

Elementary School Planning Initiative – Phase 1

Advisory Council on School Facilities
and Capital Programs (FAC)

April 9, 2018



- Elementary School Walk Zone Review
 - Expand walk zones safely
 - Optimize transportation resources
- Elementary School Location Review
 - Neighborhood schools
 - Option schools (maintain 5)



Phase 1: Community Engagement for Walk Zone Review



Objectives:

- Reduce growth in transportation costs to achieve greater efficiencies and help keep more funds in classrooms.
- Increase number of students who walk, given recent community input and strong interest in keeping our communities walkable.

Strategies:

- Get input from community members to identify safe ways to potentially expand elementary school walk zones
- Create a Task Group for each elementary school to partner with APS on Walk Zone Review
- Provide Task Groups with school-specific walk zone maps, school travel patterns, outreach tool kit, and assistance



Phase 1: Walk Zone Review



- School Task Groups for all Elementary Schools:
 - Ambassadors and PTA representatives
 - Leaders from 23 Civic Associations
 - Assistance from ACTC/FAC members
- Since January, staff has shared information and heard from the community at more than 20 sessions:
 - Meeting with PTA presidents and Ambassadors
 - 8 Working Sessions with School Task Groups
 - Presentations to ES Principals, FAC, ACTC, CCPTA
 - 4 elementary school Hispanic parent groups
 - Meetings/calls with parent groups upon request



Phase 1: Walk Zone & School Location Review



- APS received extensive community input:
 - Online questionnaires generated more than 2,000 responses with details about elementary school walk zones and suggested considerations for School Location Review
 - About 350 email messages sent to engage@apsva.us
- Staff synthesized suggestions and ideas, and:
 - Expanded walk zones by incorporating planning units that pose no safety concerns
 - Formed list of areas to study for safety mitigation measures
 - Developed APS priorities list to improve safety and infrastructure in walk zones
 - Refined draft considerations for school location review



Goal: Assess elementary school sites to recommend the strategic placement of neighborhood and option schools, per policy considerations

Policy considerations:

- Proximity—placing neighborhood schools where students live and increasing walkability
- Efficiency—optimizing resources and balancing enrollment
- Other considerations developed taking community input into account



- Optimal school settings require adaptable and agile learning environments
- All APS elementary school sites can support the necessary elements for students to thrive in any program—whether neighborhood or option school



Other Considerations—*Potential Walkers*



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- Proximity encourages the relationship between schools and community; we seek to maximize students in walk zones and keep bus rides short
- Create neighborhood schools where large number of students live in expanded walk zones
- APS Whole Child framework promotes and supports the health and wellbeing of students and community
- Arlington is recognized as a walk-friendly community, recognizing safety, mobility, access and comfort



Other Considerations—*Number of Buses Per School*



- Efficiency—minimize future capital and operating costs
- Optimizing existing transportation resources helps keep funds in the classroom
- Current shortage of bus drivers
- Opportunity to reduce the number of buses if walk zones are used to help identify where to site neighborhood schools



Other Considerations—*Site Growth Potential Using Relocatables*



- Option schools provide solutions for managing capacity
- Families are more willing to grow option schools with the use of relocatables if the program is a good fit for their student's needs
- Analysis looks for sites that provide flexibility in expanding to 750+ when needed to align with overall district enrollment



Other Considerations—*Option School Demand*



- Option schools are essential in helping APS balance enrollment across district
- Demand for option schools is high
- Applications and waitlist
- It's too soon to tell if the current option school sites can meet the demand for option school enrollment.
 - Families have applied for the lottery to multiple schools.
 - Once families accept option seats, we will get a better sense of whether current school sites can meet the current demand



- In some areas of the county, there are multiple school sites in close proximity to each other, providing the opportunity to identify possible option-school sites
- Otherwise it will be challenging to define reasonable boundaries if they all continue to be neighborhood school sites



Phase 1: School Board Direction for School Location Review



- Due to recent School Board decisions, four elementary schools will keep current designation:
 - Drew (neighborhood)
 - Fleet (neighborhood)
 - Henry (option)
 - Reed (neighborhood)
- These four schools were not part of staff analysis of school locations in Phase 1
- Drew, Fleet and Reed will be part of Phase 2 when new boundaries are developed for all neighborhood elementary schools



What We Ask of You



- Watch online or attend April 12 SB Work Session on Elementary School Location Review
- Weigh in on proposals
- Take a position as ACI, BAC and FAC on proposals
- Important to hear from community members who have a countywide perspective and have expertise in APS capacity issues



Phase 1: Community Engagement for School Location Review



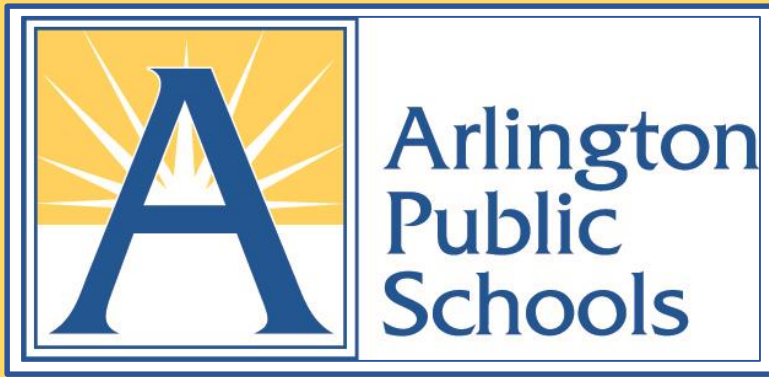
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Upcoming Community Engagement Opportunities

- Complete questionnaire on draft neighborhood and option school recommendations—April 13-26: www.apsva.us/engage
- Bring questions to “Staff Open Office Hours”:
 - Monday, April 16: 7-8:30 p.m., Wakefield H.S.
 - Friday, April 20: 7:30-9 a.m., Education Center
 - Saturday, April 21: 9:30-11 a.m., Kenmore M.S.

Note: Spanish-speaking staff available at each session
- Attend Community Meeting—Staff will present draft recommendations and answer questions
 - **Tuesday, May 1, at 7 p.m.**
 - Yorktown High School (5200 Yorktown Blvd.)
 - Live-streamed, with simultaneous interpretation
- Write to engage@apsva.us





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