

APS High School Boundaries Q&A Notes

October 17, 2016 (Yorktown High School)

How will the data aggregated from the online boundary tool be presented?

- APS will accumulate responses via emails, letters, and the online tool. APS will present the results compiled from the input tools to the community by the end of the month and will provide the school board with its top 3 recommendations.

Can APS please define the 6 criteria factoring into the rezoning process?

- All 6 terms are clearly defined on the online tool.

What problem is APS attempting to solve with the online boundary tool?

- APS is attempting to balance the student bodies at all 3 Arlington High Schools with as much community feedback as possible.

Are all 3 high schools exactly the same?

- All 3 high schools share similar academic standards and a similar, centrally developed curriculum. The only discernable difference among the 3 is the physical footprint of the buildings.

Does APS intend to reduce the free/reduced lunch percentages with the demographical shift in the county due to rezoning process?

- Demographics is one of the criteria to be considered in any boundary changes.

How many schools the boundary tool will truly affect?

- The boundary adjustment will only affect Arlington high schools students. The middle and elementary schools boundary shifts will be addressed as part of creating boundaries for the new elementary school at Jefferson and the new middle school, both slated to open in 2019.

How does APS know the student population projections?

- The calculation used to estimate future student population in the boundary tool is based on actual 5th through 8th grade resident students (enrolled on

9/30/2016) plus projected new students anticipated from future housing development and migration.

When will APS start working on the next strategic plan?

- Preliminary efforts will begin this coming summer and will officially begin planning in the fall of 2017.

What internal renovations will occur at Yorktown?

- The internal renovations at Yorktown are designed to creatively use available space in the building.

Is the walk radius (1.5 miles) surrounding the schools solely based on 'how the crow flies'?

- Yes, but APS transportation officials will make adjustments to "walk zones" based upon traffic patterns, student safety, etc.

How does APS ensure that non-residents are not attending our schools?

- In 2012, APS hired a Residency Verification Specialist. The specialist handles the review of student residency when questions still remain after schools have completed an initial review. Parents/guardians are then contacted and asked to bring all of their residency documents to the specialist for review and verification. In addition, APS has hired a retired Arlington Police Department officer to assist with the investigations if needed. If residency is not founded, the student is withdrawn from APS, sent to their school of residence and a tuition reimbursement process begins. To date, APS has processed several hundred inquiries annually and takes appropriate action whenever it is found that a student does not reside in Arlington County.

What considerations will APS be using to make its boundary refinement decisions?

- APS will consider the 6 criteria described on the online tool. Additionally, APS will utilize all county, transportation, and construction feedback to inform its final recommendations to the school board.

Open Questions

How will APS weigh the 6 criteria in the decision making process?

- The criteria are not weighted as of now but may be in the future based of the community feedback. Is this correct?

How is APS going to decide which middle school IB students get to go to an IB high school?

- APS has no plans to deviate from the current process for IB applications as part of this process but a complete review of the enrollment and transfer policy will be undertaken later this year.

Is APS considering moving the IB program from Washington & Lee?

- There are no plans to relocate the IB program from Washington & Lee at this point. It is a complicated issue and not feasible to simply pick up the program and move it elsewhere.

How does APS know that a certain amount of people will attend Arlington Tech?

- The projections are based on an equal distribution of students from each of the 3 schools attending Arlington Tech.

Will APS account for students who have already been a part of previous planning unit disruptions?

School board policy includes stability as one of the criteria to be considered

Why is APS' plan so short sighted: forcing Arlington County to rezone in 4 years?

- Continual rezoning is a reality that Arlington residents will have to get used to due to Arlington's population boom—adding about 961 students per year.

Should all three school buildings be treated similarly? Won't the decreased size of Yorktown, for example, mean that sending equivalent amount of students there would impact it more heavily than the larger Wakefield building?

- Actually, the square footages of the three buildings are:
Wakefield at 404,000 sq. ft., Yorktown at 389,000 sq. ft. and W-L at 363,000 sq. ft.

Will the atriums or cafeterias at Yorktown or Wakefield remain unaffected after internal modifications?

- The preliminary plans do not include reducing the size of the atriums or cafeteria.

How will APS avoid data skews based off of multiple entries on the online tool?

- While multiple entries from community members is appreciated, all submissions can be tracked to a specific IP address. Therefore, no individual will be able to effectively "sabotage" the results from the online tool.

Will Arlington civic associations have a greater say in the boundary refinement process?

- No, at this time all groups and individuals will be considered equally.