



**Presentation to the
School Board**

Proposal for Districtwide Rezoning

October 10, 2023

Hernando School District

Preparing for Community Growth



On May 9, 2023, the Hernando County School Board, informed by growth data from the District's Planning & Growth Committee, residential data provided by Davis Demographics, and school district enrollment data, determined that unprecedented community growth would have an impact on future student enrollment.

In an effort to be proactive in responding to growth, the School Board gave direction to district staff to form a committee, made up of a variety of community stakeholders, to review all growth data and develop a proposal for a districtwide rezoning plan for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Rezoning Committee



10 - Community Members

- Parents
- Civic leaders
- County leaders
- Business Owners
- Home builders
- Realtors

12 - School District Staff

- Principals
- Directors (Exceptional Student Education, Adult Education, Transportation, Communication)
- Supervisors/Managers (Career & Technical Education, Planning & Construction, School Choice, Early Learning)
- HCTA (Teachers' Union)

The committee met for a total of 39 hours over the course of 4 months.



Today's presentation is the culmination of that work by this Rezoning Committee.

Brief Timeline



The committee advertised and hosted 3 community forums held at Central High School on June 15, July 27, and August 24. The purpose was to listen to the concerns of parents, students, and the community and include their feedback in the development of a rezoning plan.

Following each community forum, there was a period of open comment where anyone who had a question, concern or suggestion could submit those to the committee through our *Let's Talk* platform.

All rezoning comments were carefully reviewed and considered by the members of the committee.



Committee's Objectives

- Balance enrollment with capacity in high-growth areas
- Follow all DOE requirements
- The rezoning proposal should prepare schools for current capacity challenges and future growth projected through 2028
- Adhere to the board's PRIMARY criteria:
 - Geographic Proximity
 - Instructional Capacity
 - Projected Enrollment

Committee's Objectives



- Evaluate the board's **SECONDARY** criteria:
 - Traffic Patterns
 - Magnet School Programs
 - Special Programs
 - School Feeder Alignment



Current Reality

- The 2015 rezoning effort currently in effect has fulfilled its purpose. However, unprecedented growth is predicted for the Weeki Wachee, Ridge Manor areas and the County Line/Anderson Snow Road corridor.
- School capacity is based on Florida Inventory of School Housing (FISH) capacity.
- Student enrollment is affected by School Choice and must be considered in any proposal to adjust attendance boundaries.
- The school district has already been evaluating options to mitigate potential growth that is occurring now.



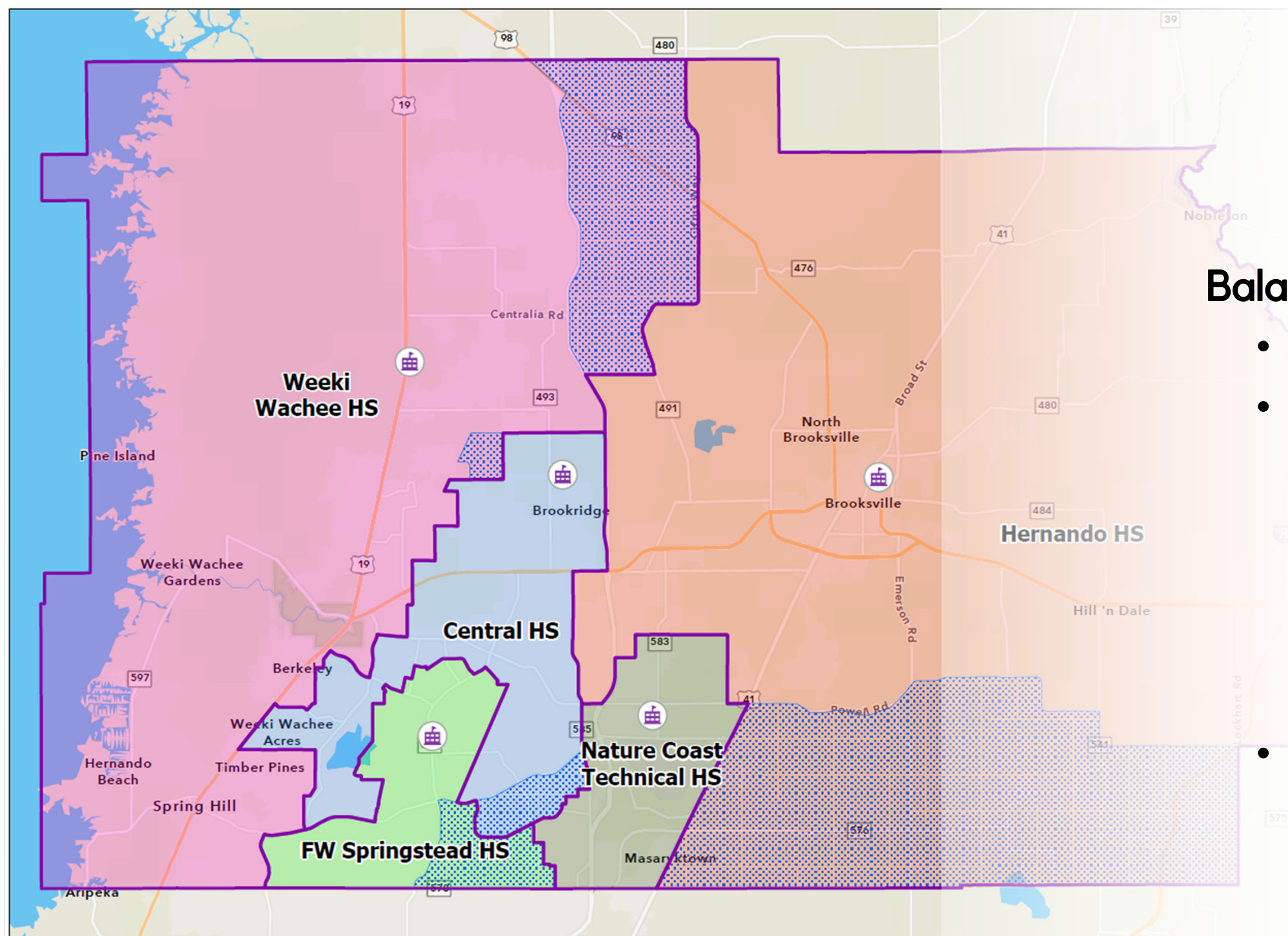
Current Reality

- Retaining an adequate number of school staff, including teachers, school bus drivers, and support personnel is likely to be a recurring challenge that will impact these recommendations.
- The District's Planning and Growth committee will need to monitor capacity for the next 5 years and adjust recommendations as growth fluctuates.

High School Proposal

Balance Enrollment for Growth

- WWHS to CHS & HHS
- Fully zone NCTHS, which is currently at 48% zoned enrollment due to growth
 - 200 from SHS
 - 243 from CHS
 - 104 from HHS
- Future classroom expansions must also occur at WWHS, HHS, and CHS/NCTHS before 2028



**CURRENT BOUNDARIES
AUGUST 24, 2023**

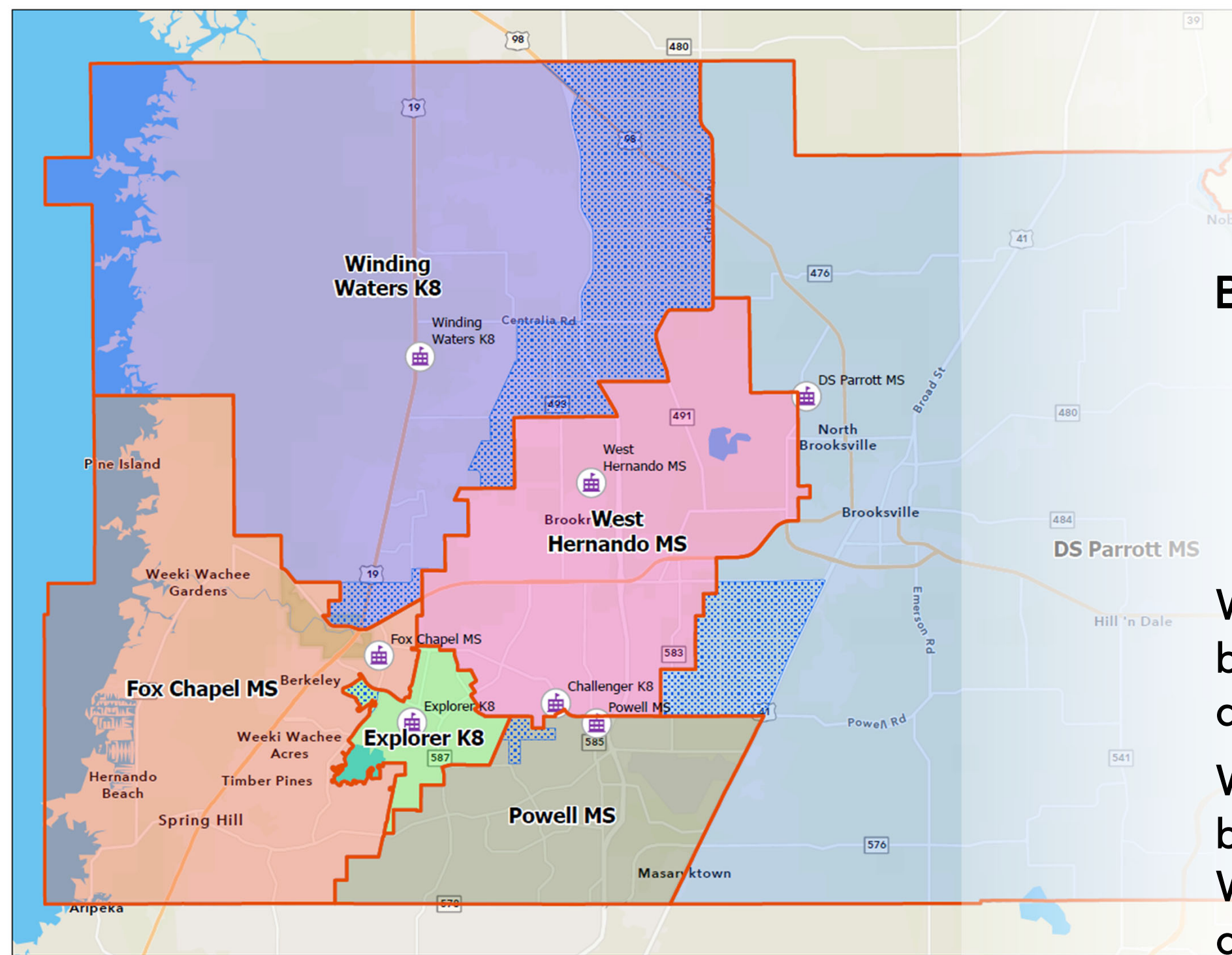
Middle School Proposal

Balance Enrollment for Growth

- WWK-8 to FCMS and WHMS
- EK-8 to FCMS
- PMS to WHMS
- DSPMS to WHMS

We explored making FCMS a K-8 school, but more than 800 students would be displaced, making it unfeasible.

We also explored a partial zone for CK-8, but that pulled too many students from WHMS, a school already well below capacity.



CURRENT BOUNDARIES
AUGUST 24, 2023

Elementary School Proposal

Balance Enrollment for Growth

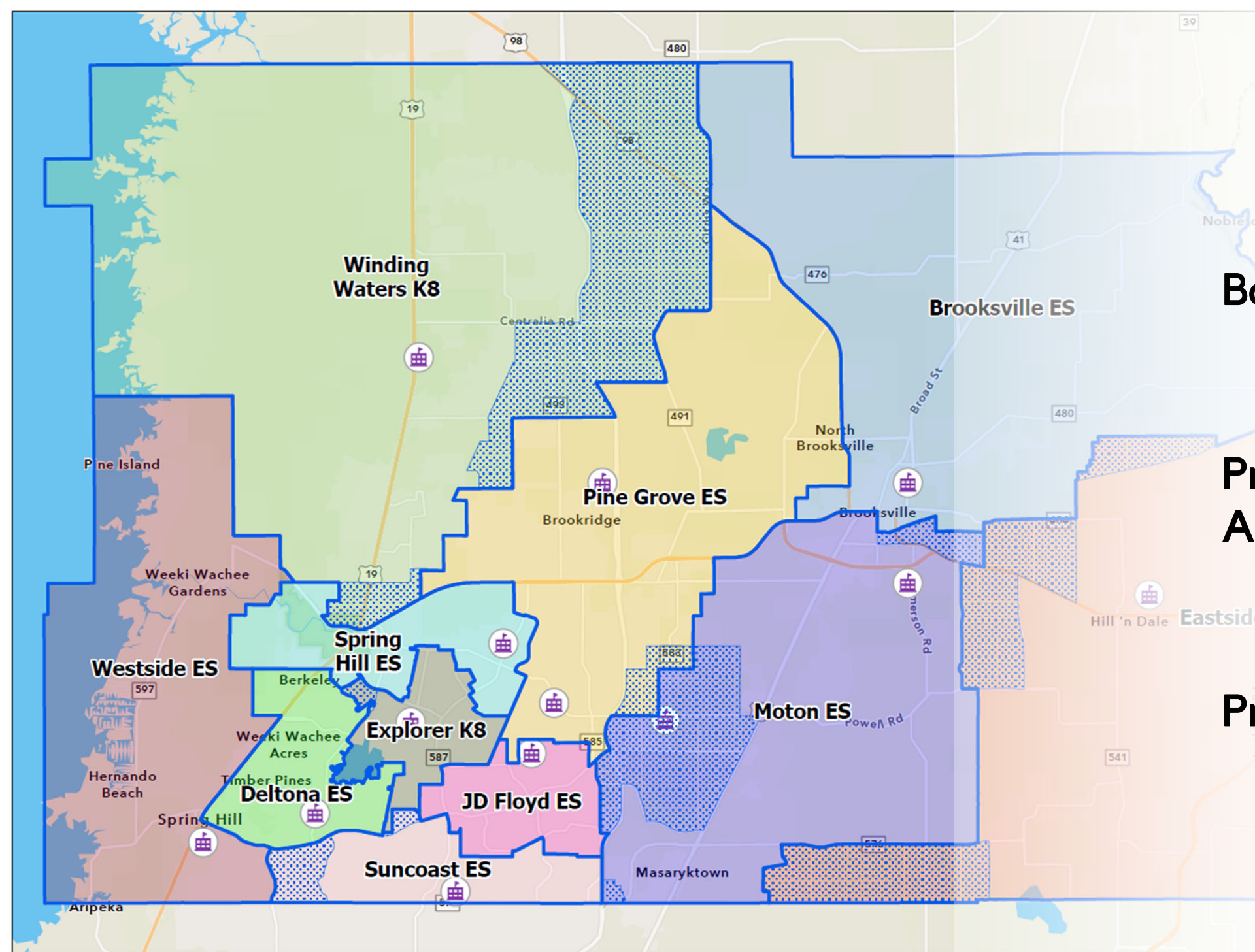
- WWK8 (ES) to PGES & SHES
- EK8 to SHES

Prepare for Growth at County Line & Anderson Snow Road

- SES to WES & EK-8
- MES to SES & JDFES

Prepare for Growth at Ridge Manor

- EES to MES and BES
- MES to BES
- Partial zone CES from PGES & MES
- Classroom expansion at EES (2028)



CURRENT BOUNDARIES
AUGUST 24, 2023



Committee Recommendations

- EXPANSIONS AT EXISTING SCHOOLS

Weeki Wachee H.S.	\$ 30 Million
Hernando H.S.	\$ 12 Million
Central H.S. / Nature Coast Tech. H.S.	\$ 15 Million
Winding Waters K-8	\$ 12 Million
Eastside E.S.	\$ 11 Million

- The committee recommends a new school site in the Ridge Manor area within the next decade, depending on economic trends.
- Without rezoning, and/or expansion, the committee concludes that 2 new high schools will be needed immediately to accommodate growth and enrollment. (\$ 320 Million)
- Costs are estimated, in 2023 dollars

Committee Recommendations



- The last grade level of each school (5th, 8th, and 12th) should be “grandfathered in,” that is, given the choice to remain at their current school.
- Magnet school students at both CES and NCTHS, should remain at their current locations, if they choose.
- Adhere to state law on School Choice and allow students to finish at their current ‘choiced in’ location.



Impacts on Transportation - Cost

- As presented, this rezoning proposal would likely result in 9 additional bus routes.
- Using today's current costs, the additional routes would add \$580,500 to the transportation budget.
- As always, the Transportation Department will strive to route efficiently to reduce the total number of new routes needed.

Transportation Recommendations



- No changes to magnet school transportation
- Non-magnet 5th, 8th and 12th grade students who will be 'grandfathered in' under this proposal and who choose to remain at their current school should provide their own transportation.



Questions?