

Keep the "Old Hoover" as is: Bluff Park; Gwin; & Green Valley going to Simmons and Hoover HS. Hundreds of us are sick and tired of this shuffling around kids and teachers like they are a bunch of mindless cattle.

I do not have children in the system, but have taught here for 16 years and consider it home. I plan to retire from Hoover schools.

Rezoning makes sense... but if the priority is ethnicity balance over sensible placement based on student location, rezoning will not help. We need to address issues in the schools individually and not try to spread around "problems" so that the issues are covered up. We need responsible leadership from administration AND BOE.

I think I reversed the order of my ranking on the first question. Please do not count this survey. I can't go back or cancel.

Please remove all school board members and replace them with transparent, hard-working, ELECTED members who have the student's best interests at heart. The School board is the root of the problems that Hoover is facing. If the board would clean up their act, there would be more funds available to pay for new schools.

It is key to have long term goals for Hoover education and its infrastructure; an ultimate vision. These goals must be communicated to the community. Focusing on short term problems or missteps without these goals in mind will lead to bigger complications down the road. The possibility of future complications because of the absence of long term, well defined goals, will cost all members of the community.

This will always be a difficult decision. However, just because you build a new subdivision next to a school should not automatically mean that is the school you will attend. I have lived in my home for 15 years and purchased it for the school zoning and to relocate my family would be inequitable simply because Ross Bridge or some other development has now opened up and expedited a crowding problem.

Simmons needs to stay where it is; I don't think it should be changed to a freshman center or anything else. ESPECIALLY it shouldn't be moved to the OLD Berry building; if anything a new facility should be built for Simmons if that is what has to be done. It's time for Simmons to have a new facility. Hoover should strive to manage projected growth in high growth areas while also improving the education that Hoover City Schools offer. Hoover has been focusing so much on growth issues that it appears from SAT scores (as compared to Vestavia, Mountain Brook and Homewood) Hoover is forgetting to continue to improve on academics. Hoover's high 60's to low 70's scores pale in comparison to Vestavia's mid 80's scores. It begs the question as to what the true mission of the Hoover City Schools are. Is it to provide a high quality education to children or is it to provide a great football team? I think it can be both. It is essential that the decisions made not be "knee-jerk" reactions but well thought out long term goals that address the well-being of ALL students equally.

I have a multi-handicapped daughter that has to be bused all the way across town to attend Berry Middle School next year. My other kids attend Bumpus and South Shades Crest. I feel like it is unfair that she has to be bused so far. I think you should reconsider using the old Berry bld. (building) for either a ninth grade center, or additional high school. It is a shame to have a bld. in the system go to waste when it could be used to ease overcrowding.

Safety issues. At sunrise-dense fog up in the Bluff Park area around Tyler and Park Avenue. Students driving across town to Spain Park? Crazy!

We absolutely need to protect the quality of education in Hoover by building schools to accommodate the growth. Hoover children deserve the quality education that other students enjoy in Vestavia and Mountain Brook. We should keep student/teacher ratios lower and advanced courses offered. By having this, we will attract quality teachers.

The city should limit/slow (moratorium on growth) the residential growth until a complete comprehensive plan is approved by the residents and city leadership. There should be no need to have children go through school rezoning because of lack of planning and foresight from the leadership in this city.

I believe if Hoover can fund the police dept. with Tahoe trucks to drive around town then they can find solutions to address growth without hurting students, parents, and teachers. Maybe the Hoover dept. should look into how they are managing funds and better appropriation of those funds to areas of growth where it is needed. As a tax payer I would rather my tax dollars go for schools than cars that the police drive that are more expensive than my own.

I think that when you handle the growth problems by creating an entire campus for a single grade that you reduce opportunities for those students affected.

We have so many resources in Hoover. We need to look toward permanent solutions. Parents are not going to move into our system with a black cloud hanging over us. If we show we are looking out for our children and taking steps to find long term solutions (not reusing old buildings temporarily), people will put their faith back into this system. Don't uproot children who are thriving just to accommodate growth that hasn't happened. All the great anticipation of Ross Bridge has not materialized into a large number of students. Just make smart decisions with the current students and their future in mind.

Wild swings in test scores due to rezoning should be avoided and all schools should have same education level and similar test results.

We need another high school asap !!

People in the western section of Hoover want the same opportunities as those at Spain Park. We want one elementary, one middle and one high school (not 9th grade centers, 5th-6th grade building etc.) We want a school that isn't so supersized that only the "elite" can participate in anything! We want teachers to be able to "know" our children not just herd them through like cattle!

After attending 2 of the 3 Middle School "informational" meetings that were recently held, I truly question whether those in charge of making these decisions for "Our" children have the children's best interest at heart. 2 rezonings in the 3 years that I have lived here....Moving children for the sake of moving children....Smaller neighborhoods being ignored and used as "fillers" for the not yet at capacity schools. I appreciate the efforts of this organization to at least try and take care of our children...

I think that rezoning students in the Middle school years should be carefully considered. These years are so difficult anyway, please do not start shuffling these students back and forth. Also I think they need to be in the middle school environment in 6, 7 & 8th grades (particularly 7th & 8th). I think it would cripple some of these kids to deprive them of togetherness in these years - we already have to go to a different school in the 9th grade.

The population of Hoover is growing faster than the school system and road system can handle. Builders and new home buyers should be made responsible for helping pay for new schools in their areas.

Simmons should not be penalized because Hoover did not plan for the future. Move the freshman center to old berry... it is close to the interstate and they will only be there for 1 year with the mold and the rats.

The Superintendent and School Board should be proactively meeting with the city regarding growth. Hoover Schools should not be in this situation where kids need to be rezoned from their neighborhood schools. There's too much focus and favoritism on athletics and not enough on academics and what's best for the children of Hoover. Hoover Schools spend way too much money on athletic activities including banquets, uniforms and other team accessories that are not really important even to the kids involved. Being competitive doesn't have to involve a lot of money on things that aren't necessary to be competitive. This stresses parents financially and inhibits their abilities to be able to afford academic extras that their child may benefit from. The schools need to use the monies obtained from athletic functions to supplement the extras currently offered for a fee like the ACT/SAT prep courses, etc. These academic support courses should be available to every Hoover student free of charge. Our tax dollars used for educating out kids should insure and be a guarantee that they will get the education promised. If additional help is needed, it should not come at a cost to the citizens.

I firmly believe that the places that are not directly affected by over-grown areas should not be affected! Build new wings or new buildings, but leave well enough alone!

We bought our house because of the close proximity to schools. Please do not rezone.

Rezoning has never solved any problems! It puts kids into classrooms and situations that usually lead to bullying.

I will be affected by the possible rezoning. I personally feel that the rezoning is a band-aid and not a solution. What happens when Ross Bridge continues to grow and the area south of the Hoover Met becomes developed. The schools will fill once again and then what rezone again? Not exactly stable for all the children affected by this. They will have to leave friends as well as familiar surroundings and expected to adapt. Children need stability. I'm not saying something shouldn't be done, but I believe the big picture should be considered.

I think rezoning would have a negative impact on property values. School zoning is a determinative factor in the decision to purchase a house - to then be changed can be detrimental to Hoover homeowners.

I am comfortable with the idea of rezoning Simmons for Berry Middle and making Simmons a Freshman center or High school for the Bluff Park Community

Questions were asked about the schools being large enough to field strong sports teams. What about being large enough to justify advanced learning classes (More A/P, language, etc)

I DO NOT FEEL WHAT EVER HAPPENS THAT IF YOU LIVE IN A NEIGHBORHOOD THAT NOT EVEN A BLOCK AWAY IS ZONE FOR ANOTHER SCHOOL YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CHOOSE AS TO WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR CHILD TO GO. I FEEL LIKE THAT IS THE PROBLEM TODAY WE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO MAKE DECISIONS ON OUR OWN THE SCHOOL BOARD DOES AND WE DO NOT HAVE A SAY WHICH IS UNFAIR TO OUR CHILDREN.

Hoover is a financially sound community school system is a big draw to the city we need to be very careful before we end up like these other school systems

Please consider creating a new high school. Sports shouldn't have that much of a priority on this decision. Education and class size is so much more valuable!

There should be no more delay in building a new high school. The classroom sizes are much to large in the middle schools and this does effect these children

If re-zoning is what it takes, please do so. ANYTHING is better than attending a high school with greater than 1800 students.

Let's pull the reigns in on city council and the P&Z committee before the "rubber" stamp more housing developments!

When will city leaders stop allowing so much building so that we can get the situation under control?

While the western side of Hoover has experienced tremendous growth, the families living in this area have lost the comfort that comes with knowing where their children will complete their education. Could you please work with developers, etc. to come up with a reasonable long-range plan that considers this probable growth and stick with it? People are tired of all the uncertainty.

Like I mentioned early, Hoover has gotten so big, that too many quality children (academically, artistically and athletically) are forgotten about because of just sheer numbers. There should be more opportunities for all of our talented children so they can all be a part of something whether it be a team, club, etc. That is part of the middle and high school experience that will last in their minds for a lifetime. (those bonds) I believe Hoover must have a third high school and I believe it should happen sooner rather than later.

I'm not attached to any colors or name, I am more interested in a quality education and more opportunities for kids that are left out, because of the largeness of the school. I know you have tough decisions and I trust you will do the right thing. It's great being big, but sometimes you can be too big and I think that is what has happened in Hoover. I love Hoover and I'll love it if it's called Hoover High, Berry High, Spain Park or John Doe High school, as long as they are getting a quality education and enjoying their middle & high school experience. Thank you.

It is very important to keep children in their neighborhood schools and to keep quality teachers in our schools. Our school system has wonderful teachers and low teacher-student ratios, this should remain the same to maintain our high standards. Teachers should not be afraid to come and work for Hoover, because of poor funding, low pay, poor support from our system. If taxes need to be raised to help our school system to stay competitive with other Over The Mountain Schools then lets do it. Another high school should be built to elevate the overflow of students at Hoover High. It is ok if the new high school does not win every football game. Sports are good, but should not be everything. It is also time to give more students the opportunity to play football or baseball and not just be a

number on the sidelines. A new high school would give more students the opportunity to fulfill their childhood dream. My family loves living in Hoover and with the community growing the school system and the community need to stand up to the plate and make some changes that will help Hoover in the long run, not just be a short term fix.

Reopen the old Berry and rezone Simmons and Bumpus students to accommodate 3 middle schools for Western Hoover

Rezoning is only a quick fix. They need to look at the big picture and build more schools

Please consider old Berry for middle school/high school fine arts programming.

I will not have my child rezoned to attend a school that will require my child to be bused across town.

The goal of our system should be to provide the best education possible to our children. This includes academics as well as leadership, athletic and the arts which are very hard to participate in with such high numbers.

Again make it fare when rezoning plans are made if such plan come to be. Right now the current zoning for elementary is not fare. Look at South shades crest and Trace crossing numbers for starters. South shade crest cannot take any more students. If anything they should be unloading some that are bused in to trace crossing.

Stability and structure is important for children. It is preached to them regarding attendance, performance, etc and rezoning constantly does not help that. I live in Riverchase area and simply do not want to be moved again. My middle schooler has made friends and developing relationships with adults in Berry/Spain Park system and needs that constant. I will be very unhappy if we are rezoned. There was not a place to tell about your level of happiness with overall education of your children which is far more important than any of the strong teams and school colors. Overall, happy with Berry. See some cookie cutter education taking place at Riverchase Elementary. Good news school is filled with some phenomenal teachers, however, administration (primarily principal) is not so highly regarded and there is big gap between feelings/direction of teachers vs. admin and our children begin feeling the effects. We have very high turnover and our rate of teacher absences from classroom is outrageous which all is back to poor administration. Again, I am overall okay with school b/c my children have two fantastic teachers so I can shelter myself from admin, but who knows what next year will hold. I despise that it is beginning to look like creativity is stripped from the classroom. All rooms look alike and teaching like robots is not what I am looking for in the foundational years of my children's education. My oldest is in middle school, middle child about to leave Riverchase Elementary, but I have a 1st grader which I am struggling year to year with. I have met with principal personally to no avail. She has never followed up on any meetings and avoids parental contact. If she was not surrounded by the superior staff up there she would be on the hot seat non-stop for poor handling of situations, void of personality with parents and is a queen of pleasing central office. I am a taxpayer and the school should be providing an education to my children that helps them to maximize their potential and become the most productive citizens around. On the last note, the bookkeeper at Riverchase Elementary is additionally void of any personality, treats parents who may have slight language barrier like they are sub standard citizens and is just down right rude. I help in the office and do not have a language barrier, but have witnessed first hand her discriminating attitude. Thank goodness I do not have to deal with her daily. Thank you for taking the time to field a survey. I hope many folks take the time to complete it and let their voices be heard.

While I believe the system will need a 3rd high school soon, I think most of the current overcrowding issues can and should be solved by rezoning. I personally feel that creating Freshman campus to alleviate overcrowding is a mistake.

Let's keep neighbors going to school with neighbors!

My oldest child attends Green Valley Elementary and we are looking at making a move in the next year or so and would like to stay in that same school zoning. I also have relatives that attend Deer Valley and due to large subdivisions that are there they've reached (or are near to capacity). If the growth is there and is expected to continue to grow there, that is the area in need of additional schools. Something needs to be done with the old Berry Middle School, but it is on the very edge of Hoover and no where near the area affected by the largest population growth. Let's plan for our children's futures, the growth of Hoover and not just a band aid to fix the current overcrowding issue. Band aids seldom fix anything

Building is going to have to happen eventually so why do so much unnecessary rezoning when it is only a temporary solution anyway???

I think it is wrong to continually be "shifting" students from one school to another as a result of overcrowding. There should be plans in place for building new facilities within the specific area so that children can attend school close to their homes, not across town. But then also, there should be strict enforcement for those children to attend school for which they are specifically zoned for.

- What happened to the money they are collecting from the last tax increase to help pay for new schools?
2. Why are they not already building a new school? They knew Ross Bridge would continue to grow!
 3. Why is it that no one is affected in Greystone?
 4. Why is it that Deer Valley Elementary went from the smallest to the largest school and now we have numerous children whom speak no English? Why did DVES get all the apartments and schools across the street from the apt. are now one of the lowest amounts of students per school?
 5. I want to know why the parents have NO input on these matters?
 6. Something needs to be done immediately!!!!!!

If the city grows so must the schools!
There is no way around that.

Many families like myself moved (from Tuscaloosa City Schools) to Hoover due to its proven educational reputation. Any drastic change in zoning and/or quality of education should be evaluated on the basis of retention of the current residents and continued growth. I believe that we are blessed to have this problem (just look at Birmingham City Schools) and trust the Superintendent & Board will do what is necessary to provide the same consistent quality of education that our community has built over the years. I am embarrassed by the thoughts of some parents and how blinded they are regarding some of the neighborhood schools. I guess they don't realize that people who live in Trace paid more to live there and are expecting to have a special school (since they pay extra for it). I applaud the administrations effort to get on the front end of these issues. I don't understand this school zoning at all; it's very confusing for those new to this area. I live so much closer to Valley elementary, than I do to Riverchase and yet it just doesn't make any sense at all in this whole area. All of these area schools are so close to one another and. I live much closer to the Oak Mountain schools, and it just depends which subdivision you live in.

There is no easy solution and some tough choices will have to be made. Not everyone will be happy. But if parents would be supportive of change, they might find that their child is actually in a better situation in the long run.

PLEASE DO SOMETHING TO HELP THE FAMILIES WHO MOVED BACK TO HOOVER IN THE GREEN VALLEY AREA. WE VEHEMENTLY PROTESTED RE-ZONING TO SPAIN PARK YEARS AGO. NOW WE ARE BEGGING FOR A NEW HIGH SCHOOL IN OUR AREA. WE DO NOT HAVE TO HAVE THE SAME FACILITIES- WE DON'T WANT A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL TEAM. JUST GIVE US GOOD TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS AND KEEP OUR KIDS CLOSE TO HOME. ALSO, A SYSTEM THIS SIZE REALLY NEEDS A LARGER "ALTERNATIVE" SCHOOL FACILITY--MORE KIDS NEED TO BE REMOVED FROM DISRUPTING THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT--EVEN AT THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL.

Russet Woods neighborhood should all attend the same school(South Shades Crest)Ross Bridge should attend Bluff Park or Gwin since they will then move on to Simmons Middle School.

You should not rezone students that live very close to Simmons to Berry to accommodate the newer neighborhoods. Increase the size of Bumpus to accommodate these students.

A reevaluation of the HHS freshman campus is badly needed. This idea was goon on the surface but has not proven to be the best alternative for the parents and students. Leaving the age group and student population so isolated has not been good. The student population has no peer guidance and anyone on the Junior and Senior level to look up to or learn from. They have been left to themselves isolated from the positive high school experience that the other Hoover City high school, Spain Park is afforded.

It is not fair to the children or parents to rezone when the result is the children are going to school miles from their home if another school is closer.

Children should be left in schools in their own neighborhoods for cohesiveness and parent ease in the busy traffic/commute of the day. There is a sense of community there. It doesn't make sense to move children way across the city...keep them together, they are a strong support system as are the parents and this support will produce strong adults as the kids age.

We need to be more concerned about our kids educational needs and less concerned about winning football games.

Please make every effort to keep our young people in neighborhood schools!

I think that anyone who doesn't realize that has had their head in the sand!

Yes, and it is also clear that they favor anything Greystone and Lake Cyrus families want.

With the housing slump, there will probably be LESS growth in the next couple of years than in the past several. A fresh coat of paint and some new carpet at some schools would be a GREAT way to spend some budget money. Thanks! GO BUCS!

I am particularly concerned about the development of the Freshman Center. I do not believe it is a good idea to remove that age group from the high school mix, move children that many times during their school tenure, nor do I think it is effective when considering electives such as band or extra curricular activities such as football. I believe we must build schools instead of patching the problems and we are willing to pay a higher property tax to keep the system in good standing. As a side-note I would like to see foreign languages taught in elementary school...Spanish in particular.

I have heard that Andy Craig & the school board are all about politics as opposed to looking out for the best interest of our families.

If that is the case, the Board needs to be aggressively communicating this possibility and a timetable. There seems to be a major lack of communication from the School Board about the future plans for maintaining a quality education. In addition, teacher's experience really needs to be thoroughly reviewed before hiring or simply relocating to another school to possibly eliminate a situation at their current school.

There are no bad Hoover schools. The citizens of Hoover should learn to accept solutions that are best for the community as a whole and not look solely at their personal agenda. Voice your opinions sure. But accept the decisions of our leaders without burning them at the stake. The whining is getting quite old.

The only reason I heard about it is because I am on the board of the Hoover Softball Association and heard it from a fellow board member.

I believe that using existing facilities to restructure the schools is a band aid fix and not feasible. Growth in the western part of Hoover will continue and building new facilities will be the best way to alleviate the overcrowding for now and the future!

I live within a 2 mile radius of Simmons middle--my two daughters attended there and I sincerely hope my first grader will have that same opportunity.

My children would probably not be effected by a rezoning effort. Since the school system owns a building that is not being used it is difficult for me to understand why we have overcrowding at some schools. I know rezoning is an emotional issue however, our school officials need to be fiscally responsible for the funds they manage and make the difficult and forward thinking decisions that will preserve the school system's current financial position.

The Hoover school board should be elected not appointed and the board must be more accountable to the citizens and tax payers of Hoover.

The Old Berry Middle School is a valuable resource that needs to be used. It had excellent facilities before it closed that could be brought back up to standards with minimal capitol in comparison to building new facilities. I strongly believe existing resources should be fully utilized before building new ones, although I recognize the need for additional resources to accommodate Hoover's growth.

NO REZONING without vote.

Are you saying that some of the western (shades crest) would go to Spain park?

Use the old Berry campus and build a new school at Ross Bridge.

Get new, honest, open board members who actually care about what is best for all students and put academics over athletics.

Every parent I have talked to would like to see a third high school built now! Not 5-10 years from now. Where are all of our tax dollars going? I am very upset with the Hoover school board.

SPHS & HHS, while different in size, should have equal overcapacity ratios. It's not fair for 1 HS to not be crowded while the other is. Unless a plan for a 3rd HS is put immediately in place, rezoning has to be done.

Change is necessary. Careful steps should be taken to ensure families that have been Hoover residents for decades not be punished to accommodate newcomers to our great city. A new High School seems almost an inevitability and if that happens the new school should be kept close to the heart of Hoover.

The most important issues at stake are our children's education and educational opportunities. However, the location of school to home is very important also for all years (1 - 12) spent in school because 1) safety concerns and 2) feasibility of being able to participate in both academic and extracurricular activities. Safety concerns and feasibility would be affected by both traveling distance and traffic.

New facilities should be focused in the areas of growth, and those residents should expect rezoning "growing pains", without causing other communities/neighborhoods a "fruit basket turnover" effect to accommodate this additional growth.

Continued coordinated planning for future growth with a definite plan and proactive financial management to accomplish the plan is a must!

The benefits of a strong school system with high academic standards far outweigh the costs. Our concerns are that our kids have falling test scores and academic performance in some key areas. Does this get as much attention as sports? We're worried.

PLEASE take into consideration what is best for the students as well as the teachers in the schools. Students should go to schools near home and not have to ride all over town to make things "racially" equitable. This is NOT 1960 folks.... hate to tell you all this. Also, just b/c someone lives in an apt, does not mean that they have problems. Some of our smartest kids are in the apts b/c their parents are at UAB for sabbaticals, etc. Please consider the impact of what is important... EDUCATION FIRST!!

We should be able to build new schools and provide at the same level.

I am already thinking about how to get my children out of Hoover Schools by middle school and high school. Large class sizes and squeezing support teachers into smaller spaces is a step in the wrong direction. When we moved into the system, there were plans for steady school growth. Also, there seems to be a dumbing down of curriculum so that all the schools can be equal rather than a lifting up of schools that don't have programs equal to other schools.

Leave Shades Mtn students alone. We have always been the ones jerked around. If you just cant resist us in the "poor part of Hoover" let the younger children of SPHS and BMS students have the option of remaining at SPHS.

I think it is important to use the facilities that we have with some updates(i.e.old Berry). WE had 6 years there with our 2 children and that is a facility that can be utilized. It would save money and help the over crowding at Bumpus. Some of the people opposing this move were Berry grads. I do not understand why there is a definite part of town opposed to this solution.

I believe a new high school should be built, maybe off of Lakeshore near Ross Bridge. It is ridiculous to send children from the west side of Hoover to Spain Park. People move to certain areas for a reason and would like their child to go to school in that area. Why would I move to Alford Ave so that my child can be bussed or I can drive them down I-65 or 280 for 30-60 minutes to go to school? I think neighborhood schools, even for the high school, are the best choice.

I think it is very important for my kids to go to a school in their neighborhood. I would be all for building a new school if it meant that they could stay at a school close to home

These children are at a tender age of acceptance and becoming familiar with their surroundings at their middle school level. I do not agree with splitting them up from their friends and neighbors.