

APS Ambassadors and PTA Leaders: Updates and Feedback

January 30, 2018





Welcome and Introductions



Agenda



Arlington
Public
Schools

- APS Ambassador Program
- Update on Current APS Initiatives
 - The 2018-24 Strategic Plan
 - School/Facility Naming Policy Criteria
 - Acceptable Use Policy
 - Middle School Update
 - New School Principal Search
 - Career Center Working Group
 - New Elementary School at Reed
- Elementary School Planning Initiative
- Additional Q&A and Wrap-up



Ambassador Program



Launched in Fall 2017

- Nearly 60 Ambassadors from 30 schools/programs
- Role is to help school communities stay informed about APS initiatives and encourage engagement

Activities to Date

- APS Engage Saturday in September 2017
- Bilingual email updates distributed weekly
- Ambassador questionnaire on information/timing preferences
- Nov. meeting on the 2018-24 Strategic Plan

We appreciate the work of the Ambassadors and PTAs in keeping families up to date on APS news!





Information to Date: Some Key Initiatives

- 2018-24 Strategic Plan
- Acceptable Use Policy (Learning Devices)
- Middle School Boundary Changes
- APS Budget for 2018-19 School Year
- 2018-19 School Year Calendar
- Education Center, Career Center, Reed Site
- School Board Meetings and Work Sessions
- Elementary School Location Review & Boundaries
- New school principal searches



Sample: W-L High School PTA Newsletter



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*WASHINGTON-LEE HIGH SCHOOL
Parent-Teacher Association
Working together to make a
great school even better!*



New/Updated
Jan. 12, 2018

2018-24 APS Strategic Plan - A Steering Committee comprised of parents, staff, students, and community members is working with APS to develop the 2018-24 Strategic Plan. Community input is vital to chart a course for the future of students, staff, and Arlington Public Schools as a whole. Last fall, community members shared their hopes and aspirations for APS during the first phase of this process. Using this input, the Committee and staff drafted potential options for a mission statement, a vision statement, and a set of core values that capture the essence of APS. These drafts are now available for community feedback that will be used to refine and make the final selection for the APS mission, vision and set of core values.

Please visit www.apsva.us/engage/strategic-plan/ for a brief questionnaire that allows community members to review these drafts and share their thoughts.

The deadline to provide input is 9 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 19.



Sample: Oakridge Elementary PTA Email



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Good morning,

APS sent an email yesterday with updates to a number of projects where they are seeking community input. That full update is below and includes topics like the APS Strategic Plan. Also included in their email is an update on elementary school boundaries which is highlighted here. If you have questions or concerns about this process, please feel free to reach out to the PTA VP of Community Engagement, Colleen Pickford or to APS directly via engage@apsva.us.

Elementary School Boundaries

The School Board will hold a Work Session on elementary boundaries at 7 p.m. on Jan. 23 in Room 101 of the Education Center ([1426 N. Quincy St. Arlington 22207](https://www.apsva.us/1426-N-Quincy-St-Arlington-22207)). School Board Work Sessions are open for observation by the public, but no comments are accepted at these sessions. Work sessions can be viewed at www.apsva.us/school-



Sample: Kenmore Hispanic Parents Association Text Message



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APS invita a la comunidad a una reunión sobre el proceso de cambios a los límites de las escuelas secundarias

Qué: Reunión en español sobre cambios a los límites escolares de las escuelas intermedias

Cuándo: [Martes, 24 de octubre, de 7 a 8:30 p.m.](#)

Dónde: Escuela Kenmore, Salones 90 y 91 ([200 S. Carlin Springs Rd.](#) 22204)

En diciembre de 2016, la Junta Escolar de las Escuelas Públicas de Arlington adoptó revisiones a los ajustes a las áreas de las escuelas secundarias.

¿Por qué APS va a cambiar los



Feedback: Lessons Learned

- How is this program working?
- Do you have any suggestions or ideas as this program evolves?





Update on Initiatives



Student enrollment 10-year projections

- 30,000+ students by 2022, and 32,000+ students by 2026

APS is:

- Working to create the best learning experiences for our students
- Experiencing strong enrollment growth, shifting demographics, and evolving state education requirements
- Implementing complex and overlapping initiatives



The 2018-24 Strategic Plan

- Charting a course for students, staff and APS as a whole
- Today: Refining APS mission statement, vision, and core values
- Underway: Goals and strategies
- Steering Committee meetings open to public: Feb. 6 School Board Work Session, and Feb. 14 Committee meeting
- Critical to get community input via meetings, email, and online questionnaires
- Spring 2018: Draft plan available for review
- June 2018: School Board action

www.apsva.us/engage/strategic-plan/



School/Facility Naming Policy Criteria

- **Fall 2017:** Community/student online and focus group input
 - Conclusion: Renaming W-L was prominent issue
 - Stakeholders want more time for this discussion
- **February/March:** Staff Committee to develop Draft Naming Criteria Proposal
- **April/May:** School Board to consider draft proposal
- Approved Naming Criteria will be used for:
 - Building at Wilson site (HBW & Stratford)
 - Neighborhood elementary school at Drew Model School site
 - New middle school at Stratford site
 - New Primary Montessori school at Henry site
- **Summer 2018:** Process to address W-L
- **Fall 2018:** Four committees to name these schools

www.apsva.us/engage/school-facility-naming-policy/



Acceptable Use Policies: Student Devices for Learning

- Two separate policies
- **Feb. 1:** School Board action on first policy, which is specific to federal guidelines and filtering
- **Feb./March:** Community engagement; Develop second policy on topics such as internet safety, responsibilities and rights, digital citizenship, and shared ownership
- **March 22:** School Board information item
- **April 5:** School Board action on second policy

www.apsva.us/engage/acceptable-use/



Middle School Boundaries

- APS site has the middle school boundary map that the School Board adopted to take effect as of Sept. 2019
- All students in grades 6, 7, and 8 in 2019-20 school year will attend their newly assigned schools as of Sept. 2019
- Families will be notified if their children are assigned to a middle school in 2019-20 that is different from their current attendance zone
- Jefferson and Kenmore Middle Schools accepting transfers for 2018-19 school year; application deadline was Jan. 26, and letters will be mailed on Feb. 2.

www.apsva.us/engage/middle-school-boundary-change/



New School Principal Search

- **New Elementary School at Drew**
 - **January 11:** Meeting with community and stakeholders
 - **Jan. 22-Feb. 8:** Online questionnaire open to gather community input
 - **April 5:** Superintendent to forward recommendation to School Board
 - **Outreach:** Drew Model School, Abingdon Elementary, Hoffman-Boston, Oakridge Elementary, Patrick Henry, and Randolph Elementary School
- **New Middle School at Stratford**
 - **Jan. 29 – Feb. 5:** Meetings with community and stakeholders
 - **Feb. 5- 20:** Online questionnaire open to gather community input
 - **April 5:** Superintendent to forward recommendation to School Board
 - **Outreach:** Glebe Elementary, Arlington Science Focus, Key Elementary, Taylor Elementary, and Swanson and Williamsburg Middle Schools

www.apsva.us/new-school-principal-search/



Career Center Working Group

- Joint APS-County planning initiative
- Career Center Working Group charged with identifying options for adding 700-800 high school seats and developing long-range site plan
- CCWG hosted walking tour of the Career Center and study site area
- Initial meetings have focused on reviewing and discussing potential design concepts
- CCWG scheduled to complete work in August 2018
- Building to open in 2022

www.apsva.us/career-center/



New Elementary School at Reed

- Two committees with community members have been working since the fall (BLPC and PFRC)
- Stakeholders reviewed six building design options at a community meeting this month
- The BLPC and PFRC committee members voted for the top three options
- February: Traffic and parking studies
- March: School Board to act on concept design
- School to open for 2021-22 school year

www.apsva.us/design-and-construction/new-elementary-school-reed/





Elementary School Planning Initiative



Elementary School Planning Initiative

- Multiple elementary school openings and program moves:
 - **Sept. 2019:** Alice Fleet opens as neighborhood school
 - **Sept. 2019:** Elementary Montessori program moves from Drew to Henry site, and Drew opens as full neighborhood school
 - **Sept. 2021:** Reed opens as neighborhood school
- School Board directed staff to develop two proposals to create attendance zones for elementary schools planned through 2021:
 - **One Proposal:** Recommend strategic placement of option and neighborhood schools, and adjust boundaries to include new schools
 - **Second Proposal:** Keep option schools at current sites and adjust boundaries to include the new schools



Timeframe for Phase 1 and Phase 2

- ✓ **Winter 2018** – School Board to establish process and scope
- **Spring 2018** – Phase 1: Elementary School Location and Walk Zone Review
- **May 2018** – School Board action on designation of neighborhood and option schools
- **Fall 2018** – Phase 2: Elementary School Boundaries
- **November 2018** – School Board action on elementary boundaries
- All elementary attendance zones will be final in time for Kindergarten Information Night in January 2019



Opportunity to reassess locations of elementary schools throughout the County:

- APS may be able to make better use of resources by placing neighborhood schools closer to where large numbers of students live
- This process could result in changing a neighborhood school site to an option school site, or vice versa
- This process will not assign any specific option school to a specific site
- Staff proposals will be based on student resident data and will begin by focusing on efficiency and proximity Policy Considerations



Elementary School Planning Initiative: Context

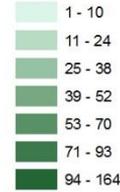


- Operating and administrative costs will increase with the opening of new schools.
- Need for optimized use of existing APS resources.
- Walking is a priority given recent community input and strong interest in keeping our communities walkable.
- Limited transportation resources necessitate greater efficiencies with busing.
- Reducing growth in transportation costs can help keep more funds in classrooms.

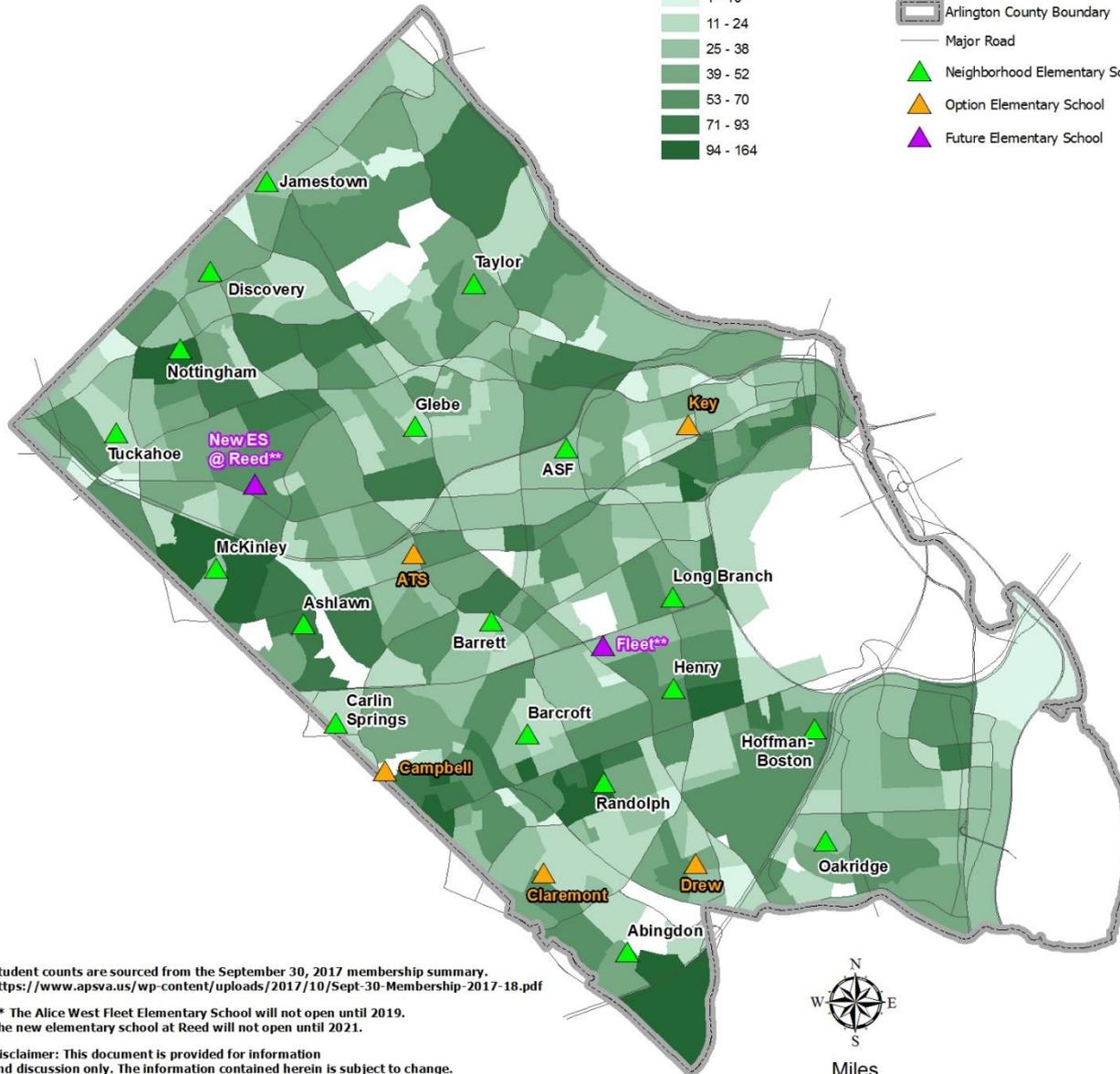
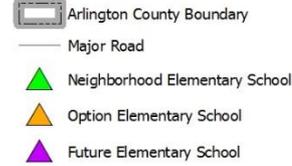


- Current and future elementary schools
- **Current K-5 resident students by planning unit**

Total Resident Student Counts for Grades K - 5



Other Map Features



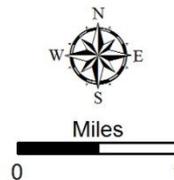
Student counts are sourced from the September 30, 2017 membership summary.
<https://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Sept-30-Membership-2017-18.pdf>

** The Alice West Fleet Elementary School will not open until 2019.
 The new elementary school at Reed will not open until 2021.

Disclaimer: This document is provided for information and discussion only. The information contained herein is subject to change.

Source: Arlington County GIS Mapping Center, 2018.
 Arlington County Public Schools, Facilities Planning, 2018.

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Phase 1: Community Engagement



February-March

- Review walk zones for all elementary schools and work with communities around schools to identify areas where walk zones can be expanded.

March-April

- Develop two proposals based on review of school locations and walk zones, and conduct community engagement
 - Both proposals will feature new adjusted walk zones for each school
 - One proposal will include APS recommendation for strategic placement of neighborhood and option schools at the elementary level

April

- Maps at APS Engage will show new walk zones, with the number of students in each walk zone, as well as staff recommendations for locations of option and neighborhood schools.



Phase 1: Walk Zone Review



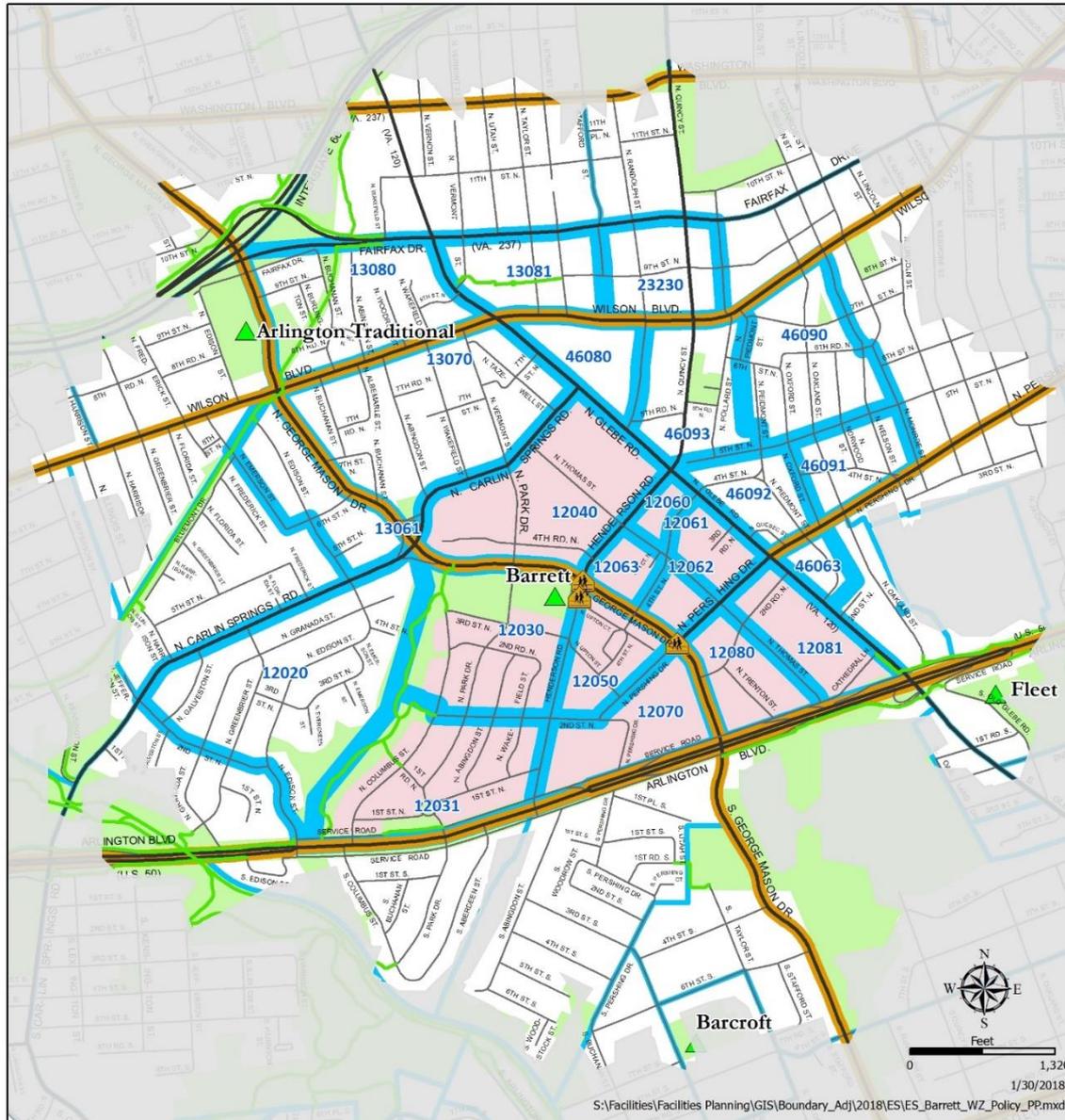
- Staff will work with community to review walk zones and identify potential areas where walk zones can be expanded
- A task group from each school neighborhood will be formed to provide and gather feedback on walk zones
 - Two representatives from each neighboring civic association, PTA/Ambassadors and, where applicable, condo associations
 - Involve of ACTC and JCTC, FAC
 - Each task group will have two meetings with APS staff in 1-2 month timeframe
- Staff will partner with PTAs, Ambassadors and Civic Associations to keep communities informed



Current Walk Zone Map



Arlington
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Walk Zones

- One Mile Per Policy
APS PIP 50-5.1
- Current Walk Zone
- Not Eligible for Bus Service, May 2013

Street Crossing Designation

- Only Middle and High School Students may Cross*
- No Grade Levels may Cross*

Other Map Features

- ARL County Boundary
- Planning Units
- Elementary School
- Crossing Guard
- Signalized Crossing
- Off-Street Trail

* All roadway segments are subject to change based on the locations of crossing guards.

Disclaimer: This document is a working draft and is provided for information and discussion only. The information contained herein is subject to change.

Source: Arlington County GIS Mapping Center, 2018. Arlington County Public Schools, Transportation Services, 2018.





Community Meetings and Input

- **Feb 15-28 Meetings: “Getting Started on Walk Zone Review”**
 - Each school task group attends one meeting
 - Will review walk zone for their school with APS staff
 - Provide feedback and learn process to gather more input from others in the community
- **March 12-22 Meetings: “What We Heard on Walk Zone Review”**
 - Each school task group attends one meeting
 - Will review with APS staff the feedback gathered from community for school’s walk zone



Neighborhood and Option School Sites

- Currently, there are five elementary option schools:
 - Immersion at Claremont and Key
 - Expeditionary Learning at Campbell
 - Montessori within Drew
 - Arlington Traditional School
- Staff to propose designation of neighborhood or option elementary schools, based on:
 - Expanded walk zones
 - Estimated resident students within each walk zone
 - Maintaining five (5) options schools
- Staff will conduct community engagement on proposals that designate neighborhood and option schools



Neighborhood and Option School Sites

- Per School Board direction, based on recent decisions about new schools and program moves:
 - Fleet Elementary and new school at Reed site to remain neighborhood schools
 - Henry site with Montessori program to remain an option school
 - Drew to remain neighborhood school
- Superintendent to recommend designation of option and neighborhood schools for School Board action on May 17



Neighborhood and Option School Sites

- Schools that are identified as potentially changing from neighborhood to option school, or vice versa, could move entirely to the new location.
- Moves would take place in the summer of 2020 and 2021.
- This would include:
 - Relocating administration, faculty, and staff to the new site
 - Moving any special established amenities and resources to the new site



Phase 2: Elementary School Boundaries



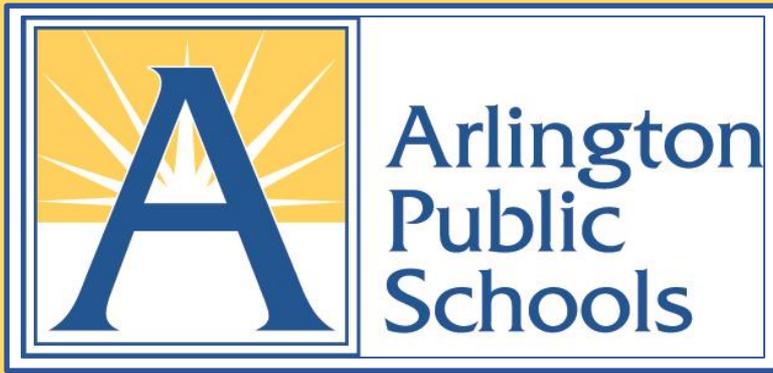
- **Sept. 2018:** Staff proposes boundaries for neighborhood schools starting with phase 1 decisions, and layering in the four other policy considerations in addition to proximity and efficiency
- **Oct. 2018:** Conduct community engagement on proposed boundaries
- **Oct.-Nov. 2018:** Identify planning units that could be assigned to either one of two school attendance zones, in preparation for when staff reassesses projections in Fall 2020
- **Mid-Nov. 2018:** Superintendent recommends boundary changes for School Board action
- All boundaries will be final in time for Kindergarten Information Night in January 2019





Wrap-up and Questions





APS Ambassadors and PTA Leaders: Updates and Feedback

January 30, 2018

