



Arlington Science Focus School  
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January 16, 2020

Arlington County School Board  
2100 Washington Blvd.  
Arlington, VA 22204

Re: APS Elementary School Planning for 2021 - Urgent Need for More Neighborhood Seats

Dear Arlington School Board Members:

As a follow up to our letter to the Arlington School Board on December 9, 2019, we are writing on behalf of the Arlington Science Focus School's (ASFS) PTA to reiterate the critical need for additional neighborhood seats in our area. As stated in the January 9, 2020 Superintendent's Recommendation, the ASFS PTA supports the proposal to provide more neighborhood seats in the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor, where capacity is urgently needed.

ASFS is well over capacity, and projections indicate only increased overcrowding in SY2020-21 and beyond. Providing more neighborhood seats in our area will not only mitigate the capacity challenges ASFS faces, but will reduce bus ride distances and increase the number of students who walk to school.

We encourage the Arlington School Board to act on February 6, 2020 to affirm the Superintendent's Recommendation for elementary school moves (Proposal 1). A decision is needed now so that: 1) the hiring process for a new principal for the new school can begin this spring to be in place by July 2020; 2) there is adequate time to work with the community and staff in preparation for the new school and school moves; 3) the moves may be incorporated into the development of the next CIP; and 4) funding for the moves may be included as part of the FY2021 budget process.

We thank you for your support in addressing the overcrowding at Arlington Science Focus School and working to provide a solution that benefits the entire Arlington community. We look forward to working together with APS to make the transitions that will occur in the fall of 2021 a positive experience for all of our elementary school students and families.

Sincerely,

ASFS PTA Executive Committee 2019-20

Karrie Beaudry  
Chris Brown  
Lindsey Englerth  
Kate Merrill  
Dena Porter  
Kristi Tsiopanas

cc:

Cintia Johnson  
Lisa Stengle