

Date	Subject	Message
10/12/18	Fairlington Boundaries	<p data-bbox="418 596 821 617">Dear Arlington Public Schools Board Members:</p> <p data-bbox="418 659 1455 768">I am writing in regard to the recent school board discussion about the elementary school boundaries within the Fairlington neighborhood as I am very concerned about the proposal that was made late during the work session on October 10. While discussing potential boundary proposals, it was suggested that Fairlington could be divided and South Fairlington could be annexed by Drew Elementary School.</p> <p data-bbox="418 810 1445 890">I am opposed to separating the children of Fairlington into different elementary schools and also disappointed that this suggestion was made late in the game without any advance warning. This option was never in play with the public until late on October 10.</p> <p data-bbox="418 932 1468 1012">My reasons for opposing this proposal are detailed below, they include both an assessment of the board's policy considerations shared during the discussion of evaluating the "getting started" boundary proposal, as well as a number of reasons related to the strong community that is the Fairlington neighborhood and should remain.</p> <p data-bbox="418 1054 1468 1314">I'll start with community, because that is why we live in Fairlington. I have lived in Fairlington for more than 15 years, both as a single person and as a married person, and on the north and south sides of the neighborhood. We currently live in S. Fairlington. We chose to stay here to raise our children primarily because of the community itself. We know many families and kids that our children have played with in playgroups, on the playground, at the Fairlington Community Center and at our community pools. And those connections extend to and are enriched by our experiences at Abingdon. Abingdon has been supported tremendously by the PTA, whose executive leaders reside in South Fairlington. Abingdon is supported by the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA), which works to "preserve and protect the quality of life in Fairlington" and worked side by side with the PTA and households of Fairlington to support the upgrades to the school. The FCA continues to be a big supporter of our community school.</p> <p data-bbox="418 1356 1468 1589">My oldest daughter attended Abingdon while the discussions of upgrading the school facilities and how to upgrade them were being held. This was a long process that I participated in by attending several meetings hosted by the school board and the BLPC. The process required commitment and tenacity by many in the Fairlington community to ensure that our school received what was needed to bring it up to par with other Arlington schools. My daughter spent fourth grade in a trailer, second grade in a crowded open-air classroom and first grade in a classroom with visible mold issues. Through it all she was proud to be at Abingdon for many reasons but among the most indelible one was her witness of the commitment of her neighborhood – North and South Fairlington – to support her school and her classmates. In fifth grade she was able to enjoy a beautiful renovated school building with art that she and her classmates worked on</p>

adorning parts of the cafeteria and with new fifth grade classrooms. She has talked fondly about Abingdon for years to her younger sister who now attends kindergarten and waited patiently for her turn to ride the bus and go to the "new school."

Her younger sister came with me to her older sister's kindergarten field trip, to story readings in her classes and the Abingdon fall festival, where the PTA encourages not only students and their siblings to attend but also neighborhood children. Our whole family and the whole Fairlington neighborhood has participated in the Fairlington 5k, which is to raise funds for a Fairlington student with a rare and (thus far) incurable disease as well as the school's PE program; the Fairlington Fourth of July parade attended by classmates and teachers alike, and the school's Halloween parade, where parents from all over Fairlington watch the costumed children, their teachers and the Wakefield marching band. Fairlington is truly a community and Abingdon is a rich, vibrant and diverse community school. Therefore the board should not divide this community along artificial lines where true connective tissue already exists. Regarding the Board's policy considerations, dividing the Fairlington community is misguided for a number of reasons. Neither Proximate nor Efficient:

1. Although South Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone," it remains within a 1-mile radius of Abingdon. Due to the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of students walk or bike to school from South Fairlington every day. Although my younger daughter rides a bus to school, we live less than 0.9 miles from Abingdon and have walked there in less than 20 minutes.

2. All students in South Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service to the neighborhood. Drew Elementary school is 1.8 miles away and not connected to Fairlington by walkable streets.

3. Transporting students from South Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus every day and increase APS transportation costs. Many parents who seldom or never drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems. Non-contiguous

1. South Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly street with wide sidewalks (even wider over the bridge that goes over 395) and a bike lane and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions.

2. There are several major barriers, including multiple major roads and parks that effectively separate the community in

		<p>South Fairlington from Drew.</p> <p>3. While it would be theoretically possible to make a corridor to give the impression of contiguity by including portions of Shirlington, such a corridor would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community around Drew. I am disappointed with what to me appears to be a last minute, non-transparent attempt at breaking up a cohesive strong community and community school. Our Fairlington neighborhood—North and South, should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. I recognize that drawing up new boundaries is an enormous task, but building a community around our school has taken years of hard work by many committed participants from ALL of Fairlington. We are an invested community and to tear it apart as proposed would be like pulling apart members of a body limb from limb. To separate south Fairlington’s children from Abingdon and to split up a community school that has a physical building within the historic boundaries of the neighborhood itself is at best, ill-advised and at worse, unconscionable.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Erica Brown</p>
10/10/18	Thank you	Comments:just a thank you to Flencke at Randolph
10/09/18	Survey Online	<p>Robert and Meg,</p> <p>Thank you so much for your time on the phone yesterday and for sending the revised numbers. I spoke at a high level about this at our Randolph PTA meeting tonight. We encouraged everyone at the meeting to submit any thoughts on the overall process or the proposal to the survey tonight. I don't think anyone was overly worried about our capacity numbers. No one was suggesting changes to the planning units added to Randolph in the proposal. I don't think there's any interest in or changing anything about the Barcroft transfer policy. I think you're right that overall those numbers are not too significant.</p> <p>I think the school community does want to keep an eye on enrollment and on the pre-K issue I mentioned (we currently have 3 VPI classes). We would hope that if Randolph lost a pre-k class it would be moved elsewhere and eligible families could still receive VPI at a different location.</p>

		<p>After spending more time with the planning unit level data and the school dashboard level data, I think that the only thing that could unexpectedly change things for Randolph in terms of either enrollment/capacity utilization or demographics are significant changes to the students transferring out to option schools, and I don't see that happening anytime soon.</p> <p>Beth</p>
09/26/18	Enrollment Data	<p>Hi Kathy, Thanks for your response. I did see that footnote but didn't really understand it. I do now. I have another question from our community. Currently anyone in the Barcroft zone can automatically attend Randolph due to Barcroft's alternative schedule. however Randolph is not considered an option school. Last year we had about 50 transfers from Barcroft zone. I'm wondering how that is represented in the data or may affect the capacity utilization rates. My understanding is that Randolph's student body count is significantly higher than the 378 represented in the data. Is this a question for the planners?</p>
10/10/18	Hoffman Boston Different Start Time	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>Last night I tried to access to the survey but it was not working properly. I am not happy with the boundary changes and I am hoping that the board will reconsider allowing children that attend Fort Myer Military Installation to also go to Long Branch Elementary Schools. Military children already go through a lot of changes and deployments in their lives, there is no need to add more. I see Longbranch as a family now. I am comfortable sending my child there and knowing that she is safe. I would like to propose to minimize the social emotional impact that will have on children to at least allow those who have started there and be able to continue until they are ready to move to middle school. Also the switch with the new school Hoffman Boston will also create a big conflict with my work schedule as well as many other parents. The hours of operation are not the same therefore to think that is easy to just reassigned children to another school and not have an impact is wrong. It will have an impact on children and parents. I hope you are able to consider some of the concerns and suggestions.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and attention! Lilliana Caballero</p>
10/10/18	Oakridge Boundaries Fair	<p>I have reviewed the proposed boundary changes and I am in favor with them. I am pleased that our street (South Fox Street) along with several streets surrounding ours, were added to the boundary map.</p> <p>I think the boundary changes are fair and make sense in an effort to help the surrounding schools thrive.</p> <p>Brianna Smith Oakridge parent</p>

10/10/18	Crystal City	<p>My comment/question relates to the following school or program:</p> <p>Oakridge Elementary</p> <p>Your Comment or Question</p> <p>The revised Hoffman Boston boundaries don't align with the proximity or stability goals. Why doesn't Hoffman Boston draw from more of the Columbia Pike area vs trekking kids who currently walk and bike to Oakridge (planning unit 48121)? Under the current plan, a number of the schools under redistricting south of HWY 50 are projected to be at or exceed 100% capacity in in 2021. What happens in 2022? I was told there are no new school additions planned in south Arlington in the draft APS strategic plan. How does Arlington plan to adapt to the increased residential density in the Crystal City/Pentagon City area and the Columbia Pike corridor? There are numerous construction projects underway. Growth is "smart" when it creates attractive communities with a range of housing and transportation options near jobs, shops, services and schools (from arlingtonva.us). Arlington is just as attractive to families with kids under 18 as it is to families without kids. When will Arlington return to smart growth and give schools the same priority it gives green space? Has Arlington considered partnering with developers to build an urban school in a new or existing structure adjacent to one of its parks in the Crystal/Pentagon City area?</p> <p>Your Name</p> <p>Anna Hudson</p>
10/10/18	Fleet School Zone Makes Sense	<p>: Fall 2018 Elementary Boundary Process Please share your comments, feedback or suggestions: Hello, I think adding the small portion of 1st through 3rd St S to the new Fleet Elementary school zone makes complete sense. I think it will be easy for the bus routes to swing by and pick them up. Also, it will stop the kids from watching a different school bus literally drive by them as they wait for theirs. Regards, Nicolas Joy</p>
10/10/18	Communication with Community Members	<p>I would like to express my concerns with, what to me, feels like a failure to properly notify effected homeowners and parents of the pending changes to our school boundaries. I moved to Arlington several years ago and I currently have a son just under a year old. I selected South Arlington, Shirlington specifically, to move to for proximity to Abingdon and the new high school. As my child is not yet of school age, I was given no notice of the proposed change in boundaries for the Windgate I subdivision 36061 from Abingdon to Drew. I would have liked to see the board utilize other means, such as CAPP portal, to distribute out this notice to all residents. As it stands now, I missed being able to submit my comments to the survey.</p>

		<p>I have reviewed the presentation from the 28 August working session, but there is no actual data to examine. I would like to see the data and analysis behind the proposed changes. Currently, I do not see the logic behind reassignment of 36061 to Drew. Your analysis could be spot on and change my point of view, but until I can see it I will reserve judgement. I intend to attend the future meetings to ensure I can hear the current status and to voice my opinion as a concerned resident, parent and tax payer.</p> <p>v/r Chris Reber Windgate I Resident</p>
10/10/18	South Fairlington Boundaries	<p>It is not wise to move South Fairlington into Drew boundaries. Fairlington is ONE community and the residents should be assigned to ONE school.</p> <p>Additionally, you would be putting a burden on families to adjust schedules. Our children can currently walk to Abingdon. It would require increased transportation to get children to Drew.</p> <p>Robin Mott</p>
10/10/18	No to South Fairlington Boundaries	<p>I live in South Fairlington, less than 1/4 mile of Abingdon and do not wish to have my children switch schools. The number one reason we bought in Fairlington was to walk to school. We didn't go to Claremont because we could walk to school. I won't be able to volunteer in my childrens' classrooms if they are relocated to Drew. The second reason we bought our home in Fairlington was SPECIFICALLY to attend Abingdon. I have read the proposals. We should have been given all 3 proposals in the beginnings. I don't see the need for this change.</p> <p>Tammie Dzubak Sent from iPhone Please excuse typos</p>
10/11/18	Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>Subject: Support for South Fairlington and Abingdon</p> <p>Hello, I am writing to weigh in on the APS boundary revision process. I live on South Stafford Street in South Fairlington and have a daughter who will be in kindergarten in a few years. One of the many benefits of this unique neighborhood that convinced us to buy a home here was the proximity to Abingdon Elementary School. I understand that one of the proposals for the new boundaries includes South Fairlington families attending Drew. I would like to express my concern about this proposal and state my support for remaining at Abingdon.</p> <p>My primary concern with this proposal involves transportation. We, along with many of our neighbors, intend to walk or bike to school at Abingdon. Walking from our section of South Fairlington to Abingdon takes approximately 15 minutes, which is less time than the current bus ride from the Fairlington Community Center to Drew. Furthermore, the current bus route from South Fairlington to Drew drives past Abingdon. It does not make sense to transport an entire neighborhood of children past a school in their own community it</p>

		<p>order attend a school a greater distance away. The proximity of Abingdon to all of Fairlington means that fewer students need to take a school bus, thus saving the district money. We absolutely could not walk to Drew, given the distance and the heavily trafficked roads between here and there. So we would need to be bused, and that would cost the district more than if we were to attend Abingdon. For South Fairlington parents wishing to drive their children to school, Abingdon is approximately 5 minutes away or less by car. Driving to Drew in the morning means contending with traffic leading onto and off of 395, and certainly a drive longer than 5 minutes. Traffic leading from Quaker Lane to 395 often backs up all the way up the hill toward 32nd St and progresses very slowly. This would be a huge inconvenience for South Fairlington parents trying to drive their children to Drew and arrive on time. Again, the alternative to that route from South Fairlington to Drew goes directly past Abingdon. The travel time, ease of access, and necessity (or lack therefore) for busing should be heavily considered when deciding which school South Fairlington families should attend. I contend that the drastic difference in convenience between Drew and Abingdon for South Fairlington families should sway the decision in favor of keeping all Fairlington families at Abingdon.</p> <p>Fairlington is a unique neighborhood. We don't see ourselves as the north and the south side. We are one community that shares facilities and community events. Growing up in this neighborhood means having friends on both sides of the bridge who attend school together. Changing the school boundary for South Fairlington will create divisions and hurt morale within our peaceful community. A neighborhood school serves as an anchor for the community. Abingdon is that beacon for Fairlington, and moving South Fairlington families to Drew will divide us from the hub of our community.</p> <p>Sincerely, Sara Kirschner Concerned South Fairlington Parent</p>
10/11/18	Keep Fairlington Together	<p>Subject: elementary school boundaries</p> <p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>I am distressed to learn that at the current work session on elementary school boundaries there was a serious discussion of relocating children living in South Fairlington to Drew Elementary School. I am unequivocally opposed to a proposal that separates the children who live in the Fairlington neighborhood for a number of reasons that I hope you will consider.</p> <p>First, and most importantly, Fairlington is more than a collection of streets that share a neighborhood designation. Fairlington is an established community-- our families work together to face our common challenges, our children share parks and pools, and many of us moved to Fairlington because we wanted our families to be communally engaged and there are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously. Part of this is sending our children to and supporting the neighborhood school. Abingdon is literally located inside of the Fairlington housing development and no matter how boundaries are drawn by the country it will always be the school within Fairlington. Schools are strongest when the community is engaged and invested. Breaking</p>

apart an existing community like Fairlington will weaken our schools. Preserving the connection between our community and our school is critical for our children who don't understand the demographic statistics, but who know their neighbors. Preserving this connection is important for leveraging community support for one of its central institutions. Building a community around a school is a difficult task-- I urge you to consider that when that community exists, it is critical that it remain unbroken.

Second, for a practical perspective, a great deal of South Fairlington walks and bikes to school. While it is not within the walking boundaries that APS has defined, on most days there are large numbers of children walking to school with their parents. Bussing children from South Fairlington to Drew would eliminate the ability of our children to walk to school. Additionally, it's hard to imagine a bus route that would not involve bussing our children PAST Abingdon. Besides being logistically untenable, what message does it send to our children when they are bussed past the school in their neighborhood in order to get to their "neighborhood school."

In an age of increasing division, we must look to our communities to secure and, in some cases, repair the social fabric. In the near term, the real work of bridging our divides and instilling the value of our civic and communal responsibilities in our children must happen in our neighborhoods and communities. Our schools are an opportunity to focus the energy of a community like Fairlington, a community that already exists, that shares a sense of place and identification, a community that already understands that it's sometimes hard to live together but acknowledges that making it work means working together. Please do not make the profound mistake of removing our children's education from the community in which we have chosen to raise them.

Sincerely, Michael Rosenberger

10/11/18

Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon

Subject: Proposed elementary school boundaries: information and status

Good morning,

My name is Eric Sylwester and I am a parent of a child currently going to Abingdon elementary. We live in South Fairlington; Abingdon is the closest school to us. I have heard that you intend to change the elementary school boundaries so that South Fairlington children will no longer go to Abingdon. I would like more information on this plan, as it seems to make geographically no sense at all. Could you please send me your proposed boundary map for future school years, as well as your justification in making such a move?

As far as I can tell, such a proposal would go directly against four of the six Policy B 2.1 "Boundary Policy Considerations." Specifically, it would reduce the Proximity, Alignment, Demographics, and Contiguity of the South Fairlington community, by forcing children to attend schools that are (a) further away, (b) would separate children in the same community into different schools, (c) lower the diversity of my child's classes, and (b) require very significant 'gerrymandering' of the elementary school boundaries to create much less compact or non-contiguous districts.

		<p>Thank you in advance for any information you can provide,</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Dr. Eric Sylwester</p>
<p>10/11/18</p>	<p>South Fairlington Boundary Changes</p>	<p>My name is Katherine Schneider and I am a resident of South Fairlington. My twin daughters are currently 2nd graders at Abingdon. I am writing to urge the school board to keep South Fairlington within the Abingdon boundary. My daughters started kindergarten at Abingdon 2 years ago, right when the renovations/construction began. They endured a year of construction noise and upheaval during their first year. The renovations continued into their 1st grade year and was finally completed halfway through last school year. I repeatedly heard of construction noise and times when classrooms were moved or changed based on the renovations. It was a difficult way to start their elementary school careers, especially as they both are very sensitive to loud noises (which made it hard for them to focus on school as they were so concerned about where the noises were). Now, just starting their 2nd grade year, they are thriving and very successful girls. If the boundaries changed to where my girls would have to switch elementary schools and move away from the support system that helped them through the challenges of beginning elementary school in a construction zone, it would be extremely difficult. Two upheavals in their young lives would be detrimental to their school success. Please, please leave South Fairlington as part of the Abingdon school zone for the benefit of my two daughters as well as every other child in South Fairlington. Thank you-Katherine Schneider</p>
<p>10/11/18</p>	<p>Community Meeting Transcript and Information</p>	<p>Good morning,</p> <p>Will a transcript from last night's meeting be posted? I know it will be easier for the community to review than watching the session online.</p> <p>Also, can staff summarize their takeaway from the meeting? What does staff intend to do now to respond to the questions and concerns raised.</p> <p>Many thanks,</p> <p>Lisa</p> <p>Lisa Owings</p>

10/11/18	Justification for Windgate Rezoning	<p>Subject: Question regarding ACPS rezoning</p> <p>Dear ACPS colleagues,</p> <p>I'm writing in regards to your recent powerpoint presentation, "School Board Work Session Fall 2018 Elementary School Boundary Process Community Input."</p> <p>Prior to this document, I was unaware that my house was in a zone under consideration. I live in the Windgate Condominiums on South Four Mile Run in South Arlington. We live just down a hill from Abingdon Elementary School. When we purchased our home in 2016, it was under the assumption that our son (currently in preschool), would attend Abingdon in a few years and we would be able to walk him to school.</p> <p>The powerpoint maps are somewhat unclear and so I am asking for further clarification about my exact location. What are the plans for rezoning my house to Drew Elementary? I am interested in exact timelines and justification for putting children within walking distance to a school on a bus route to a more distant school. I would also appreciate more detailed maps.</p>
10/11/18	Columbia Forest Boundaries	<p>Please indicate the current topic you'd like to engage with: Fall 2018 Elementary Boundary Process Please share your comments, feedback or suggestions: I am a resident of Columbia Forest and I am writing to ask that we are not moved to Drew. It will be a longer bus ride and 1/2 our neighborhood won't be attending. If we have to be moved, allow us to go to Campbell or Barcroft. Drew is TOO far away. South Fairlington is so much closer to Drew.</p>
10/11/18	Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>Dear APS School Board,</p> <p>I'm writing regarding last night's school board meeting. While discussing potential boundary proposals it was suggested that South Fairlington could be rezoned away from Abingdon to Drew. I want to express my earnest concern this would have on the Fairlington and Abingdon community.</p> <p>There are a number of reasons this proposal is bad for the students and families of South Fairlington and Abingdon.</p> <p>1. Proximity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although South Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone" it remains within a 1 mile radius of the school. • A significant amount of kids walk/bike to school from South Fairlington to Abingdon. We should be making it easier for kids to

walk/bike not making it harder.

- All kids in South Fairlington would most definitely need bused to Drew. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation which is not a luxury APS has.

- Bus rides from South Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the ride for kids.

2. Efficiency

- South Fairlington families that now walk/bike to Abingdon won't be able to do so if moved to Drew.

- South Fairlington families that bus will have to start their day even earlier as the length of the ride will triple if moved to Drew.

- South Fairlington families that drive to school would have to cross over major roadways to get to Drew. This is inefficient and would cause additional traffic in South Arlington.

3. Contiguity

- South Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways deterring them from Abingdon. Moving South Fairlington to Drew incorporates multiple major roads and parks which obstruct families from the school as well as the neighborhoods surrounding Drew.

- The South Fairlington planning unit is currently adjacent to Abingdon.

When it comes to proximity, efficiency, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for South Fairlington families if moved to Drew.

One final point I cannot state with enough urgency, North Fairlington and South Fairlington is one big Community. There is dynamic engagement which unite both students and families in South and North Fairlington (community centers, farmers markets, parks, summer swim teams, parades; the list goes on and on). Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones not trying to tear it apart.

Please oppose any plan that separates Fairlington families from Abingdon.

Regards-

		<p>Tim</p>
<p>10/11/18</p>	<p>Keep Fairlington Together</p>	<p>I am a homeowner in south Fairlington and my daughter is in 2nd grade in Abingdon, our Fairlington neighborhood school. It should STAY that way! As it is now, we can walk or bike to school through our neighborhood roads -- and it makes no sense as to why we would all of a sudden be re-assigned to Drew!</p> <p>Fairlington is one cohesive community -- south and north together -- and any efforts to split us up via school assignments would endanger that cohesion that is such a value to us as parents, community members and taxpayers.</p> <p>I urge you to keep south Fairlington in the Abingdon school district.</p> <p>*caroline knox*</p>
<p>10/11/18</p>	<p>Keep Fairlington Together</p>	<p>RE: "verbal proposal" to move South Fairlington to Drew Elementary School</p> <p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>My name is Meghan Scheifele and I have been a Fairlington resident for the past 11 years. My two children [REDACTED] have grown up in Fairlington, playing at all of the association's playgrounds, spending every summer playing with friends at our homeowners association pools and letting their imaginations run wild with neighbors in the various common spaces of our closely knit community. The family friendly atmosphere of Fairlington was what first drew me to it when I was pregnant with my oldest, and my husband and I chose our rental based on Fairlington's reputation.</p> <p>Over the first 18 months of living in Fairlington, we loved the community so much we bought our condo in 2009 in the Fairlington Commons Association [REDACTED] and as [REDACTED] approached Kindergarten we were so excited for him to attend Abingdon Elementary School. We had heard nothing but wonderful things from families who already had children enrolled. When [REDACTED] started at Abingdon we were not disappointed. This fall [REDACTED] This year is going very well and we are looking forward to another wonderful school year with our Abingdon family. It will be bittersweet of course [REDACTED] [REDACTED] will miss Abingdon greatly next year, but we are thrilled that [REDACTED] will get the same experience that [REDACTED] had at Abingdon with the excellent teachers, staff and administration that have made us feel like we are a part of a big family.</p> <p>This brings me to the purpose of my email. I have been following the APS elementary boundary revisions for the past month. Initially I</p>

		<p>was relieved to learn that the fairlington community would be kept in tact at Abingdon. Recently however, I learned via word of mouth there was a "verbal proposal" to split Fairlington in 2 and send South Fairlington students to Drew rather than Abingdon. Though verbal, as a long time resident of Fairlington with a deep affection for our neighborhood this proposal upsets me greatly. Regardless of the 395 bridge that divides our neighborhood we are one Fairlington. I love going to the park, playgrounds and farmers market after school and on weekends and seeing other parents, children and even teachers in our community. Children of our neighbors are not only friends, but also classmates. These close relationships have enriched my children's school life and it is this trait of Abingdon's that has made our last 6 years such a unique and cherished experience.</p> <p>Though I understand the need for the boundary revisions for the service of all South Arlington residents, I feel it makes no sense to split up this close knit neighborhood that has attending Abingdon for many years. I urge the school board to vote against this new proposal, verbal or otherwise.</p> <p>Thank you so much in advance for your consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Meghan Scheifele (Mom of 2 happy boys at Abingdon Elementary School)</p>
10/11/18	Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>We are parents of two children at Abingdon Elementary and live in Fairlington, [REDACTED]. They have both been enrolled since kindergarten and my son who suffers from a mild case of ADD, has flourished under the private tutoring of a retired Abingdon teacher. She only tutors students from Abingdon. We have stayed in this area for the sole reason that we did not want to move either of them from Abingdon. Moving Abingdon students to Drew would cause an unnecessary disruption to their lives. Please do not consider doing this Sincerely Stacey Coppel and Steven Svoboda</p>
10/11/18	FR/L Impact on Enrollment	<p>Dear Robert,</p> <p>Looking at the new calculation for FR/L that was included in last night's presentation and that you addressed during the work session, it appears that, while the new denominator is the total number of children within a school boundary, *i.e.*, all resident students including both those who attend their zoned school and those who attend an option school, the numerator remains the same, *i.e.*, only resident students who attend their zoned school (and receive FR/L). See Footnote 3, noting that the FR/L count is resident students but *excludes* option students. In other words, it appears APS did not add to the numerator the number of resident-option students receiving FR/L. If so, then the calculation adds roughly 350 students to the denominator without a corresponding adjustment to the numerator, and the resulting percentages would be artificially low.</p> <p>Can you please clarify whether the above is correct or whether I am missing something about the way APS has done this new calculation? Thank you.</p>

		Sincerely, Miranda Turner
10/11/18	Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to express my opinions about the proposed school boundaries, specifically those relating to south Fairlington (unit 36130). Please keep our neighborhood and unit assigned to Abingdon and do not switch it to Drew. Here are the reasons why we should stay in Abingdon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - *Proximity- *Many parts of south Fairlington (unit 36130) are less than a mile from Abingdon. Although we are zoned for busing, many students walk to school. - *Proximity/Efficiency- *If you reassign our neighborhood to Drew, busing costs and overall traffic will increase. - *Proximity- *We have a strong community (both north and south Fairlington) and Abingdon is our neighborhood school. There are many community events, including the Fairlington 5K, that support the school. Splitting the neighborhood would inhibit this. - *Efficiency- *You could reduce or remove the amount of busing that south Fairlington receives and students could walk or be carpoled to school at Abingdon. This would save the transportation department money. - *Demographics- *If you remove our unit and switch it to Drew, the percentage of students receiving Free and Reduced Lunch at Abingdon will actually increase, which defeats the purpose of trying to lower the percentage at Drew. <p>Thank you for considering my points.</p> <p>Rachel Mallory</p>
10/11/18	South Fairlington Rezoning	<p>Subject: Rezoning of south Arlington</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>I was told this was the email address to send any concerns regarding the rezoning of south Arlington students from abingdon elementary school to drew elementary school.</p> <p>Our daughter is in 3rd grade and has been at Abingdon since kindergarten. She has been there throughout the construction and renovation and that process was hard for her especially coming from a private episcopal preschool. [REDACTED] started as a very anxious and fearful child and has blossomed into a fun loving and artistic young lady who loves school. The structure and focus of the arts at Abingdon is the main reason we chose it. But, what drew us to the area was what a great school it was in terms of safety and scoring records as well as the location within our neighborhood. We do currently have our daughter in extended day but are planning to have</p>

her ride the bus next year along with her brother who will begin kindergarten. The thought of having to make her switch schools in the middle of elementary school makes us all very sad and anxious. We recently lost our dog and have been blown away by the love and support she has received from her teachers, counselors and fellow classmates. Many of these kids have been together since kindergarten and this rezoning will lead to them being separated from kids who live in the same neighborhood.

We love living in fairlington because of the close knit community and the neighborhood school. Please do not rezone south Arlington to drew elementary school. It may make sense on paper and for budget reasons but it will be a huge detriment to many students, including my daughter and it will force us to move to make sure our kids continue to get the best education in Arlington that they can.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicky Volkert

10/11/18

Keep all of Fairlington at Abingdon

Subject: Elementary School Boundary Discussion

Dear APS Staff ~

Thank you so much for all your work on this process. We know that it is not an easy task - trying to balance and prioritize all the Policy Considerations and create boundaries that meet APS's core values. We live in South Fairlington (referred to, last night, as the "Fairlington wedge")- planning Unit # 36130, and we are APS parents of 2 current elementary students and a future kindergartener starting in 2020 [or 2021]. After watching the work session last night, we have some concerns:

- South Fairlington (PU # 36130) being considered to feed to Drew?!?! Fairlington is ONE neighborhood with ONE civic association. Abingdon School receives huge support from this entire neighborhood because it is IN our neighborhood. The ALL Fairlington Bulletin includes Abingdon News and we all function as one cohesive community. The school thrives because of this. The majority of Abingdon students who come from Fairlington, come from PU#36130. You would be tearing this neighborhood apart and really negatively affecting the school community. No other community that feeds to Abingdon can claim it to be in their neighborhood, all of Fairlington does and we all feel invested in it. The majority of this planning unit lies WITHIN the 1 miles radius and could be part of the extended walk zone to Abingdon. Just yesterday, as I head out to pick up my kids from their Claremont Bus stop, [3] 5th grade Abingdon students walked past me on their way home from school. And they all live right off of S. Utah Street, the outer edge of that 1 mile radius. Most of this planning unit could walk to school. Currently there are two bus routes to accommodate the number of kids. That could easily be reduced to 1 route if an extended walk zone was implemented. Transportation to Drew would increase costs and be

		<p>complicated with very heavy traffic zones to be crossed to get there and back. As there was concern expressed about keeping the Randolph Community intact regardless of their demographics, I implore you to do the same for the Fairlington Community.</p> <p>Our other concern lies with the projections of Option School student numbers - namely Claremont's future kindergarten classes. One of the purposes of this process is to balance enrollment among these schools Over-crowding at CIS is a huge issue and nothing has been done about it. No part of this process alleviates this and our concern is that the projections assume that the kindergarten classes at Claremont will continue to be the same size. The number of option school students from these areas can not continue to be what they have been in the last few years. The 2017-18 numbers are not accurate and do not apply since the policy changed this past year. The 2018-19 numbers do not apply since it's a very small sample in the first year of a new policy and new lottery. APS needs to consider that to balance enrollment throughout these schools, INCLUDING Claremont, Claremont will NEED an admissions cap that is less than 6 kindergarten classes!</p> <p>We appreciate your consideration of these issues.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Robert & Melania Saraniero</p>
10/12/18	Keep Fairlington Together	<p>To Whom it May Concern:</p> <p>I am a S. Fairlington homeowner of 9 years and an involved Abingdon parent (planning unit 36130).</p> <p>I am opposed to separating the children of Fairlington into different elementary schools. This s based on several key points that the School Board has outlined as priorities: proximity, efficiency, contiguity.</p> <p>Although South Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone" it remains within a 1 mile radius of Abingdon. While my family resides outside the walk zone, we are .3 miles away from school and walk to school most days, as do many of our neighbors. Annexing our section of Fairlinton would require that all students be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service to the neighborhood. Additionally, many parents who seldom drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems and be incredibly inefficient for the community as a whole.</p> <p>In terms of contiguity, South Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly street with sidewalks and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions. There are</p>

several major barriers, including multiple major roads and parks, that effectively separate the community in South Fairlington from Drew.

From the perspective of the entire Fairlington community, as primary advocates for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation, many sacrifices were made. During the renovation Abingdon students learned in relocatable classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) were affected by the ongoing construction during the 2016-2017 school year and even had to be locked down (and subsequently miss a school day) due to a hazardous materials concern in the building. This construction disrupted their education and it would be unfair to submit these students to further disruption.

When it comes to proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for South Fairlington families if moved to Drew.

As Fairlington celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, it is clear it is an intentional, united community. The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Our kids grow up and participate in so many of the neighborhood activities that define the character and spirit of Fairlington including the annual 4th of July parade, our farmer's market, the Fairlington 5k, among so many others. Abingdon is the very center of this community. Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task-- I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved.

Sincerely,

Sara Tuke Carr

10/12/18

Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon

Subject: Elementary school boundary change proposals for Abingdon

My name is Nancy Avis and I live in Arlington, specifically in Fairlington Villages on South Columbus Street. I just heard that one of the options in the proposals for elementary school boundary changes is to have those students in the South Fairlington area (Fairlington South of I-395) be moved to Drew.

I think this is a bad idea for many reasons. Abingdon is still within walking distance of many students who live in South Fairlington. On my way to work every morning I see the students on bicycles and walking across the connecting bridge from South Fairlington and walking to Abingdon.

If they are sent to Drew, all these students would have to take buses. That would increase the cost, increase pollution and the time it takes for the students to get to/from school in the morning. Not only would it cost more for the County, it would increase the traffic as many parents would also feel the need to drive their children to Drew. With budgets being cut, the last thing the school board needs is increased cost for their transportation budget. The transportation time to/from school would increase significantly for these students too. Abingdon recently went through a major renovation and the existing students and families worked with officials, architects and designers for a better school. If they are transferred to Drew they won't get the benefit of these renovations.

Fairlington is a community in itself. Unlike any other community I believe in Arlington. I grew up in Arlington, specifically in North Arlington. Yes we had neighborhoods and community pools but Fairlington is much more than that. Even though there are different condo associations and a highway splits North and South Fairlington, it's one big community. There are events regularly for the residents and families that incorporate the whole community, community centers, parks, parades, etc.. Another reason that the students in this community should all go to the same schools, whether it's elementary, middle or high school.

When I was growing up, I went to an elementary school that was farther away than the closest one due to the boundary line being right along my street. After my elementary school closed I went to Taylor but most of my friends ended up at Jamestown. Then many of the friends I met at Taylor ended up at another middle school due to the same boundary lines. After their middle school closed and many students ended up at my middle school (Williamsburg), those students went to Washington-Lee high school, where the rest of us went to Yorktown. Several times a group of friends of mine would end up in a different school. That happened too many times in my life, friends I made in school ended up going to different schools at the next level because of boundary changes, schools closing etc. This shouldn't happen to the students who live in Fairlington.

I hope you reconsider the option of sending students from Fairlington to Drew and let them stay at Abingdon. It not only benefits the students, it benefits all residents of Arlington by saving money on transportation, less traffic and less pollution.

Thanks.

Nancy Avis

10/12/18

Keep South
Fairlington at
Abingdon

Dear Arlington Public Schools decision-makers,

I am writing with concern about the proposed boundary changes as they affect South Arlington. I am a parent of one student at Abingdon and another entering school next year. While Drew is itself a wonderful community with a great school reputation, I am opposing the move from Abingdon to Drew for the following reasons:

Proximity:

My child, and family, can walk to school – not just for the school day but for PTA meetings, Back to School night, Book Fair, and other family functions. My four-year-old knows Abingdon though he is not yet a student there because we, with other families, can walk there together anytime. Abingdon is the core of a very cohesive community. It is not likely we would be as involved in school events, which we currently are eager to schedule our weeks around, (but which usually take place during rush hour) at a school so much farther from us.

Busing my children to Drew would take a significant amount of time and require either a circuitous route around several other neighborhoods or a more direct route that involved putting my children in morning traffic on 395. This commute is very undesirable, and I assume costly.

Contiguity:

Our community is adjacent to our school and is easily walkable along the sidewalks that cross the walkway over 395.

Disruption/Stability:

a. The Fairlington community, including the families of South Fairlington, was a primary advocate for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation. During the renovation Abingdon students learned in relocatable classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) were affected by the ongoing construction during the 2016-2017 school year and even had to be locked down (and subsequently miss a school day) due to a hazardous materials concern in the building.

b. This construction disrupted their education and it would be unfair to submit these students to further disruption.

When it comes to proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for South Fairlington families if moved to Drew.

Fairlington is one community. Our families work together to face our common challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have a SK, a farmers market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. Many of us moved to Fairlington because we wanted our families to be communally engaged and there are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously as Fairlington. The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting stations with over 1500

voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task-- I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved.

Thank you,

Bethany Effgen

10/12/18

Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon

Dear Superintendent Murphy, School Board Members and Planning Committee,

I serve as the co-president of Abingdon Elementary's PTA. However, I am writing to you today as the concerned parent of 3rd and 5th grade students at Abingdon.

My husband and I have been following the ongoing boundary rezoning project closely and watched the planning meeting on October 10th. We were pleased to see that, in the first released plan, the entire Fairlington Community (north and south) would be staying at Abingdon as a united community. Both of our children have grown up in this neighborhood and have attended Abingdon for their entire education. We have gotten to know neighbors, teachers, and administrators over the years. It is truly a family at Abingdon. We believe that, if annexing South Fairlington to Drew was on the table, it should have been tabled in this first proposal. Why wait a month to propose this option? If we would have been given more time to consider this option, more community engagement would have happened. Currently, my children walk to and from Abingdon almost every day in about 10 minutes. They do not cross major intersections or big hills. However, if our neighborhood is annexed and our children are sent to Drew, our children will now have to ride a bus through a busy commercial district. Walking and biking are no longer options. This is not a safer option for the students. Shouldn't that be a priority when considering these options? In addition, we believe keeping strong, cohesive communities together with their neighborhood school should be a top priority for Arlington Public Schools. North and South Fairlington identify as one neighborhood and have embraced Abingdon as their neighborhood school. As one community, we are all part of the Fairlington Citizen's Association and work together to support our school, including hosting the Fairlington 5K to support the Abingdon PTA department and Abingdon student (Ellie McGinn, a South Fairlington resident and founder of A Cure for Ellie), and hosting a variety of community-wide school supply drive and holiday gift drives. In addition, many of our teachers have relocated to the Fairlington community to be close to their students and school because of our close-knit community. We are one of the few neighborhoods that actually contain our neighborhood school. All of Fairlington supported the school's reconstruction. The neighborhood has well defined boundaries. You would have to go back more than 12 years or longer to find PTA leadership that are not Fairlington residents. We fought to make the school the success it is because it was in our neighborhood. In essence, we view this annexing plan to be an effort to penalize our community and Abingdon school in order to check a demographic box. By annexing South Fairlington children to Drew, a large number of families that volunteer their time and resources would be a large noticeable loss for Abingdon. Furthermore, the loss of the South Fairlington

		<p>planning unit will result in an increase in Free & Reduced Lunch at Abingdon, which will lessen Abingdon's balance of diversity and F&RL. We currently have approximately 45% F&RL (a figure based on the actual attendance at Abingdon, not some extrapolated data). If you remove 140-150 kids in the South Fairlington planning unit, that would be increased to over 55%. So the Board is asking a Title 1 School, with a higher than average F&RL rate to further increase their F&RL rate, as opposed to other schools that are not Title 1 and have lower than the average F&RL rates for the County. Why aren't Oakridge and Patrick Henry also be in consideration for this annexation? We believe it is inappropriate to ask South Fairlington alone to shoulder this burden. Thank you for your time, your hard work in negotiating with all of us parents, and allowing us to express our opinions. Thank you for taking into consideration keeping South Fairlington at Abingdon.</p> <p>Thank you -</p> <p>Kim Mathis</p>
10/12/18	Letting 5 th Graders be Grandfathered	<p>Please allow students to grandfather in at the schools at which they've been attending previous years. We know some fourth graders at Oakridge that fall on the other boundary for Drew after re-districting. It would be unfair to make them go to 5th grade the other schools. They should be allowed to finish their Elementary career at Oakridge.</p>
10/12/18	Keep Fairlington Together	<p>Good morning,</p> <p>I'm sure by now that you have received multiple emails from Fairlington residents angry or upset about your proposal to split our strong community in two. I am adding my voice to this, though I will no longer have children in elementary school next year, because it is the right thing to do.</p> <p>I agree with and support all of the talking points below [note that bold and underlining are my own] that logically argue to keep our community together. In addition, I'll just say this: Splitting Fairlington for absolutely any reason goes against all logic, decency, common sense, and human kindness. You have placed our neighborhood last so very often and ignore all of our successes. We are strong and span all ages in a true model of a neighborhood community. My children walked to and from Abingdon daily during times of crumbling ceilings, during wet days exclusively in trailers, and finally (for one child) in a new building that we fought hard for as a community. Throughout the walks, neighbors on every block watched out for my kids: when they crossed roads when a guard was late or where you and/or transportation denied crosswalks, when the bus drivers argued with them about getting off at a stop on a rainy day, or just when it was a nice sunny day to walk home and enjoy camaraderie. Tearing those neighborhood relationships in two is not just stupid (now and in the long term), it's also mean. I moved to Arlington and specifically to Fairlington for the school system, and I'm ready to leave because of it, too. Get your act together, school board.</p>

Sincere regards, Dr. Nicole Van Hoey Arlington parent and homeowner

Dividing the Fairlington community is ill-advised for a number of reasons.

1. Proximity:

- a. Although South Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone" it remains within a 1 mile radius of Abingdon. Due to the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of students walk or bike to school from South Fairlington every day.
- b. All students in South Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service to the neighborhood.
- c. Transporting students from South Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus every day. Many parents who seldom or never drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems.

2. Efficiency

- a. Moving the full South Fairlington population to Drew will increase the transportation costs. Additional buses, needed for a longer period of time, would be required to move the majority of South Fairlington's large student population over multiple non-walkable boundary roads.

3. Contiguity

- a. South Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly street with sidewalks and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions.
- b. There are several major barriers, including multiple major roads and parks, that effectively separate the community in South Fairlington from Drew.
- c. While it would be theoretically possible to make a corridor to give the impression of contiguity by including portions of Shirlington, such a corridor would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community

		<p>around Drew.</p> <p>d. The South Fairlington planning unit is actually adjacent to Abingdon.</p> <p>4. Disruption/Stability</p> <p>a. The Fairlington community, including the families of South Fairlington, was a primary advocate for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation. During the renovation Abingdon students learned in relocatable classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) were affected by the ongoing construction during the 2016-2017 school year and even had to be locked down (and subsequently miss a school day) due to a hazardous materials concern in the building.</p> <p>b. This construction disrupted their education and it would be unfair to submit these students to further disruption.</p> <p>When it comes to proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for South Fairlington families if moved to Drew.</p> <p>One final point I cannot state with enough urgency, Fairlington is one community. Our families work together to face our common challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have a 5K, a farmers market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. Many of us moved to Fairlington because we wanted our families to be communally engaged and there are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously as Fairlington. The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task-- I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved.</p>
10/12/18	Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>Dear School and County Board,</p> <p>I am writing in regard to the recent school board discussion about the elementary school boundaries within the Fairlington neighborhood in which I live. While discussing potential boundary proposals, it was suggested that Fairlington could be divided and South Fairlington could be annexed by Drew Elementary School. As a mother of two young children who will enter APS in the next 2 years, I am opposed to separating the children of Fairlington into different elementary schools.</p> <p>Dividing the Fairlington community is ill-advised for a number of reasons.</p>

1. Proximity:

a. Although South Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone" it remains within a 1 mile radius of Abingdon. My house, [REDACTED] is .7 miles from Abingdon and 1.2 miles from Drew. Due to the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of my neighbors walk or bike to school from South Fairlington every day. Something I hope my children have the ability to do as well.

b. All students in South Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children at 1.2 miles (or more) and crossing multiple busy streets. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service to the neighborhood.

c. Transporting students from South Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus every day and potentially transport them past Abingdon. Many parents who seldom or never drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew (I know we would have to), increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems.

2. Efficiency

a. Moving the full South Fairlington population to Drew will increase the transportation costs. Additional buses, needed for a longer period of time, would be required to move the majority of South Fairlington's large student population (and growing based on how the neighborhood is changing with more families) over multiple non-walkable boundary roads (Walter Reed, Four Mile Run, etc).

3. Contiguity

a. South Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly street with sidewalks that we walk over frequently with our young children and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions.

b. There are several major barriers, including multiple major roads and parks, that effectively separate the community in South Fairlington from Drew (Walter Reed, Four Mile Run).

c. While it would be theoretically possible to make a corridor to give the impression of contiguity by including portions of Shirlington, such a corridor would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community around Drew.

d. The South Fairlington planning unit is actually adjacent to Abingdon.

4. Disruption/Stability

a. The Fairlington community, including the families of South Fairlington, was a primary advocate for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation. During the renovation Abingdon students learned in relocatable classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) were affected by the ongoing construction during the 2016-2017 school year and even had to be locked down (and subsequently miss a school day) due to a hazardous materials concern in the building.

b. This construction disrupted their education and it would be unfair to submit these students to further disruption.

When it comes to proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for South Fairlington families if moved to Drew.

One final point I cannot state with enough urgency, Fairlington is one community. Our families work together to face our common challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have a 5K, a farmers market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. Many of us moved to Fairlington because we wanted our families to be communally engaged and there are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously as Fairlington. The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task-- I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved.

Thank you in advance and I am happy to answer any questions.

Sarah Bal

10/12/18

Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon

Hi Patrick, I'm writing today because I'm very concerned with one of the proposals that was discussed at this week's School Board meeting, which would annex South Fairlington away from Abingdon and essentially split the neighborhood in half. I want to express my earnest concern this would have on the Fairlington community.

There are a number of reasons why this is bad for the community of Fairlington and the students and families of Abingdon. In fact the,

proposal is counter to APS's own policies.

APS has stated that students will be kept in close proximity to their neighborhood school, but the proposal to annex South Fairlington fails to meet this priority.

Although South Fairlington is technically not a "walk zone", over half of the zone is within a 1 mile of Abingdon Elementary.

A significant number of students choose to walk/bike to school. Moving students to another school beyond Abingdon would stick students who currently walk on a bus, would lengthen the bus rides for students, and would put a greater strain on APS transportation.

We should be making it easier for students to walk/bike - not making it harder.

APS has stated that school boundaries will be contiguous, but the proposal to annex South Fairlington breaks contiguity in every sense of the word.

South Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways obstructing them from Abingdon.

Moving South Fairlington away from Abingdon incorporates multiple major road ways and parks, which obstruct families from the school. The South Fairlington planning unit is currently adjacent to Abingdon.

APS has stressed the value of efficiency for families when taking their children to school.

As a parent, I value efficiency when it comes to taking my children to school. And, families are MORE likely to be engaged and attend after school programs, PTA meetings, and school events when we are able to get to the school efficiently and quickly.

APS should be encouraging civic education and community building.

I believe - and I think you would agree - that civic education is so important for our children these days. One of the special qualities about the Fairlington neighborhood is that the community often comes together to give back to our community, to rally around causes, to bring dynamic energy to the neighborhood. This is due in large part to Abingdon be a central force in the neighborhood.

The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task-- I hope that APS will realize that

		<p>when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved.</p> <p>I expect that you will vigorously oppose any plan that would split the community of Fairlington into two different schools.</p> <p>I will be watching this issue closely, as is our entire community.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jessica B. Mancari</p>
10/12/18	Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>All,</p> <p>As a parent of a fourth grader at Abingdon and resident of Fairlington for over 10 years, I am writing in regard to the recent school board discussion about the elementary school boundaries within the Fairlington neighborhood. While discussing potential boundary proposals, it was suggested that Fairlington could be divided and South Fairlington could be annexed by Drew Elementary School. I am opposed to separating the children of Fairlington into different elementary schools.</p> <p>Dividing the Fairlington community is ill-advised for a number of reasons.</p> <p>1. Proximity:</p> <p>a. Although South Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone" it remains within a 1 mile radius of Abingdon. Due to the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of students walk or bike to school from South Fairlington every day.</p> <p>b. All students in South Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service to the neighborhood.</p> <p>c. Transporting students from South Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus every day. Many parents who seldom or never drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems.</p> <p>2. Efficiency</p> <p>a. Moving the full South Fairlington population to Drew will increase the transportation costs. Additional buses, needed for a longer</p>

period of time, would be required to move the majority of South Fairlington's large student population over multiple non-walkable boundary roads.

3. Contiguity

a. South Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly street with sidewalks and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions.

b. There are several major barriers, including multiple major roads and parks, that effectively separate the community in South Fairlington from Drew.

c. While it would be theoretically possible to make a corridor to give the impression of contiguity by including portions of Shirlington, such a corridor would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community around Drew.

d. The South Fairlington planning unit is actually adjacent to Abingdon.

4. Disruption/Stability

a. The Fairlington community, including the families of South Fairlington, was a primary advocate for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation. During the renovation Abingdon students learned in relocatable classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) were affected by the ongoing construction during the 2016-2017 school year and even had to be locked down (and subsequently miss a school day) due to a hazardous materials concern in the building.

b. This construction disrupted their education and it would be unfair to submit these students to further disruption.

When it comes to proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for South Fairlington families if moved to Drew. One final point I cannot state with enough urgency, Fairlington is one community. Our families work together to face our common challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have a 5K, a farmers market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. Many of us moved to Fairlington because we wanted our families to be communally engaged and there are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously as Fairlington. The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for

		<p>when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task-- I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved.</p> <p>Thanks for your attention.</p> <p>Best, Jason Rosenthal</p>
10/12/18	Keep Fairlington Together	<p>Members of the Arlington County School Board,</p> <p>My name is Ryan Effgen. I live in Fairlington with my wife and two children. Our daughter is in first grade at Abingdon Elementary. I've been following the elementary school boundary discussions for some time, and I was dismayed at the very recent suggestion that Fairlington (a neighborhood listed on both the *National Register of Historic Places* and on the *Virginia Landmarks Register*) might be divided in two, so that "South Fairlington" could be annexed by Drew Elementary School. I am opposed to separating the children of Fairlington into different elementary schools.</p> <p>I believe that splitting up the Fairlington community is ill-advised for the following reasons:</p> <p>1. Proximity:</p> <p>a. Although South Fairlington officially falls outside the "walk zone" it remains within a 1 mile radius of Abingdon. Due to the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of students walk or bike to school from South Fairlington every day. We walk our daughter to school all the time. In fact, in talking with other South Fairlington parents, the consensus seems to be that our neighborhood could have a school bus removed, and none of us would mind all that much.</p> <p>b. All students in South Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service to the neighborhood. I see no safe or seamless way for a bus to regularly navigate morning traffic in the area.</p> <p>c. Transporting students from South Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus every day. Many parents who seldom or never drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems.</p> <p>2. Efficiency</p>

a. Moving the full South Fairlington population to Drew will increase the transportation costs. Additional buses, needed for a longer period of time, would be required to move the majority of South Fairlington's large student population over multiple non-walkable boundary roads.

3. Contiguity

a. South Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly street with sidewalks and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions.

b. There are several major barriers, including multiple major roads and parks, that effectively separate the community in South Fairlington from Drew.

c. While it would be theoretically possible to make a corridor to give the impression of contiguity by including portions of Shirlington, such a corridor would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community around Drew.

d. The South Fairlington planning unit is actually adjacent to Abingdon.

4. Disruption/Stability

a. The Fairlington community, including the families of South Fairlington, was a primary advocate for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation. During the renovation Abingdon students learned in relocatable classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) were affected by the ongoing construction during the 2016-2017 school year and even had to be locked down (and subsequently miss a school day) due to a hazardous materials concern in the building.

b. This construction disrupted their education and it would be unfair to submit these students to further disruption.

When it comes to proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for South Fairlington families if moved to Drew.

One final point I cannot state with enough urgency, Fairlington is one community. Our families work together to face our common challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have a 5K (*please note the map

<<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5887be611b10e3dd77110ffe/t/5887d10d86e6c0638ec1ca80/1485295885341/coursemap.jpg>>*

		<p>which begins at Abingdon and proceeds through South Fairlington), a farmers market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. Next Saturday, October 20, a celebration in honor of Fairlington's 75th anniversary is being held—truly this is a cohesive neighborhood that sees itself as a *community*. Many of us moved to Fairlington because we wanted our families to be communally engaged and there are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously as Fairlington. The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task-- I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Ryan Effgen</p>
10/12/18	Keep Fairlington Together	<p>Subject: Fairlington United</p> <p>I am writing in regard to the recent school board discussion about the elementary school boundaries within the Fairlington neighborhood. While discussing potential boundary proposals, it was suggested that Fairlington could be divided and South Fairlington could be annexed by Drew Elementary School. I am opposed to separating the children of Fairlington into different elementary schools. Dividing the Fairlington community is ill-advised for a number of reasons.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proximity: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Although South Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone" it remains within a 1 mile radius of Abingdon. Due to the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of students walk or bike to school from South Fairlington every day. b. All students in South Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service to the neighborhood. c. Transporting students from South Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus every day. Many parents who seldom or never drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems. 2. Efficiency <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Moving the full South Fairlington population to Drew will increase the transportation costs. Additional buses, needed for a longer period of time, would be required to move the majority of South Fairlington's large student population over multiple non-walkable boundary roads. 3. Contiguity <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. South Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly street with sidewalks and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions. b. There are several major barriers, including multiple major roads and parks, that effectively separate the community in South Fairlington from Drew. c. While it would be theoretically possible to make a corridor to give the impression of contiguity by including portions of Shirlington, such a corridor would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community around Drew. d. The South Fairlington planning unit is actually adjacent to Abingdon. 4. Disruption/Stability <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Fairlington community, including the families of South Fairlington, was a primary advocate for Abingdon's

much-needed school renovation. During the renovation Abingdon students learned in relocatable classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) were affected by the ongoing construction during the 2016-2017 school year and even had to be locked down (and subsequently miss a school day) due to a hazardous materials concern in the building. b. This construction disrupted their education and it would be unfair to submit these students to further disruption. When it comes to proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for South Fairlington families if moved to Drew. One final point I cannot state with enough urgency, Fairlington is one community. Our families work together to face our common challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have a 5K, a farmers market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. Many of us moved to Fairlington because we wanted our families to be communally engaged and there are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously as Fairlington. The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task— I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved.

Sincerely,

Anne Swingle

10/12/18

Keep Fairlington Together

Subject: Fairlington Community and Abingdon Elementary

Good morning,

I am a parent of a current 2nd grader at Abingdon Elementary, and a member of the Fairlington community. I understand that during this week's School Board working session, it was suggested that Fairlington could be divided, and that South Fairlington would be sent to Drew Elementary, instead of our neighborhood school. I am opposed to separating the Fairlington community into two different elementary schools.

I believe that dividing our community does more harm than good, when looking through the various priority areas of this boundary revision process.

Regarding Proximity, while South Fairlington falls outside of the designated walk zone, it is an incredibly walkable neighborhood where many of the families walk their children to school each day. The 'boundary' of 395 is not that at all - the road that crosses it has continuous sidewalks and is well-lit and well-traveled by pedestrians. If South Fairlington children were to be sent to Drew Elementary,

		<p>it would be unreasonable to expect any of these children to walk, as you must cross multiple busy boundary roads in areas that are not conducive to pedestrian traffic.</p> <p>Regarding the Efficiency consideration, due to the distance needed to travel to Drew, nearly all South Fairlington students would need to ride buses. This would increase the number of buses needed, and increase the length of time the buses would be needed, in order to accommodate this large population of students that need to travel to a different neighborhood for school. This is an important cost consideration that I take very seriously, as I'm sure many do in APS and on the School Board.</p> <p>The Contiguity priority would also be undermined by moving South Fairlington into the Drew school district. South Fairlington is adjacent to only two areas - North Fairlington and Alexandria. Any other creation of a corridor through Shirlington or elsewhere is artificial and not aligning with the outcomes desired from the Contiguity priority.</p> <p>I want the new, expanded Drew neighborhood school to be successful. I know what can happen when a neighborhood gets behind their school and supports its success. The Fairlington community has helped Abingdon become a thriving school because it has united its support of the success of the community at large and the children in it. Whether our neighbors are currently parents of kids at Abingdon, or whether they have opted into one of the excellent option schools in Arlington (or even if they don't have school aged children at all), they recognize the importance of supporting our neighborhood school that was built for, and in, Fairlington. Our family is dedicated to the community we have found here in Fairlington - not just South Fairlington, but the entire Fairlington neighborhood. Separating this community into two separate schools would not serve either school population well. Please remove this option from consideration during this boundary process, and keep all of Fairlington at Abingdon, our neighborhood community school.</p> <p>Sincerely, Clare Jones Rosenberger</p>
10/15/18	Keep Fairlington Together	<p>Subject: Keep Abingdon Together</p> <p>I am writing to ask you to leave the Abingdon school district as it is today. The proximity of the school to the children in Fairlington means that a large number of us can walk our children to and from school every day. The close proximity also means that we can easily partake in after school activities such as the PTA, sports teams and in my case as a Girl Scout Troop volunteer parent. The continuity of the community will also be negatively impacted by change. My child's friends and indeed now my own friends are deeply influenced by a single community continuing to attend a single elementary school. We are building life long bonds with the current boundaries as they are that should not be interrupted. Continuity of relationships is critical to my daughter's developing social and emotion intelligence. Lastly, it is just plain simple to keep things as it is. If a friend and neighbor is sick and needs me to walk her daughter to school for them, I can do that easily without a second thought. If an after school activity needs a co-participating neighbor to watch my child for a few minutes after the activity is over, it's no big deal because we are all one community living in one very walkable neighborhood.</p>

		<p>Please leave the current district boundaries as they are for Abingdon and allow us to continue to thrive together. Many thanks.</p> <p>Christopher M. Nowell</p>
<p>10/15/18</p>	<p>Keep Fairlington Together</p>	<p>Dear Chair Goldstein and Members of the School Board</p> <p>I am writing to you concerning your proposal to divide the Fairlington community by sending South Fairlington students to Drew Elementary school, while keeping North Fairlington students at Abingdon Elementary school, our neighborhood school.</p> <p>This proposal is the first time that I have heard of anyone even mentioning North and South Fairlington as though it were two different places. Calling I-395 a boundary doesn't make any sense at all. Abingdon road is a bridge that goes over the interstate. This bridge has side walks, bicycle lanes, and parking lanes in addition to the lanes for car traffic. Residents from all over Fairlington meet up on this bridge to watch Rolling Thunder every Memorial Day weekend. All of the roads from South Fairlington to Abingdon are 25mph neighborhood roads with sidewalks, and most of the roads have bicycle lanes as well. Our daughter biked the 1 mile to school from South Fairlington last week during bike to school day. We see our daughter's PE teacher and former kindergarten teacher while walking our dogs with our daughter weekly. Our neighborhood unites at the farmer's market, 5k, community parades, and movie nights and festivals at Abingdon. Fairlington is celebrating its 75th anniversary this weekend, and it was designed to be and currently functions as one community. It would be a disservice to split this community making some residents travel 3 times farther over much more busy streets to go to another school.</p> <p>Many other residents of Fairlington decided to enroll their children in choice schools for various reasons. Whether the most important thing for their families was Spanish immersion at Claremont, Expeditionary Learning at Campbell, or the traditional instruction model at Arlington Traditional. We did not decide that our daughter should go to Abingdon because we were too lazy to enter the lottery for these other schools, or didn't find those options attractive. Rather, it was because the most important factor in our children's elementary education was that they learn how to be productive members of their community. I hope that you will not negate our choices to allow our children to go to school with their community and your stated purposes of not optimizing community connectedness, transportation efficiency, and proximity to school.</p> <p>Feel free to write back if you have any questions, otherwise I will see you at the meeting at Kenmore Wednesday night.</p> <p>Richard Simmerman, PhD</p>
<p>10/12/18</p>	<p>Keep Fairlington Together</p>	

10/12/18

Ideas for
Randolph ES

Hello Again.

I watched part of the school board work session this week and saw the conversations about Randolph and Drew. I'm writing just as myself and not as an APS Randolph ambassador or a rep for the PTA or community.

Currently Randolph has many students who transfer out. I don't understand the available data enough to verify this, but I believe that a pretty large proportion of those students are not economically disadvantaged. I also anecdotally know of at least 15 families in the neighborhood who have their children in Catholic or other religious schools.

I am worried that if we break up Randolph's walk zone too much to try to bring in more socioeconomic diversity, many of the economically-advantaged families will just continue the pattern of opting out or sending their children to private school. I also feel that if families come to Randolph by force feeling that it's a "lesser" school and not wanting to respect the community, no one wins.

I realize that we just changed the transfer policy to take away neighborhood preference for choice schools, but I wonder whether we could have some sort of special exception for Randolph because it may be somewhat under capacity. It's also an IB Primary Years Program school.

What if we had neighborhood preference for a set period of time (10 years--or maybe 5 or 7) and a lottery for any additional available seats? It looks like we won't be quite filled to capacity yet. A year or two before that sunset the board could decide whether to make it an option school or go back to being a neighborhood school. This may be the "creative idea" for Randolph that the Board was already hinting at, but wanted to share.

I realize there are many, many issues with this idea (current transfer policy, the question of transportation and cost and others), but I feel as if it might be something to consider.

Like many others, I believe diversity is a strength and have read the studies about all children doing better in socioeconomically integrated schools. However, based on Arlington's history of desegregation efforts, I personally do NOT think that we should take many students of color who live very close to a walkable, welcoming and supportive school and bus them elsewhere. I also don't think that we should force these families to apply to a lottery for Randolph. I think making small tweaks to the boundaries won't change much.

I feel frustrated because I see lots of people arguing for more socioeconomic diversity at Randolph when many non-economically disadvantaged families already have the opportunity to be part of that desegregation and choose not to. I think it's better to let families who will respect Randolph's cultural diversity and IB program choose to come.

		Beth Fiencke
10/12/18	Keep Fairlington Together	<p>To Whom it May Concern:</p> <p>My family and I are South Fairlington homeowners of 9 years and involved Abingdon parents (planning unit 36130).</p> <p>I am strongly opposed to separating the children of Fairlington into different elementary schools. The basis for this position are several key points that the School Board outlines as priorities: proximity, efficiency, and contiguity. I would like to add continuity and stability to this list.</p> <p>Proximity South Fairlington technically falls outside the "walk zone" but it remains within a 1-mile radius of Abingdon. While my family resides outside this walk zone, we are a mere .3 miles away from school and walk to school most days, as do many of our neighbors. Annexing our section of Fairlington would require that all students be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service to the neighborhood. Additionally, many parents who seldom drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems and be incredibly inefficient for the community as a whole.</p> <p>Contiguity In terms of contiguity, South Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of I-395 is a pedestrian-friendly street with sidewalks and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions. On the contrary, several major barriers—which include multiple major roads and parks—effectively separate the community in South Fairlington from Drew.</p> <p>Efficiency When it comes to proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for South Fairlington families if moved to Drew.</p> <p>Continuity and Stability From the perspective of the entire Fairlington community, as primary advocates for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation, many sacrifices were made. During the Abingdon renovation, Abingdon students were forced to learn in relocatable (trailers) classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) were affected by the ongoing construction during the 2016-2017 school year. This includes an event regarding hazardous materials in the building resulting in a school lockdown and a subsequent miss a school day due to a hazardous materials concern in the building. This construction disrupted their education and it would be unfair to submit these students to further</p>

		<p>disruption.</p> <p>As Fairlington celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, it is clear it is an intentional, united community. The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Our kids grow up and participate in so many of the neighborhood activities that define the character and spirit of Fairlington including the annual 4th of July parade, our farmer's market, the Fairlington 5k, among so many others. Abingdon is the very center of this community. Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task and I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Bret Carr</p>
<p>10/12/18</p>	<p>Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon</p>	<p>Hi,</p> <p>My name is Jack and I am a 3 year owner of a unit in Fairlington, which has recently been slated to change from Abingdon elementary school to Drew elementary school. I would like to express my concern and request that the boundaries include fairlington in the Abingdon school area.</p> <p>When I bought my condo, I was attracted by the proximity and convenience of a highly rated school, I am an avid biker and runner and can easily bike with my daughter to the elementary school at Abingdon. Given the location of Drew, biking will be almost impossible, considering the hills that my daughter will not be able to negotiate and the busy intersections which impact our safety. This will effectively ensure that she will be driven or have to be bussed. Arlington is famous for promoting active lifestyles and this is not the way to encourage my kids to see fitness as a daily activity.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and considering this point of view</p> <p>Jack Bal</p>
<p>10/12/18</p>	<p>Keep Fairlington Together</p>	<p>Good Morning,</p> <p>I am writing in regard to the recent school board discussion about the elementary school boundaries within the Fairlington neighborhood. While discussing potential boundary proposals, it was suggested that Fairlington could be divided and South Fairlington</p>

could be moved to Drew Elementary School. I am opposed to separating the children of Fairlington into different elementary schools. I have lived in South Fairlington for 6 years and have two children - almost 4 years old and 8 months.

Dividing the Fairlington community is ill-advised for a number of reasons.

1. Proximity:

a. Although South Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone" it remains within a 1 mile radius of Abingdon. Due to the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of students walk or bike to school from South Fairlington every day. We moved to Fairlington from DC and chose the neighborhood for its walkability. While we didn't have children at the time, we planned to, and liked the fact that there was an elementary school within the neighborhood.

b. All students in South Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service to the neighborhood.

c. Transporting students from South Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus every day. Many parents who seldom or never drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems.

2. Efficiency

Moving the South Fairlington population to Drew will increase the transportation costs. Additional buses, needed for a longer period of time, would be required to move the majority of South Fairlington's large student population over multiple non-walkable boundary roads.

3. Contiguity

a. South Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly street with sidewalks and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions.

b. There are several major barriers, including multiple major roads and parks, that effectively separate the community in South Fairlington from Drew.

c. While it would be theoretically possible to make a corridor to give the impression of contiguity by including portions of Shirlington,

such a corridor would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community around Drew.

d. The South Fairlington planning unit is actually adjacent to Abingdon.

4. Disruption/Stability

a. The Fairlington community, including the families of South Fairlington, was a primary advocate for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation. During the renovation Abingdon students learned in relocatable classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) were affected by the ongoing construction during the 2016-2017 school year and even had to be locked down (and subsequently miss a school day) due to a hazardous materials concern in the building.

b. This construction disrupted their education and it would be unfair to submit these students to further disruption.

When it comes to proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for South Fairlington families if moved to Drew.

One final point I cannot state with enough urgency, Fairlington is one community. Our families work together to face our common challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have a 5K, a farmers market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. Many of us moved to Fairlington because we wanted our families to be communally engaged and there are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously as Fairlington.

The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task-- I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved.

Thank you,

Jill Briggs

10/12/18

Keep Fairlington Together

Good morning, I am deeply opposed to any plans to send Fairlington children to different schools. It makes sense for all Fairlington children to be able to go to the same school - one which is at the heart of our community. All of the kids from both sides of Fairlington

		<p>play together, go to playgroups together, go to community center events together, attend the neighborhood parades and celebrations together, etc.. It would be a shame if the children had to go to different schools. Abingdon helps to unite Fairlington both young and old and is in fact located at the very center and heart of Fairlington. We have a unique sense of community here. Please keep our neighborhood together.</p> <p>In addition, there are efficiency and environmental concerns related to busing students past a school located within their neighborhood. Many parents would choose to drive their children to Drew, leading to more pollution, traffic congestion and lost time.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this important issue. - Margaret Rhodes</p>
10/12/18	Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>To Whom it May Concern:</p> <p>My family and I are South Fairlington homeowners of 9 years and involved Abingdon parents (planning unit 36130).</p> <p>I am strongly opposed to separating the children of Fairlington into different elementary schools. The basis for this position are several key points that the School Board outlines as priorities: proximity, efficiency, and contiguity. I would like to add continuity and stability to this list.</p> <p>Proximity South Fairlington technically falls outside the "walk zone" but it remains within a 1-mile radius of Abingdon. While my family resides outside this walk zone, we are a mere .3 miles away from school and walk to school most days, as do many of our neighbors. Annexing our section of Fairlington would require that all students be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service to the neighborhood. Additionally, many parents who seldom drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems and be incredibly inefficient for the community as a whole.</p> <p>Contiguity In terms of contiguity, South Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of I-395 is a pedestrian-friendly street with sidewalks and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions. On the contrary, several major barriers—which include multiple major roads and parks—effectively separate the community in South Fairlington from Drew.</p> <p>Efficiency When it comes to proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for South Fairlington families if moved to Drew.</p>

Continuity and Stability From the perspective of the entire Fairlington community, as primary advocates for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation, many sacrifices were made. During the Abingdon renovation, Abingdon students were forced to learn in relocatable (trailers) classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) were affected by the ongoing construction during the 2016-2017 school year. This includes an event regarding hazard materials in the building resulting in a school lockdown and a subsequent miss a school day due to a hazardous materials concern in the building. This construction disrupted their education and it would be unfair to submit these students to further disruption.

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Sincerely,

Bret Carr

10/12/18

Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon

Hello,

I am writing as a concerned parent of two Abingdon students who live in South Fairlington. I do not support the change to annex S Fairlington to Drew Elementary. Fairlington is a nationally registered historic district which encompasses all of Fairlington. Splitting our community would go against the APS's goal of creating and sustaining communities.

Dividing the Fairlington community is ill-advised for a number of reasons.

1. Proximity:

a. Although South Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone" it remains within a 1 mile radius of Abingdon. Due to the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of students walk or bike to school from South Fairlington every day.

b. All students in South Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children.

This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service to the neighborhood.

c. Transporting students from South Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus every day. Many parents who seldom or never drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems.

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d. The South Fairlington planning unit is actually adjacent to Abingdon.

4. Disruption/Stability

a. The Fairlington community, including the families of South Fairlington, was a primary advocate for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation. During the renovation Abingdon students learned in relocatable classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) were affected by the ongoing construction during the 2016-2017 school year and even had to be locked down (and subsequently miss a school day) due to a hazardous materials concern in the building.

		<p>b. This construction disrupted their education and it would be unfair to submit these students to further disruption.</p> <p>When it comes to proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for South Fairlington families if moved to Drew.</p> <p>One final point I cannot state with enough urgency, Fairlington is one community. Our families work together to face our common challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have a 5K, a farmers market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. Many of us moved to Fairlington because we wanted our families to be communally engaged and there are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously as Fairlington. The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task-- I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved.</p> <p>Thank you for your time. I plan to be at the open office hours on Monday, and at the meeting at Kenmore on Wednesday.</p> <p>Warmly,</p> <p>Carolyn Ericson</p>
10/12/18	Keep South Arlington at Abingdon	<p>Superintendent Murphy</p> <p>Thank you for the support you have given Abingdon Elementary in the past and the ways that you have rallied with our community and worked together with us. We truly appreciate you and the work you have done for APS.</p> <p>I am writing today in regards to the issue proposed by the school board of removing South Fairlington children from Abingdon and busing them to another neighborhood to attend Drew Elementary School. I am firmly opposed to separating the children of Fairlington into different elementary schools for the reasons listed below.</p> <p>First, the proximity of South Fairlington to Abingdon is crucial to the success of the school and accessibility for families. Although South Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone" it remains within a 1 mile radius of Abingdon. Due to the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of students safely and easily walk or bike to school from South Fairlington every day. The ease of access that these families have to their neighborhood school bolsters the schools PTA participation and is key to the success of the school. Families are far more likely to volunteer and get involved at a school within their neighborhood that is quickly and easily accessible</p>

without a car/bus as Abingdon currently is to South Fairlington. If boundaries are changed, all students in South Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew Elementary because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children considering the terrain and that there is no direct route to the school from this neighborhood. Ultimately, this would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service to the neighborhood. Choosing to transport students from South Fairlington to Drew via APS bus service would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus every day. Therefore it is likely that many parents who seldom or never drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems. This scenario then also will increase the APS transportation costs. Additional buses, needed for a longer period of time, would be required to move the majority of South Fairlington's large student population over multiple non-walkable boundary roads.

Dr Murphy, as you have been to Abingdon numerous times and have walked our neighborhood you know that South Fairlington currently has no major business districts, parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly bridge with sidewalks and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions. Just looking at a map, we can see the argument that it would be theoretically possible to make a corridor to give the impression of contiguity by including portions of Shirlington into the new boundary for Drew, however such a corridor would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community around Drew. Meanwhile, the reality is that the South Fairlington planning unit is actually adjacent to Abingdon.

As you know, our community just went through two year of construction of our new facility at Abingdon, and the families of South Fairlington were among the primary advocates for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation. During the renovation Abingdon students learned in relocatable classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) were affected by the ongoing construction during the 2016-2017 school year and even had to be locked down (and subsequently miss a school day) due to a hazardous materials concern in the building. The school board has expressed their desire to create stability for APS students by not burdening them with construction and moving schools multiple times in these crucial learning years. Yet changing the boundary and moving South Fairlington away from Abingdon does exactly what the school board has said they do not want to do.

As I hope you can see, moving South Fairlington planning units to Drew and taking them away from the Abingdon School Zone does nothing to support the school board's goals of proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity.

Fairlington is one community. To those living here every day there is North or South side and there certainly are not "planning units." Our families live in very close proximity to one another and come together to face our common challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have a neighborhood wide 5K that starts at the school and runs completely through South Fairlington, a farmers market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. Few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community

		<p>engagement as seriously as Fairlington. The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Building a community around a school is a difficult task, and Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and efforts and I hope you will take the time to speak with school board members further in opposition of this plan.</p> <p>Stacey McGinnis</p>
10/12/18	Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>I am writing to oppose, in the strongest possible way, the proposal to annex South Fairlington to make it part of the Drew Elementary School boundary.</p> <p>I have been a resident of North Fairlington for the past nine years, and both my children attend Abingdon Elementary School. When we were considering elementary schools for my son, currently in 4th grade, we were impressed by the variety of choice schools that were on offer. Ultimately we decided to send him to Abingdon. While we liked the arts focus, the CETA grant and the various other programs that Abingdon had to offer, our main criteria in selecting Abingdon was that it was truly a neighborhood school. Our children could walk to school, and they would be in school with their friends from the neighborhood (friends they had known their whole lives, thanks to the active Fairlington MOMS club). If Abingdon had not included South Fairlington at that time WE WOULD HAVE APPLIED TO A CHOICE SCHOOL. I cannot emphasize this enough-- it our friends from South Fairlington were not a part of the Abingdon boundary at that time we would have sought a different educational opportunity for our son.</p> <p>I believe that if you move forward with this proposal, in addition to a lot of unhappy parents, students, and teachers, you will have the unintended consequence that many, many more families from both South Fairlington and North Fairlington will opt for choice schools. Abingdon will not be a true neighborhood school any longer, the community will be divided, and the main factor about Abingdon that appealed to so many Fairlington families will be destroyed. Keep in mind that balancing demographics, while important, is not an exact science, and if redrawing the boundary means taking away the "neighborhood feel" of a school with an incredible sense of community it may mean that far fewer Fairlington families opt to send their Kindergarten aged children to their neighborhood school in the Fall of 2019, whether that school is Abingdon or Drew.</p> <p>I realize that the City of Arlington is a large, diverse, rapidly changing city presenting unique challenges to our school board. I truly appreciate how difficult some of these decisions must be. But there are also changes which, once made, cannot be undone and I fear this is one of them. Fairlington is not the only neighborhood in Arlington, nor is it the only place with a sense of community. But I do believe it is unique. It is a unique place because of its history, its walkable streets, and its active and engaged Civic Association. It is the</p>

		<p>kind of neighborhood that urban planners seek to create. I would ask that you keep Fairlington within one elementary school boundary. I appreciate your consideration.</p> <p>Susan Renehan</p>
10/12/18	Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>Dear Dr. Murphy, I have been following the options sent out regarding the APS Elementary school realignment maps over the past many months. These proposed boundary options have always included all of Fairlington with in the Abingdon school boundaries until a couple of nights ago. It is shocking that the School Board would announce this proposal impacting our community with such a short period for us as a community to respond. This will affect our community in a drastic way. APS constantly talks about the importance of being a transparent organization... this was definitely not transparent. This is a strong community which has become such in large part because of the community's involvement in the school. Our school is actually in our neighborhood, so the proposal to displace a portion of our community is stunning to me. There is NO connection between Fairlington and the community in Drew. There are, however, currently neighborhoods in which Drew's boundaries do connect, which long term would provide a much more cohesive school environment. In moving half of our community to another school... You destroy what we as a whole community have built. Fairlington is ONE community ... It is not two separate communities. We want others who move into this community to experience what we have been able to enjoy not just for our family but for those that want the same type of neighborhood/ school community moving forward.</p> <p>My husband and I moved into South Fairlington in 2005 as a young married couple. We have now lived here for 13 years and have raised our 4 children in the Community of Fairlington and all (except our 4 year old) of our children have attended Abingdon Elementary. When we were first looking into schools, we could have selected to go to Claremont, Campbell or apply to ATS, but we were told by many Fairlington families that Abingdon was wonderful and that we would enjoy a long tradition of a neighborhood and school community. What we have come to learn and love about where we live is how interwoven the school and community are. We have stayed here because of that community. We wanted to specifically be in a neighborhood that was geographically in the same location as the neighborhood public school. The relationships our children have built in school is strengthened not only because of attending the same school, but because we live in such close proximity to each other. The school creates a form to build friendships, but it is the fact that it goes beyond the time spent at school. The children walk to each other's homes after school, are on the same sports teams, carpool with other families to a variety of activities. You can only achieve this kind of unity and strength in a neighborhood when you live as close as we all do, and attend the neighborhood school that is actually in your neighborhood. Without the school community that pulls Fairlington residents together, our community would not be what it is today. These relationships strengthen our community and they keep our community safe.</p> <p>I believe the following points should be considered: Proximity:</p> <p>1) All of Fairlington is less than or just around 1 mile from the school. South Fairlington could be zoned as a 'Walking Zone' with very</p>

minimal bus usage. This would be the exact opposite if all of our kids had to be bused to Drew.

2) The road connecting Fairlington is a local road. This provides for safe and easy travel for our children to walk/ bike (there are large sidewalks plus a designated bike lane on both sides of the road). In moving our children to Drew you dramatically increase bus traffic, transportation costs and the number of parents who will now drive through the neighborhood.

3) Fairlington is one big community – we all live in close geographic proximity to Abingdon which helps the school community. We do things as a whole community... parades, summer swim teams, 5K, farmers market, The Fairlington Community center (which also provides a preschool program for ALL Fairlington residents who then attend Abingdon), parks, a Fairlington monthly newspaper, etc.

4) When registering our kids for Arlington Rec programs, we are to list their elementary school. That information is then used to build and form school teams. Because all these kids in Fairlington go to the same school, they are then placed on Abingdon based baseball, soccer, football, etc. teams. This is a very important for all families involved and important infrastructure which allows for carpooling (which is heavily utilized) that exists in our neighborhood for families that live on both the North and South of Fairlington.

5) South Fairlington is the furthest geographically south of any part of Arlington... the only actual part of Arlington that we touch is North Fairlington – so when it comes to proximity, efficiency and contiguity there are no gains but significant losses for all South Fairlington families if moved to Drew Elementary Efficient Learning Environment:

1) All Fairlington residents fought to receive the funds to renovate Abingdon. Many of my kids were in relocatable classrooms for 1-2 years, did not have a usable gym, or any playground equipment or play area along with constant noise and disruption. We told them that it would be worth it for the new school that they now proudly attend. Now they will not be able to enjoy the benefits of the school we as a community helped to provide them? They have built relationships with teachers, staff our Principal and administrators and they thrive within their neighborhood school!

2) Whether we choose to bus or try to drive our kids to Drew the route is difficult at best in the morning where as now, we can walk or bike within 10 mins... if we walked to Drew it would take about 40 mins, and a possible bike route would be too difficult and dangerous for our children.

The Fairlington community is a strong community in South Arlington, in a large degree because of Abingdon Elementary. I know of many families who have moved from this community who have commented on how wonderful Fairlington is, how close the whole community is... and how they cannot duplicate the school community/ neighborhood anywhere else. People move here specifically for the school/ neighborhood. Breaking that up destroys what those of us who have specifically stayed here for years have helped to develop. APS should use Fairlington/ Abingdon as a wonderful example of how school zones can enhance and create great

		<p>neighborhoods and communities, they should not be trying to tear it apart.</p> <p>Sincerely, Catherine Ladd</p>
<p>10/12/18</p>	<p>Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing as a concerned parent of two Abingdon students who live in South Fairlington. I do not support the change to annex S Fairlington to Drew Elementary. Fairlington is a nationally registered historic district which encompasses all of Fairlington. Splitting our community would go against the APS's goal of creating and sustaining communities.</p> <p>Dividing the Fairlington community is ill-advised for a number of reasons.</p> <p>1. Proximity:</p> <p>a. Although South Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone" it remains within a 1 mile radius of Abingdon. Due to the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of students walk or bike to school from South Fairlington every day.</p> <p>b. All students in South Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service to the neighborhood.</p> <p>c. Transporting students from South Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus every day. Many parents who seldom or never drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems.</p> <p>2. Efficiency</p> <p>a. Moving the full South Fairlington population to Drew will increase the transportation costs. Additional buses, needed for a longer period of time, would be required to move the majority of South Fairlington's large student population over multiple non-walkable boundary roads.</p> <p>3. Contiguity</p> <p>a. South Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly street with sidewalks and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions.</p>

b. There are several major barriers, including multiple major roads and parks, that effectively separate the community in South Fairlington from Drew.

c. While it would be theoretically possible to make a corridor to give the impression of contiguity by including portions of Shirlington, such a corridor would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community around Drew.

d. The South Fairlington planning unit is actually adjacent to Abingdon.

4. Disruption/Stability

a. The Fairlington community, including the families of South Fairlington, was a primary advocate for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation. During the renovation Abingdon students learned in relocatable classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) were affected by the ongoing construction during the 2016-2017 school year and even had to be locked down (and subsequently miss a school day) due to a hazardous materials concern in the building.

b. This construction disrupted their education and it would be unfair to submit these students to further disruption.

When it comes to proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for South Fairlington families if moved to Drew.

One final point I cannot state with enough urgency, Fairlington is one community. Our families work together to face our common challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have a 5K, a farmers market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. Many of us moved to Fairlington because we wanted our families to be communally engaged and there are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously as Fairlington. The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task-- I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved.

Thank you for your time. I plan to be at the open office hours on Monday, and at the meeting at Kenmore on Wednesday.

		<p>Warmly,</p> <p>Carolyn Ericson</p>
<p>10/12/18</p>	<p>Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon</p>	<p>I am writing in regard to the recent school board discussion about the elementary school boundaries within the Fairlington neighborhood. I was unable to attend the October 10, 2018 meeting, but have reviewed the "Getting Started" Proposal. I am opposed to separating the children of Fairlington into different elementary schools.</p> <p>Dividing the Fairlington community is ill-advised for a number of reasons, and would be in conflict with the supposed goals of redrawing the boundaries. Drawing from the points raised on slide 16 of the presentation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proximity: a. While South Fairlington is not technically in the "walk zone" it is within a 1 mile radius of Abingdon. I have observed that a significant number of students walk or bike to school from South Fairlington every day, due to the fact that there are safely walkable streets. b. It would be impossible for any South Fairlington students to safely walk from their neighborhood to the Drew school. All students in South Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service to the neighborhood. c. The costs and time surrounding transportation are sure to increase if the South Fairlington children all have to take the bus to Drew. The children would spend longer time on the bus, and it is highly likely that many more parents would choose to drive their children in, thereby increasing congestion in an area that is already faces significant traffic problems. 2. Efficiency a. Moving the full South Fairlington population to Drew will increase the transportation costs. Additional buses, needed for a longer period of time, would be required to move the majority of South Fairlington's large student population over multiple non-walkable boundary roads. 3. Contiguity a. The walking route to Abingdon from South Fairlington does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly bridge that goes over the highway, with sidewalks. b. There is no natural contiguous corridor between South Fairlington and the Drew school. While it would be theoretically possible to make a corridor to give the impression of contiguity by including portions of Shirlington, such a corridor would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community around Drew. 4. Disruption/Stability a. During the yearlong Abingdon renovation the students were negatively impacted by the construction, including going without a playground. It would be unfair to submit these students to further disruption. <p>When it comes to proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains, but there are significant losses for South</p>

Fairlington families if moved to Drew.

I am a life-long Arlington resident and have been a member of the Fairlington community for 10 years. I have lived in several different Arlington neighborhoods and, in my experience, the Fairlington community is the most cohesive, engaged and active. We are one community. My family participates in Abingdon sponsored events, such as the 5K. This community should be an example of what we strive for when drawing school boundaries. I hope that APS recognizes that this community is invested in our neighborhood school and is invested in ensuring that the community engagement surrounding the school is preserved.

Very Truly Yours,

Carolyn Abbate

10/15/18

Keep Patrick
Henry Community
Together at Fleet

Dear Arlington county Staff,

I am writing to urge you to keep the Patrick Henry community together at Fleet Elementary, as indicated when the School Board in 2016 identified Patrick Henry Elementary as the "school community that will occupy the new elementary school." In particular, I would urge you to refrain from any measures that would further weaken or split our community compared to the proposal presented in September.

While that plan did leave out several planning units east of S Courthouse Rd, many in the Henry community were heartened that the most diverse areas of the community, those south of Columbia Pike, remained included in the Fleet zone. While our community has not received any acknowledgment of the concerns we have shown over countless meetings in the past year, we took that proposal as an indication that our concerns may have been heard. Any departure from that would suggest that we were mistaken in thinking so.

It cannot have escaped your attention that this is an issue that has weighed heavily on many of us, who have made significant and long-term life decisions on the basis of a commitment to remain in this community. And by now, our children, too, are aware of the process, and frequently ask whether or not they will be able to go to the new beautiful school together with their classmates. Many of us are at a loss how to answer them.

Our urge for you to consider our concerns is based on facts and reason, not on emotions. In fact, all criteria APS has put forward that inform the decision-making process speak for keeping Henry together and especially, maintaining planning units south of Columbia Pike in Fleet.

- Demographics. Splitting the Henry community is not a solution to the demographic concerns. It would, however, definitely remove the most diverse planning units from the current Henry community, such as, for example, 46010 and 46132. (44% and 42% economically

		<p>disadvantaged, respectively) Overall, data shows the planning units south of Columbia Pike are more economically disadvantaged than those north. We urge you to reconsider plans that would ignore other criteria and split our community without a meaningful assessment – which cannot be realistically concluded in the current time frame. If demographics are the Board's top priority, it could address this matter without splitting our community in a very simple way: by extending the boundary of Fleet Elementary further south, to include Planning unit 48210 into Fleet. 48210 is in any case outside Drew's extended walk zone.</p> <p>- Proximity: as the September proposal acknowledged, Fleet is the only school to which Henry community members south of Columbia pike can walk. We interact daily with classmates and friends north of Columbia Pike and regularly walk or bike to the Thomas Jefferson site for sport practices, cultural events and the like.</p> <p>- Efficiency: Many families will have students at TJ Middle school – and reasonably expect to have their smaller children at the elementary school on the very same site, not in a far-off location.</p> <p>- Stability/Alignment: Splitting the Henry community would entail that children living south of Columbia Pike would be separated from their community members for the remainder of elementary school. They would then be uprooted again as they would be back at TJ with their old classmates, while many of their new elementary school classmates would attend other middle schools. This makes little sense. Keeping Henry together ensures continuity, stability, and enables the community to move together to middle school.</p> <p>- Transparency. The Board in 2016 identified Patrick Henry Elementary as the "school community that will occupy the new elementary school." This was the premise until recently. Since APS began to suggest it would not honor this commitment, we have not received any indication that our concerns have been heard. There is a lot of anxiety and worry in our community. I would respectfully urge you to put these worries to rest.</p> <p>In closing, it is a widely and deeply shared conviction among families at Patrick Henry that there is no criteria among those listed by APS that provides a basis for splitting our community. By contrast, many criteria provide strong arguments for keeping it together. We urge you to hear our voices and take our concerns into account.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Svante E. Cornell</p>
10/12/18	Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>To Our Representatives on the Arlington School Board and Appointed Officials,</p> <p>I am writing with extreme urgency upon hearing that the Arlington School Board is considering splitting Fairlington in half next year. As</p>

you most likely are aware, Fairlington is one of the most cohesive and active neighborhoods in Arlington. Our history is a unique one in which we are celebrating our 75th Anniversary this fall. To even consider splitting such a tight community is an affront to everything Arlington seeks to create with their neighborhood initiatives.

As a longtime resident of Fairlington and an APS Graduate, I believe I am correct to say that we were among those who have waited the longest for a renovated school. We endured an entire school year in trailers and construction concerns with no playground. After removing our Claremont Immersion option last year, it appears to be that Fairlington has become an unfair target.

When considering Contiguity, Proximity, Efficiency, it makes little sense to bus children to another historic community. As for Demographics, we agree that diversity is an asset and love celebrating that at Abingdon.

As I am sure you are aware, the South Fairlington Planning Unit (36130) is very active. Last fall, the South Fairlington planning unit alone happily cast 901 votes for Monique O Grady. In 2016, we elected Nancy Van Doren and Tannia Talento with 1,219 and 1,065 votes, respectively. These school board members and others were elected to represent our concerns. I urge them to make the correct decision and keep Fairlington together.

#fairlingtonunited

Sincerely,

Maureen McMorrow

Lifelong Arlington Resident

APS Graduate

10/15/18	Keep Patrick Henry Community Together	Good morning I am a new arrival at the us and so is my children this is their first year in the us schools my little boy is enrolled in Patrick Henry elementary school and the older is in Thomas Jefferson middle we live [REDACTED] and heard that for the next year some Henry students will be moved to a new school I was hoping that you may take in consideration that it is difficult for my child to adapt to a new school the next year after he has been familiar to Henry's school this year. Thank you and looking forward to hear from you. Sincerely Khadijetou Mohammed Amar
10/12/18	Keep Fairlington Together at Abingdon	Dear Monique O'Grady, Tannia Talento, Barbara Kanninen, Nancy Van Doren, Reid Goldstein and Patrick Murphy,

I am writing to express my feedback and concern for the boundary changes discussed in the 10/10 Working Session. I reside in the nationally registered historic Fairlington neighborhood and understand that a change from Abingdon to Drew is being considered for some students. I feel this decision would only harm the Fairlington community, the students and the families impacted by this and will expand further below. I don't have any kids in APS currently but with my first baby on the way I know how important this decision is right now and will impact our community (which currently rallies a lot of neighborhood-wide support behind Abingdon) and the school system for years to come. I understand that this process has moved very quickly and many residents are not aware of the decisions and changes you are working from. I urge you to slow down, raise awareness around this process and do more to really consider those impacted and look beyond your reporting metrics. Moving some Fairlington students to Drew would very likely lead to many very upset residents and long-term detrimental backlash on Abingdon, on Drew, on the Fairlington Community and on the APS leadership.

I think it is premature to be moving the South Fairlington families before we can actually account for more data about the new Kindergarten cohort, transfer rate, and impact of new Options & Transfer policy. Additionally, frequent changes in Arlington real estate are bring changes to our economic diversity across the school system every year.

Fairlington is united against annexing our community and I join them in standing behind this protest.

Reasons why this proposal is ill-advised for the students and families of Fairlington and Abingdon Elementary:

1. Proximity

-- Although the southern portion of Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone" it remains within a 1 mile radius of the school. -- A significant amount of students walk/bike to school from the southern ares of Fairlington to Abingdon. APS could potentially remove one bus servicing the southern area which would improve overall transportation efficiency and costs. -- All students in Fairlington would most definitely need bused to Drew. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation which is not a luxury APS has. -- Bus rides from Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the ride for kids.

2. Efficiency

-- Fairlington fought for a much-needed school renovation, with Abingdon students in relocatable classrooms for a year, and would now not be able to enjoy the benefits of a new community-supported school. -- Fairlington families that now walk/bike to Abingdon won't be able to do so if moved to Drew. -- Fairlington families that bus will have to start their day even earlier as the length of the ride will triple if moved to Drew. -- Fairlington families that drive to school would have to cross over major roadways to get to Drew. This is inefficient and would cause additional traffic in South Arlington.

3. Contiguity

-- Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways deterring them from Abingdon. Moving southern portion of Fairlington to Drew incorporates multiple major roads and parks which obstruct families from the school as well as the neighborhoods surrounding Drew. -- A portion of Shirlington planning units would potentially need to move as it likely that buses would travel through Shirlington to get to Drew. -- The South Fairlington planning unit is currently adjacent to Abingdon.

When it comes to proximity, efficiency, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for Fairlington families if moved to Drew.

One final point we cannot state with enough urgency, Fairlington in and of itself is one big Community, both North and South. There is dynamic engagement which unite both students and families in Fairlington (community centers, 5K, farmers market, parks, summer swim teams, parades; the list goes on and on). Fairlington Civic Association is a very active and engaged association; with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Abingdon's community of Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones not trying to tear it apart.

Please support keeping Fairlington united.

Thank you, Margarethe Van Der Tuin

10/15/18

Keep Patrick Henry Community Together

Hello - I sent the following email to the board members at the end of last week regarding my feedback on the boundary process but also wanted to share it with the staff. Dear Board, I am writing to provide my feedback regarding the initial proposal and ongoing discussions on the elementary school boundaries. I am a parent of an elementary school child at Patrick Henry. At the onset of this process I felt our specific school has been effected moreso than many others given we are losing our neighborhood school building to make room for the Montessori school and the expectation we would be moving to Fleet. We can currently walk to Patrick Henry (I do so with my daughter most days with her friends) and feel outside of Fleet, which is still walkable we really have no good options, on a move in terms of proximity. More importantly, I had a sense of dread that the community my daughter has become comfortable in with friends and community would be split up. I was very happy at the release of the initial boundary proposal that had us and nearly the entire PHES community all going to Fleet. From a proximity and continuity standpoint it makes the most sense and in my opinion the fairest option given we are losing our neighborhood school. I'm extremely frustrated at recent discussions (and targeting from certain other planning units) that my planning unit and others around me might be switched to going to Drew and affectively splitting the current PHES community in half. I don't even know how to begin thinking about explaining to my daughter that three of her best friends that live north of Columbia Pike might not be going to school with her next year (on top of the already hard transition of moving a young child from one setting she is comfortable in into an entirely new situation). I think that is wholly unfair and something I am vehemently opposed to. I understand the argument for diversity but my planning unit actually contributes richly to the diversity of

		PHES where we have 42 of our 59 children as asian, black or hispanic. Our planing unit 46010 contibutes to the diversity of PHES (and would for Fleet) so moving to Drew would, in my opinion not help much with changing that issue and would likely take away from the diversity at Fleet. I would encourage the Board to continue with the initial proposal set in place to keep the PHES community together and move them all to Fleet. My neighbors and fellow community feel very strongly about this and will certainly be making our voice heard. I appreciate the challenge the Board is faced with in making these decisions but truly thought the initial boundaries were very fair and have become very concerned and dismayed about recent talk of changing those. I appreciate your attention on this matter and would welcome andy feedback on my thoughts. Thank you, Phil Fabrizio
10/15/18	Engage Website	<p>Good morning Engage, I have gone to your website. There is no map there showing South Fairlington kids going to Drew. This is exactly my complaint – that neither APVA nor the school board has informed the public of their plans.</p> <p>Regards, Dr. Eric Sylwester</p>
10/12/18	South Fairlington Boundary	<p>Good evening, I would like to express my opposition to the proposed boundary change for south Fairlington removing south Fairlington students from Abingdon's district. As a parent and a homeowner one of the things that attracted me was the idea of a neighborhood school. Removing that would seriously alter the neighborhood and both of the proposed schools in a negative way. Thank you</p> <p>Mashawna Vernon</p>
10/12/18	Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>Dear Arlington County leaders,</p> <p>I am parent of a 1st grader at Abingdon Elementary. We are blessed to live in the absolutely amazing community of South Fairlington and walk to Abingdon every day. My daughter is thriving at the school, which in many ways is the heart and soul of our neighborhood. I am writing in regard to the recent school board discussion about rezoning South Fairlington to Drew Elementary. I am opposed to this change for a host of reasons:</p> <p>1. Proximity:</p> <p>a. Although South Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone" it remains within a 1 mile radius of Abingdon. Due to the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of students walk or bike to school from South Fairlington every day, including us!</p> <p>b. All students in South Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service to the neighborhood. Can this part of Arlington really handle even more buses and cars on the road?</p> <p>c. Transporting students from South Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus</p>

every day. Many parents who seldom or never drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems. Why place students and their families under this hardship?

2. Efficiency

a. Moving the full South Fairlington population to Drew will increase the transportation costs. Additional buses, needed for a longer period of time, would be required to move the majority of South Fairlington's large student population over multiple non-walkable boundary roads. Walking to elementary school is hands-down one of the most wonderful things about living in Fairlington.

3. Contiguity

a. South Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly street with sidewalks and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions. This stretch of road is safer than most is the County!

b. There are several major barriers, including multiple major roads and parks, that effectively separate the community in South Fairlington from Drew.

c. While it would be theoretically possible to make a corridor to give the impression of contiguity by including portions of Shirlington, such a corridor would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community around Drew. How can the narrow roads in Shirlington accommodate this kind of traffic?

d. The South Fairlington planning unit is actually adjacent to Abingdon.

4. Disruption/Stability

a. The Fairlington community, including the families of South Fairlington, was a primary advocate for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation. During the renovation Abingdon students learned in relocatable classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) were affected by the ongoing construction during the 2016-2017 school year and even had to be locked down (and subsequently miss a school day) due to a hazardous materials concern in the building.

b. This construction disrupted their education and it would be unfair to submit these students to further disruption.

When it comes to proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for South Fairlington families if moved to Drew.

One final point I cannot state with enough urgency, Fairlington is one community. Our families work together to face our common challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have a 5K to support an ill child who attends Abingdon, a farmers market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. Many of us moved to Fairlington because we wanted our families to be communally engaged and there are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously as Fairlington. The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task-- I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved. Thank you in advance and I am happy to answer any questions.

With appreciation,

Samantha Levine-Finley

10/14/18

Keep Patrick
Henry Community
Together

Dear APS Staff,

I am a current Henry/Fleet parent writing to express my deep concern with the discussion at the October 10 School Board Work Session. My family and I live in an existing Henry planning unit south of Columbia Pike (46131). I have provided a summary of my concerns below, arranged by policy consideration.

***Overall*:** the presentation from the October 10th meeting does not mention the overwhelming support from the Henry/Fleet community for APS staff's original proposal, which we believe appropriately balanced the policy considerations while mostly keeping the existing community together. At the September 26th presentation of APS staff's original proposal, at least 40 members of the Henry/Fleet community showed up to express support for the proposal, while demonstrating to staff that ALL existing Henry planning units should move to Fleet. The Oct. 10 presentation omits this critical context.

***Proximity & Efficiency*:**

- Existing Henry planning units south of Columbia Pike are oriented toward the Pike and are deeply connected with areas north, which we consider our community. We play with friends there, we eat there, we shop there. Such connections do not -- and given the road network and land use patterns, likely cannot -- exist with Drew. - Students in existing Henry planning units south of Columbia Pike, including my two children, can -- and do -- walk and bike through our existing community space to Fleet. They cannot walk or bike to

Drew. Shifting Henry's southern planning units to Drew will preclude these students from walking or biking to school as they grow.

Demographics: the apparent shift in emphasis away from efficiency and proximity across all schools to the demographics of one school (Drew, slide 36), concerns me for a number of reasons:

- The Oct. 10 presentation provides no justification for using the average F&RL rate for the eight schools in the 2018 boundary process (47%) as the target F&RL rate. Using other combinations of schools in the 2018 process would result in different average F&RL rates (and target rates). This would affect which schools are considered to be in alignment with this consideration under the proposal. As it stands, the 47% target is arbitrary and is not a good basis for decision making. - There is no clear explanation of what constitutes movement "towards" the 47% average F&RL rate. Slide 18 demonstrates this confusion. Under the proposal, Abingdon's F&RL rate falls from 41% to 34% but is considered in alignment with this policy consideration. This is clearly false. In contrast, both Barcroft (51%>48%) and Drew (66%>60%) fall toward the 47% target but are not considered in alignment. Hoffman-Boston overshoots the target, falling from 52% to 39%, but is still considered in alignment despite being farther away on a percentage point basis under the proposal. These inconsistencies do not form a basis for good decision making. - Based on the updated public data provided, shifting existing Henry planning units south of Columbia Pike to Drew would lower Fleet's F&RL rate while not having a meaningful impact on Drew's rate. - Given the overall context of the County's budget constraints and the continuing school capacity squeeze, APS staff's original proposal appropriately placed efficiency and proximity ahead of other considerations. Shifting the emphasis at this late stage to the demographics of a single school is fiscally questionable, and does not provide an appropriate opportunity for the kind of broader discussion about diversity and opportunity that the County needs to undertake.

Thank you for your consideration. I sincerely hope you will support keeping the entire Henry community together at Fleet.

Best, Ben Foster

10/14/18

Dear School Board members and Superintendent Murphy:

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposal being considered by the School Board that would alter the existing boundaries of Abingdon Elementary School by moving the southern portion of the Fairlington community into a different elementary school. As a Fairlington resident and former Abingdon parent who was active in the Abingdon PTA and was a parent member of the Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC) for the Abingdon addition/renovation process, I have a long history with both the school and the community. I believe this proposal is counter to both the Board's goals of the boundary alignment process and the county's Smart Growth Initiative.

I recognize that the redistricting process is challenging; the Board is trying to balance student populations across many different factors.

However, this proposal, which would fragment the cohesive community of Fairlington, is counter to the key goals of the boundary alignment process as outlined below:

• ***Demographics***: Abingdon is a very diverse school, an attribute that attracted us to it initially and drove our decision to attend our neighborhood school rather than one of the choice schools. It is also a Title 1 school: almost 50 percent of the Abingdon population are classified as economically disadvantaged and approximately 47 percent of Abingdon students are eligible for free or reduced lunch. Additionally, Abingdon's percentage is expected to increase due to new affordable housing that has come online this year within its boundaries. I love that Abingdon has the economic diversity that it does; I believe that all students benefit from diversity. However, I am concerned that in the effort to balance other schools' demographics (it is my understanding from the working sessions that 47% is the across county goal), you inadvertently will be raising Abingdon's above the target percentage, which is counter to the Board's goals in this redistricting process. Especially as an alternative solution is available that would keep Abingdon under 50% and also reduce the percentage of Drew's student body eligible for free or reduced lunch.

• ***Proximity***: Abingdon is the closest elementary school to all of the residents of Fairlington. No student in the 'South Fairlington Planning unit' lives more than 1 mile from Abingdon (0.3 - 1.0 mile from Abingdon); they all live more than 1 mile from Drew (1.4 - 2.1 miles). Drew is the closest elementary school to all of the residents of Columbia Heights at between 0.6 -1.4 miles.

• ***Transportation Efficiencies***: Many students from the southern portion of Fairlington, including my household during our Abingdon years, walk to school. The walk from all of the southern portion of Fairlington is contained within the neighborhood; has walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks and marked crosswalks for the entire route; and does not cross any major roads. The buses that are provided that some use (which potentially could be eliminated) do not leave the neighborhood. This means they do not travel above 25 mph with children aboard (important to consider as APS buses do not have seat belts) and are not out on major commuting paths creating additional traffic congestion.

Busing students from the south portion of Fairlington to an elementary school outside of their neighborhood will require additional buses from those in use now (the differential is even higher if some or all of the planning unit in the southern part of Fairlington is put into a walking zone to Abingdon); will put those buses on major roads traveling at higher rates of speed, adding to congestion and providing more opportunities for accidents; funds will be needed for fuel and maintenance; and those buses will be in service on an elementary route for a longer period of time (taking time away from other routes for those buses).

Transporting students from Fairlington to a school other than Abingdon would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus every day. My child now attends Gunston; APS Transportation is so strained that they attempted to put our morning pickup time at 6:45 am in order to have the bus for the next route as soon as possible. School is 2.4 miles from our home and starts at 7:50 am; they were arriving before the school even opened at 7:30 am. This illustrates the tightness of the system that would be further

strained by busing students in the south part of Fairlington to a school outside of their neighborhood.

• ***Community contiguity***: Fairlington is one community; it is recognized as one entity in the National Register of Historic Places and by all of the residents. The bridge over I-395 connects us physically; the elementary school community connects us socially and emotionally. Community events such as the Fourth of July parade, FINS swim program, and Fairlington Farmers Market engage students all of Fairlington. The Fairlington Community Center (FCC) serves the entire neighborhood. The Fairlington 5K route traverses both the northern and southern portions of the neighborhood; part of the proceeds from the race go to Abingdon Elementary.

However, major roadways do separate Fairlington from any other elementary school. The geographic separation across major roadways to any other elementary school would make it more difficult to be part of that school community; to maintain relationships among the students from different neighborhoods and for both students and parents to be part of a larger school community after hours.

The Fairlington community as a whole embodies all of the principles of Smart Growth, with the presence of Abingdon Elementary as the neighborhood elementary school for all of Fairlington galvanizing a number of these principles including: fostering distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place; creating walkable neighborhoods; and strengthen and directing development towards existing communities (through the addition/renovation of the school).

The goal to achieve a socio-economic balance in both Abingdon and Drew, as well as meeting the other key goals of the boundary realignment process would be better met by maintaining Abingdon's current boundaries and annexing other areas in closer proximity to Drew. I urge you to maintain the current neighborhood boundaries for Abingdon Elementary.

I hope you will consider the factors outlined above in your decisions regarding elementary boundary redistricting. Thank you for your attention to this issue and for your work on the School Board.

Sincerely,

Michelle Diller

10/15/18

Keep South
Fairlington at
Abingdon

Subject: I am opposed to separating the children of Fairlington into different elementary schools!

Good afternoon, I am writing in regards to the recent school board discussion about the elementary school boundaries within the Fairlington neighborhood. I want to strongly oppose the suggestion that South Fairlington would be annexed by Drew Elementary School. Dividing the Fairlington community is ill-advised for a number of reasons:

1. Proximity:

- a. Although South Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone" it remains within a 1 mile radius of Abingdon. Due to the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of students walk or bike to school from South Fairlington every day.
- b. All students in South Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service to the neighborhood.
- c. Transporting students from South Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus every day. Many parents who seldom or never drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems.

2. Efficiency

- a. Moving the full South Fairlington population to Drew will increase the transportation costs. Additional buses, needed for a longer period of time, would be required to move the majority of South Fairlington's large student population over multiple non-walkable boundary roads.

3. Contiguity

- a. South Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly street with sidewalks and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions.
- b. There are several major barriers, including multiple major roads and parks, that effectively separate the community in South Fairlington from Drew.
- c. While it would be theoretically possible to make a corridor to give the impression of contiguity by including portions of Shirlington, such a corridor would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community around Drew.
- d. The South Fairlington planning unit is actually adjacent to Abingdon.

4. Disruption/Stability

		<p>a. The Fairlington community, including the families of South Fairlington, was a primary advocate for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation. During the renovation Abingdon students learned in relocatable classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) were affected by the ongoing construction during the 2016-2017 school year and even had to be locked down (and subsequently miss a school day) due to a hazardous materials concern in the building.</p> <p>b. This construction disrupted their education and it would be unfair to submit these students to further disruption.</p> <p>When it comes to proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for South Fairlington families if moved to Drew.</p> <p>Finally one point I cannot state with enough urgency, Fairlington is one community! Our families work together to face our common challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have a 5K, a farmers market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. Many of us moved to Fairlington because we wanted our families to be communally engaged and there are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously as Fairlington. The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task-- I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved.</p> <p>Respectfully, Rodrigo Cabezas Fairlington Resident</p>
10/15/18	Keep Patrick Henry Community Together at Fleet	<p>Greetings School Board Members and Staff,</p> <p>I am writing with regard to the elementary boundary Initiative now under review for South Arlington Schools.</p> <p>You have heard from many of us here in Columbia Heights as we have long awaited our move from the Patrick Henry building to the new Fleet school in 2019. We have been part of the Patrick Henry community since the school opened, and we have second-generation families living in our neighborhood.</p> <p>It has come to my attention that the board is looking at moving our neighborhood, and other planning units south of Columbia Pike, to Drew school instead of keeping our families at Henry when it moves to the new location. *In the working session, you noted that the initial proposal, which kept Columbia Heights families at Fleet, had widespread community support and balanced the criteria for the boundary process overall. *(For reference, Columbia Heights is comprised of PUs: 46130, 46131, 46133, 46132, 46120, 46140, 48280,</p>

		<p>and 48281.) *We ask that your next proposal also balance the criteria for the boundary process, and keep our kids at Fleet. *</p> <p>We have met with staff and the board to highlight that *many of our kids walk or bike to school.* *We are also aligned with Henry students in that our neighborhood will attend Jefferson MS- meeting the criteria for proximity, efficiency, and alignment.* We were thus surprised to learn that our "demographics" would be the primary criteria under consideration. It is concerning that our neighborhood would be evaluated by a single criteria versus other South Arlington communities where the criteria is weighted.</p> <p>*Lastly, I want to point out that Columbia Heights families have been impacted in every recent boundary realignment in South Arlington to include both the MS and HS boundaries. *That means that we meet all of the criteria to support keeping us at Fleet, to include stability.</p> <p>I appreciate your time and consideration. Thank you.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Meredith Gade</p>
10/15/18	Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>Good Morning.</p> <p>I am a resident of South Fairlington and I write to inform you that I am against the proposal to change the neighborhood school of children in South Fairlington to Drew instead of Abingdon. I stand by each of the concerns that the Fairlington Citizens Association wrote in the attached letter. Please respect the community's wishes and leave the neighborhood school for South Fairlington children as Abingdon.</p> <p>-- Andrea M. Downing</p>
10/14/18	Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>Dear Boundary Planning Committee, I have been a homeowner in North Fairlington for over seven years. My daughter just started at Abingdon as a kindergartener this year. Fairlington is a unique living experience simply because everyone operates as neighbors. Creating an arbitrary divide between North and South Fairlington, using 395, is artificial and not in line with the community I live in.</p> <p>I was astounded to hear of the proposal to send South Fairlington to Drew Elementary. I urge you to not break up this community for the sake of numbers or demographics. While I know you are taking into consideration many factors, a main one from Abingdon attendees is enjoying the new construction the students lived through over the past year. I think it unfair to the students to have them go through that process, only to take away the reward of the end result.</p>

My daughter has friends in both North and South Fairlington. She is on a soccer team with the Arlington Soccer League with kids from all over Fairlington. She wouldn't understand why some of those friends might have to go to a new school next year. And frankly, I don't either. My neighbors don't either. The only feedback I've heard over the past few days at the playground, on the soccer field, and at neighborhood gatherings is outrage and disbelief that this proposal is even a consideration. Please, I urge you to find another solution and keep Fairlington united!

Thank you in advance for your consideration, Nikki Harshman

10/15/18

Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon

Dear Mr. Goldstein,

I am writing in regard to the Elementary School boundary process. I noticed that in the most recent documents that were released on the Engage APSVA website ("October Revised"), there is a suggestion that the southern side of Fairlington could be divided from the northern side of Fairlington. The south pointing to Drew while the north pointing to Abingdon. I am strongly opposed to this destruction and division of our community!

Fairlington is a special community that unites around one school. It is the fabric of our community. My friends and neighbors throughout Fairlington send their children to Abingdon - we connect through and in this experience. As one community, we support Abingdon providing a "partnership" to the school that the School Board, and APS at large, should value and protect.

In acknowledging the considerations for the boundary process, please consider the following:

Proximity & Efficiency - although the southern part of Fairlington falls outside the walkable zone, most of it remains within 1 mile of Abingdon. Every morning there is a significant amount of walking traffic across the 395 bridge to Fairlington. I walk my son (who is in KG) frequently with friends and neighbors across this bridge to Abingdon. If you annex South Fairlington, all students in our planning unit will need busing to Drew, increasing transportation costs and congestion.

Contiguity - there are no major boundaries that separate South Fairlington from Abingdon. The 395 bridge is pedestrian friendly with large sidewalk space and no need for crossing guards. Moving South Fairlington to Drew would create several significant boundaries (parks, major roadways, etc.) between residents and the school. Furthermore, Abingdon would remain the closest school by distance and proximity for South Fairlington residents.

Abingdon is a part of our neighborhood, annexing South Fairlington to Drew would disrupt the special relationship Fairlington has with

		<p>APS. Please consider how important the continuity of our community is to Fairlington residents! Our families work together, our children share parks and pools, clubs and community organizations. Families from all over Fairlington meet together at Abingdon. We see ourselves as ONE COMMUNITY - and have done so since Fairlington was established in the 1940's. The 395 boundary is an artificial border that does not divide us! If the school board were to annex South Fairlington to Drew, this historic, unique, and very special community would lose one of the most significant threads that bind us.</p> <p>Please consider my voice and the voices of my neighbors as you move forward with the boundary process.</p> <p>Best Regards,</p> <p>Catherine Steinmetz</p>
10/15/18	Randolph Boundaries	<p>As the parent of a child at Randolph, I wanted to articulate a few particular needs as we go through the boundary process. Traffic near Randolph at drop off and pick up is already a mess. Being a walking school is unique and wonderful and we wish to stay a primarily walking school, both for the benefits of the kids who walk daily and to avoid making traffic in the neighborhood worse at a school that cannot support more busses.</p> <p>Secondly, Randolph is known for having a high FARMS rate. This is only a problem as viewed by the county. Our kids are thriving.</p> <p>Our school is unique and wonderfully diverse. While adding more students in the walk zone is welcomed, additional busses are not. Most of the families I know, both from the single family homes and apartments, LOVE being at a Title 1 school. As an upper middle class family, I think my kids benefit from being at a school with a high FARMS rate!</p> <p>-- Megan Landmeier</p>
10/15/18	Keep PU 46110 in Fleet Boundary	<p>Greetings,</p> <p>Thank you for all your work trying to improve our schools. I am, however disappointed by APS's proposal to remove our planning unit from the Fleet boundaries for 2019. I urge you to return planning unit 46110 to the proposed Fleet boundary. I spoke directly with you about contiguity and in no way does your proposal allow contiguity for PU 46110. While the map, with the pink overlay, gives an appearance of contiguity with Hoffman Boston, there is, in actuality NO contiguity. I mentioned to you that the smaller road, South Courthouse Road allows contiguity with the rest of Fleet (simply go up Courthouse and make a left on 2nd). In your proposal to the school board, you decided to say that streets did not have anything to do with contiguity. Then what does? You can see in the photo below how the blue line delineates the landmarks that cut us off from Hoffman Boston and Long Branch. Behind our planning unit is</p>

		<p>Washington Blvd (highlighted in bright blue) which cuts us off from Ft. Meyer (in your new map, you put them with Hoffman Boston) so we are not contiguous with that planning unit. To our South is the Naval Support Facility (just under the dark blue line, extending from S. Courthouse to Wash, Blvd and South the the apartment buildings there) which cuts us off from anything south of our planning unit. You will also see in the photo that South Courthouse is the same size road as S. Veitch, one street over and included in the Fleet boundary. Columbia Pike on the other hand, is a 4 (partially 5) lane road and another major factor cutting us off from Hoffman Boston.</p> <p>As I drive home everyday, I pass Penrose Park and turn left onto my street before pulling into my driveway. I cannot understand how we would not be included in the Fleet boundaries with our neighbors who are just across the street from us, but are included in the Fleet boundaries.</p> <p>Lastly, there are only 9 of us (if those numbers are correct) in 46110 and I urge you to keep us with our neighbors, our friends, our teachers, and our family at Fleet. This is a brash decision with some questionable data. It would be far wiser to allow us to stay with the Fleet community and take a second look at the data and the boundaries in a few years.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. I understand this is a difficult process, but one that requires a little more thought, time and energy to more effectively weight the costs and benefits of separating us from our school.</p> <p>Nicole Holohan</p>
10/15/18	Keep Patrick Henry Community Together at Fleet	<p>Dear School Board, County Board Members and Dr. Murphy,</p> <p>Please reconsider recent proposed changes to the boundaries for Fleet that do not include all of the current Henry planning units. If reducing the FRL rate is the new overall priority of APS, then it should be done uniformly across the county and not erratically, impacting only certain schools and neighborhoods. Furthermore, if the Board is going to reconsider the proposed boundaries in response to very recent community concerns with those boundaries, it must equally consider our community's steadfast support for boundaries that keep Henry together at Fleet. Please honor your previous statements regarding keeping the Henry Elementary community together at Fleet. Breaking us apart in an attempt for a quick fix to a county wide problem of unequal FRL rates is not an equitable solution.</p> <p>Best regards,</p> <p>Chris Gabel</p> <p>Patrick Henry parent</p>

10/14/18

Keep South
Fairlington at
Abingdon

I am writing in regard to the recent school board discussion about the elementary school boundaries within the Fairlington neighborhood. While discussing potential boundary proposals, it was suggested that Fairlington could be divided and the southern part of Fairlington could be annexed by Drew Elementary School. I am opposed to separating the children of Fairlington into different elementary schools.

Dividing the Fairlington community is ill-advised for a number of reasons.

1. Proximity:

a. Although the southern part of Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone" it remains within a 1 mile radius of Abingdon. Due to the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of students walk or bike to school from this part of Fairlington every day. Our 3-year old routinely uses Abingdon Elementary's playgrounds on weekends, and it is an easy walk, bike or scooter.

b. All students from the southern part of Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service in the neighborhood.

c. Transporting students from Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus every day. Many parents who seldom or never drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems.

2. Efficiency

a. Moving the population of the southern part of Fairlington to Drew will increase the transportation costs. Additional buses, needed for a longer period of time, would be required to move the majority of Fairlington's large student population over multiple non-walkable boundary roads.

3. Contiguity

a. Homes in the southern part of Fairlington currently have no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly street with sidewalks and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions.

b. There are several major barriers, including multiple major roads and parks, that effectively separate the community in Fairlington

		<p>from Drew.</p> <p>c. While it would be theoretically possible to make a corridor to give the impression of contiguity by including portions of Shirlington, such a corridor would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community around Drew.</p> <p>d. The Fairlington planning unit in question is actually adjacent to Abingdon.</p> <p>4. Disruption/Stability</p> <p>a. The Fairlington community, including the families of Fairlington, was a primary advocate for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation. During the renovation Abingdon students learned in relocatable classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) attended school on a construction site during the 2016-2017 school year and even had to be locked down (and subsequently miss a school day) due to a hazardous materials concern in the building.</p> <p>b. This construction disrupted their education and it would be unfair to submit these students to further disruption.</p> <p>When it comes to proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for these Fairlington families if moved to Drew.</p> <p>One final point I cannot state with enough urgency, Fairlington is one community. Our families work together to face our common challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have a 5K, a farmers market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. Many of us moved to Fairlington because we wanted our families to be communally engaged and there are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously as Fairlington. The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task-- I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved.</p>
10/12/18	Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>Dear School Board Members:</p> <p>First, let me say we have no children who attend public schools in Arlington County. We are, however, citizens who lives is the "south" Fairlington section of our greater Fairlington community.</p>

We are opposed to splitting our community so that our children must attend two separate schools.

Recently our community was engaged in support for the renovation and reconstruction at Abingdon School. It became our project because this is our community school. We see students walk and bike to school. We see parents with their children going to and from school. This is what a community is all about. Why would you bus students out of their own community? Why would you extend an elementary school student's day because of a bus ride when he or she can walk to his community school?

The only "boundary" between north and south Fairlington is the 34th Street bridge over 395 - hardly a barrier at all. But I guess in this age of "The Wall" you see it as a division within the community. I'm always thought the designations of "north" and "south" as silly and arbitrary. Fairlington is one community; however, your proposal to send our children to two schools does create a division within our community.

I've always heard about the Arlington way. I hope that means that our schools are community schools and that every effort will be made to keep Abingdon School's boundaries as they are now drawn for the sake of community and efficient school management.

Thomas R. Corbin

10/15/18

Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon

Good afternoon, I am writing in regards to the recent school board discussion about the elementary school boundaries within the Fairlington neighborhood. I want to strongly oppose the suggestion that South Fairlington would be annexed by Drew Elementary School. Dividing the Fairlington community is ill-advised for a number of reasons:

1. Proximity:

a. Although South Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone" it remains within a 1 mile radius of Abingdon. Due to the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of students walk or bike to school from South Fairlington every day.

b. All students in South Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service to the neighborhood.

c. Transporting students from South Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus every day. Many parents who seldom or never drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems.

2. Efficiency

a. Moving the full South Fairlington population to Drew will increase the transportation costs. Additional buses, needed for a longer period of time, would be required to move the majority of South Fairlington's large student population over multiple non-walkable boundary roads.

3. Contiguity

a. South Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly street with sidewalks and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions.

b. There are several major barriers, including multiple major roads and parks, that effectively separate the community in South Fairlington from Drew.

c. While it would be theoretically possible to make a corridor to give the impression of contiguity by including portions of Shirlington, such a corridor would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community around Drew.

d. The South Fairlington planning unit is actually adjacent to Abingdon.

4. Disruption/Stability

a. The Fairlington community, including the families of South Fairlington, was a primary advocate for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation. During the renovation Abingdon students learned in relocatable classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) were affected by the ongoing construction during the 2016-2017 school year and even had to be locked down (and subsequently miss a school day) due to a hazardous materials concern in the building.

b. This construction disrupted their education and it would be unfair to submit these students to further disruption.

When it comes to proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for South Fairlington families if moved to Drew.

Finally one point I cannot state with enough urgency, Fairlington is one community! Our families work together to face our common

		<p>challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have a 5K, a farmers market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. Many of us moved to Fairlington because we wanted our families to be communally engaged and there are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously as Fairlington. The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task-- I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved.</p> <p>Respectfully, Rodrigo Cabezas Fairlington Resident and a parent of 2 children at Abingdon Elementary School</p>
10/14/18	Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>I am writing to oppose, in the strongest possible way, the proposal to annex South Fairlington to make it part of the Drew Elementary School boundary.</p> <p>I have been a resident of North Fairlington for the past nine years, and both my children attend Abingdon Elementary School. When we were considering elementary schools for my son, currently in 4th grade, we were impressed by the variety of choice schools that were on offer. Ultimately we decided to send him to Abingdon. While we liked the arts focus, the CETA grant and the various other programs that Abingdon had to offer, our main criteria in selecting Abingdon was that it was truly a neighborhood school. Our children could walk to school, and they would be in school with their friends from the neighborhood (friends they had known their whole lives, thanks to the active Fairlington MOMS club). If Abingdon had not included South Fairlington at that time WE WOULD HAVE APPLIED TO A CHOICE SCHOOL. I cannot emphasize this enough-- it our friends from South Fairlington were not a part of the Abingdon boundary at that time we would have sought a different educational opportunity for our son.</p> <p>I believe that if you move forward with this proposal, in addition to a lot of unhappy parents, students, and teachers, you will have the unintended consequence that many, many more families from both South Fairlington and North Fairlington will opt for choice schools. Abingdon will not be a true neighborhood school any longer, the community will be divided, and the main factor about Abingdon that appealed to so many Fairlington families will be destroyed. Keep in mind that balancing demographics, while important, is not an exact science, and if redrawing the boundary means taking away the "neighborhood feel" of a school with an incredible sense of community it may mean that far fewer Fairlington families opt to send their Kindergarten aged children to their neighborhood school in the Fall of 2019, whether that school is Abingdon or Drew.</p> <p>I realize that the City of Arlington is a large, diverse, rapidly changing city presenting unique challenges to our school board. I truly appreciate how difficult some of these decisions must be. But there are also changes which, once made, cannot be undone and I fear this is one of them. Fairlington is not the only neighborhood in Arlington, nor is it the only place with a sense of community. But I do</p>

		<p>believe it is unique. It is a unique place because of its history, its walkable streets, and its active and engaged Civic Association. It is the kind of neighborhood that urban planners seek to create. I would ask that you keep Fairlington within one elementary school boundary. I appreciate your consideration.</p> <p>John Renehan Arlington, VA</p>
<p>10/15/18</p>	<p>Keep Fairlington Together</p>	<p>To the Arlington School Board and Arlington School Board Staff:</p> <p>I have lived in South Fairlington for over 30 years. While I have never had children, I have consistently voted for bond initiatives in support of the Arlington Public Schools. I have done so regardless of the impact to me as a taxpayer because providing quality public education is so critical for our community and the country.</p> <p>However, I strongly object to the pending proposal to rezone South Fairlington for school purposes. It is not merely ill-advised --- it reflects a fundamental lack of understanding that South and North Fairlington collectively create the vibrant and collaborative community of which Arlington County is so proud.</p> <p>Adopting this proposal will --- not may --- will produce results that are completely opposite to its intent. Here are just a few of the inevitable outcomes:</p> <p>One: A rupture in the unitary Fairlington community that will undermine its unique nature and desirability as a place in which to live;</p> <p>Two: Diminished interest in living in Fairlington due to increased daily traffic from school buses and/or parents driving their children to Drew Elementary;</p> <p>Three: Diminished interest in living in Fairlington and Arlington County from the tax increases that will be required to pay for the attendant transportation costs, e.g., buying more buses, hiring more drivers; hiring more crossing guards;</p> <p>Four: Fewer families with school-age children living in Fairlington because they leave and/or others choose not to buy;</p> <p>Five: Fewer families with school-age children means more potential residents who might be wary of tax increases and thus less supportive of school bond initiatives --- with the cascading impact that more tax increases are required to offset any shortages due to rejection of bond initiatives; and</p> <p>Six: A significant drop in Fairlington residents' trust in, and support for, the Arlington School Board --- feelings that will resonate well</p>

		<p>beyond Fairlington.</p> <p>I will also be forwarding this email separately to Arlington Public Schools Superintendent Patrick Murphy.</p> <p>I hope the concerns I'm raising, as well as those voiced by others, will be taken seriously.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p> <p>Debra N. Diener,</p>
<p>10/14/18</p>	<p>Idea to Justify Keeping South Fairlington at Abingdon</p>	<p>Thank you for your kind response.</p> <p>I have updated my points more clearly as defined by the school board's considerations, with the request that Planning Unit 36130 be turned into a walk zone. Thank you.</p> <p>To the APS School Board:</p> <p>As an update to my previous email, I wanted to go point by point with some data. The most simple way to proceed is to make Planning Unit 36130 (Fairlington) a walk zone. This is based on several APS documents that I have quoted below and attached to this email including: Boundary Consideration Definitions, Considerations for APS Walk Zones, APS Safe Routes to School, and Abingdon Elementary School Walk Zone SY2018-2019.</p> <p>PLANNING UNIT 36130/SOUTH FAIRLINGTON (currently 164 students)</p> <p>Efficiency and Proximity: Planning Unit 36130 (S, Fairlington) qualifies to be a walk zone to Abingdon due to the following: 1. Every residence is within <1 or equal to 1 mile of Abingdon (range from .3 to 1 mile; most within .5 miles). 2. There are safe contiguous sidewalks. 3. There are no traffic lights or major "red" or "orange" road crossings. 4. There is a safe, fenced and wide overpass over Interstate 395 that is frequently used throughout the day. It has sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of the bridge.</p> <p>This would also result in cost savings through elimination of 2 bus routes and no need to increase the current number of crossing guards.</p> <p>As noted above, this PU meets the requirements set forth in the 'Considerations for APS Walk Zones'. The definition of proximity on the Boundary Considerations states, "Students residing in neighborhood's school walk zone boundary are guaranteed a seat." Turning this</p>

PU into a walking zone justifies its continued zone to Abingdon.

The creation of a walk zone also acknowledges Arlington's commitment to walkable communities and is in alignment with APS's Whole Child Initiative. From APS's website, Safe Routes to School: "Benefits of walking or biking to school: Walking one mile to and from school each day is two-thirds of the recommended sixty minutes of physical activity a day. Students who walk to school have higher levels of physical activity throughout the day. Studies show that students who walk and bicycle to school are more physically active, have lower body mass index scores, and have lower obesity levels than students who are driven or bused to school. Walking and biking are better for the environment, help reduce vehicle traffic caused by drop-offs/pick-ups, and allow students a chance to socialize before and after school."

Conversely, this PU ranges from 1.4 to 2.1 miles to Drew. It is not safely walkable/bikeable due to distance, multiple traffic lights and several major "red" and "orange" road crossings. Rezoning would require at least 2 bus routes that would need to take two heavily trafficked routes: either traveling through Alexandria past the on-ramps to I-395, or traveling into the Abingdon-zoned planning units, or even past Abingdon, to get to Drew. Both routes have several traffic lights and major roads.

Alignment: Gunston, nothing changes either way. Both Abingdon and Drew are due to have their population split into 2/3 middle schools.

Contiguity: This PU touches only 3 other planning units in the entire county and they all are zoned for Abingdon. It does not touch any of Drew's boundary zones.

Demographics: This PU has a very low percentage of economically disadvantaged students (1 to 9 total students). While this would improve Drew, without this PU, Abingdon's economically disadvantaged rate would dramatically increase to an estimated 50-60%-plus.

For comparison sake, Columbia Heights meets more of the School Board considerations and should be zoned to Drew Elementary.

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS: PLANNING UNITS 46010, 46011, 46130, 46132, 46133, 46120 (192 students)

Efficiency and proximity: These planning units are all within .6 to 1.4 miles of Drew. It is a shorter bus ride, crossing either Glebe Rd. or Walter Reed Dr, which other units zoned to Drew already regularly cross. Columbia Heights has greater efficiency and proximity to Drew than Fleet. If these planning units were zoned to Fleet, the driving distance is greater at .8 to 1.6 miles, and would necessitate the need to cross Columbia Pike to get there. There is no advantage for these units to attend Fleet instead of Drew in terms of efficiency, proximity and transportation costs.

		<p>Alignment: These planning units are all zoned to attend Gunston. Both Abingdon and Drew are due to have their population split into 2/3 middle schools.</p> <p>Contiguity: Planning unit 46132 is continuous to the Drew boundary, and all of these planning units touch one another and are generally considered one neighborhood.</p> <p>Demographics: The range of economically disadvantaged students for these planning units is approximately 29-42%. This would bring the Drew population in line with the demographics of other S. Arlington Elementary Schools.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Sara Tuke Carr</p>
<p>10/12/18</p>	<p>Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon</p>	<p>I am writing in regard to the recent school board discussion about the elementary school boundaries within the historic Fairlington neighborhood. While discussing potential boundary proposals, it was suggested that Fairlington could be divided and South Fairlington could be annexed by Drew Elementary School, a nonadjacent school. I am opposed to separating the children of Fairlington into different elementary schools, it just doesn't make sense other than to break-up a community.</p> <p>Dividing the Fairlington community is ill-advised for a number of reasons.</p> <p>1. Proximity:</p> <p>* Although South Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone" it remains within a 1 mile radius of Abingdon. Due to the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of students walk or bike to school from South Fairlington every day. I was able to bike or walk to school the .8 miles quickly and safely with my daughter on nice days, even meeting up with friends along the way. * All students in South Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service to the neighborhood. * Transporting students from South Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus every day. Many parents who seldom or never drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems.</p> <p>1. Efficiency</p> <p>* Moving the full South Fairlington population to Drew will increase the transportation costs. Additional buses, needed for a longer</p>

period of time, would be required to move the majority of South Fairlington's large student population over multiple non-walkable boundary roads.

1. Contiguity

* South Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly street with sidewalks and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions. My daughter can easily and safely visit her North Fairlington friends, which she made while attending Abingdon. * There are several major barriers, including multiple major roads and parks, that effectively separate the community in South Fairlington from Drew. * While it would be theoretically possible to make a corridor to give the impression of contiguity by including portions of Shirlington, such a corridor would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community around Drew. * The South Fairlington planning unit is actually adjacent to Abingdon.

1. Disruption/Stability

* The Fairlington community, including the families of South Fairlington, was a primary advocate for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation. During the renovation Abingdon students learned in relocatable classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) were affected by the ongoing construction during the 2016-2017 school year and even had to be locked down (and subsequently miss a school day) due to a hazardous materials concern in the building. My daughter was a student at Abingdon for 5 years, I personally served on the PTA during that time and was on the BLPC (as a South Fairlington resident!) * This construction disrupted their education and it would be unfair to submit these students to further disruption.

When it comes to proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for South Fairlington families if moved to Drew.

One final point I cannot state with enough urgency, Fairlington is one community. Our families work together to face our common challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have a 5K, a farmers market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. Many of us moved to Fairlington because we wanted our families to be communally engaged and there are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously as Fairlington. The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task— I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved. North and South Fairlington children should be able to attend their COMMUNITY elementary school.

		<p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Emily Janka</p>
<p>10/12/18</p>	<p>Keep South Fairlinton at Abingdon</p>	<p>Good afternoon, I am writing in regards to the recent school board discussion about the elementary school boundaries within the Fairlington neighborhood. I want to strongly oppose the suggestion that South Fairlington would be annexed by Drew Elementary School. Dividing the Fairlington community is ill-advised for a number of reasons:</p> <p>1. Proximity:</p> <p>a. Although South Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone" it remains within a 1 mile radius of Abingdon. Due to the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of students walk or bike to school from South Fairlington every day.</p> <p>b. All students in South Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service to the neighborhood.</p> <p>c. Transporting students from South Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus every day. Many parents who seldom or never drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems.</p> <p>2. Efficiency</p> <p>a. Moving the full South Fairlington population to Drew will increase the transportation costs. Additional buses, needed for a longer period of time, would be required to move the majority of South Fairlington's large student population over multiple non-walkable boundary roads.</p> <p>3. Contiguity</p> <p>a. South Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly street with sidewalks and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions.</p> <p>b. There are several major barriers, including multiple major roads and parks, that effectively separate the community in South Fairlington from Drew.</p>

c. While it would be theoretically possible to make a corridor to give the impression of contiguity by including portions of Shirlington, such a corridor would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community around Drew.

d. The South Fairlington planning unit is actually adjacent to Abingdon.

4. Disruption/Stability

a. The Fairlington community, including the families of South Fairlington, was a primary advocate for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation. During the renovation Abingdon students learned in relocatable classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) were affected by the ongoing construction during the 2016-2017 school year and even had to be locked down (and subsequently miss a school day) due to a hazardous materials concern in the building.

b. This construction disrupted their education and it would be unfair to submit these students to further disruption.

When it comes to proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for South Fairlington families if moved to Drew.

Finally one point I cannot state with enough urgency, Fairlington is one community! Our families work together to face our common challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have a 5K, a farmers market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. Many of us moved to Fairlington because we wanted our families to be communally engaged and there are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously as Fairlington. The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task-- I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved.

Respectfully, Jenny Mählqvist Cabezas

10/13/18

Keep South
Fairlington at
Abingdon

Greetings.

I am writing to express my concern that parts of Historic Fairlington were mentioned as an option for bussing further than their

		<p>neighborhood school while watching this week's Boundary Work Session.</p> <p>When looking at a map, it makes little sense to rip children from a bikeable/walkable neighborhood for an alternate school further away.</p> <p>A school change for the southern portion of Historic Fairlington would require my child (who can bike to Abingdon) to literally ride a bus past the Abingdon bus lane on her way to an alternate school.</p> <p>We have waited a long time for APS to give us a school we are proud of. Please don't take it away.</p> <p>I hope you will visit Fairlington and Abingdon in person to see how ridiculous any change to Historic Fairlington would be. We all know this would never happen in 22207.</p> <p>John Bett Abingdon Parent Fairlington Resident</p>
10/12/18	Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>I am concerned about the proposed redrawing of Drew Elementary School boundaries to include South Fairlington students. This proposal does not make sense based on community stability, location and transportation needs. It does not take into account the needs of the immediate community or the students involved.</p> <p>Over the last four years I have been involved with Abingdon Elementary, both in the renovation/addition process as a parent and a BLPC member, and as Treasurer of the Abingdon PTA. The amount of community involvement and concern from South Fairlington residents that I have experienced and witnessed was wonderful. The investment that South Fairlington residents have made in their school is not just a result of location but of genuine appreciation and respect for the strides that the school has made to educate and care for their children.</p> <p>North and South Fairlington are one community. We work together to face our common challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have a 5K, a farmers market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. Many of us moved to Fairlington because we wanted our families to be communally engaged and there are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously as Fairlington. We chose the close-knit ties that are formed from living in a shared environment. We believe that having a school at the center of this community is important for our stability and well-being.</p> <p>Aside from the emotional toll that dividing a community in this way will have on its residents, it doesn't make sense on a logistical level. Right now many of South Fairlington's children are walking or biking to Abingdon on a pedestrian-friendly street with sidewalks where crossing guards are not required to maintain safe walking conditions. What now is a relatively short walk to school would become a longer bus commute right past Abingdon, as Drew Elementary is too far for walking. If these children were to be moved to Drew there</p>

would be a substantial increase in the bused population which would also add to transportation costs.

Abingdon is a natural, and logical location for a neighborhood school which could never be replicated by trying to create an artificial continuity between South Fairlington and Nauck.

The increase in transportation costs for the county, the increased commute time for our children and the separation they will experience by the move, makes this an unacceptable solution. I am asking that the above mentioned points be taken into consideration before any final decisions are made.

Sincerely,

Traci Gravelle Fairlington Resident

10/13/18

Keep Fairlington Together

Attached (and pasted below) is a letter from the Fairlington Arbor Board of Directors on the proposed boundary revisions.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

-Chris Hornback _____

Fairlington Arbor Board President

On behalf of the Board of Directors for the Fairlington Arbor Council of Co-Owners, I would like to express concern regarding the recent school board discussion about elementary school boundaries within the Fairlington neighborhood. Based on the discussions during the October 10 work session, we understand that the Arlington County School Board is considering an option that would divide our community and take South Fairlington children away from their neighborhood school.

As I'm sure you are aware, the Fairlington Community – together, both North and South – is a National Register & Virginia Landmark Historic District. For decades our community has thrived as a single, cohesive unit sharing an outstanding school and countless community-wide events. Abingdon Elementary serves as the foundation for this sense of community, serving as a hub for charity events and most recently serving as a source of pride for all residents in Fairlington – parent or not – when the recent renovation work was completed.

The Fairlington Arbor Board opposes any boundary plan that would sever this important connection for our historic community. We would like to reinforce the reasons raised by others, outlined below, as to why such a decision is ill-advised.

1. Proximity:

- Although South Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone", it remains within a 1-mile radius of Abingdon. Due to the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of students walk or bike to school from South Fairlington every day.
- All students in South Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children. This would diminish the experience for those children who currently choose not to ride the bus, put a greater strain on APS transportation, and would likely require that APS expand bus service to the neighborhood.
- Transporting students from South Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus every day. Many parents who seldom or never drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems.

2. Efficiency

Moving the South Fairlington population to Drew will increase the transportation costs. Additional buses, needed for a longer period of time, would be required to move the majority of South Fairlington's large student population over multiple non-walkable boundary roads.

3. Contiguity

- South Fairlington has no major parks or highways separating it from Abingdon. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly street with sidewalks and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions.
- There are several major barriers, including multiple major roads and parks, that effectively separate the community in South Fairlington from Drew.
- While it would be theoretically possible to make a corridor to give the impression of contiguity by including portions of Shirlington, such a corridor would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community around Drew.
- The South Fairlington planning unit is actually adjacent to Abingdon.

		<p>4. Disruption/Stability</p> <p>The entire Fairlington community was the primary advocate for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation. During the renovation, Abingdon students learned in relocatable classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt with the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) were affected by the ongoing construction during the 2016-2017 school year. This construction disrupted their education and it would be unfair to subject these students to further disruption.</p> <p>When it comes to proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for South Fairlington families if moved to Drew.</p> <p>Fairlington is one community. Our families work together to face our common challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have an annual 5K race, a farmer's market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task. We hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>/s/</p> <p>Chris Hornback</p> <p>President</p> <p>On Behalf of the Board of Directors for the Fairlington Arbor Council of Co-Owners</p>
10/13/18	Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing with urgent concern regarding the School Board mentioning the South Fairlington (36130) planning zone.</p> <p>As a Fairlington resident, I can not express how upset it makes me to think that Fairlington Community would be sliced in half.</p> <p>As you may be aware, Fairlington is home to many military and civil servant families. While my husband was overseas serving in Iraq, Fairlington became my my support network. Fairlington families on both side of the bridge rallied together to help me cook, support, and take care of my children. To draw a line between us would be devastating to the very community we found at Abingdon.</p>

		<p>Please keep Fairlington together. We love our community. We have waited so long for a neighborhood school to be proud of, Fairlington is united around military families and Abingdon.</p> <p>Sincerely, Sarah Ham</p>
<p>10/13/18</p>	<p>Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I'm writing you to express my family's concern and opposition to the recent school board discussion of changing the boundaries within the Fairlington neighborhood. It's difficult to understand why the school board would separate South Fairlington students from their neighborhood school. North and South Fairlington are one Fairlington community.</p> <p>Abingdon truly is a neighborhood school. We have two daughters that currently attend Abingdon. We chose to send our children here because we wanted to be part of this neighborhood school community. We wanted our children to walk to school which we do daily, to not have a long bus ride, and to attend school with North and South Fairlington friends that they see at the parks, pools, and Farmer's market. I frequently volunteer at Abingdon and participate in the PTA. Attending events and volunteering is convenient because I can walk to the school. Many families walk to school and school events. Our community is a great example of minimizing cars something that is highly regarded by Arlington county and its promotion of being car free.</p> <p>I'm joining the voices of fellow South Fairlington parents, Fairlington neighbors, and Abingdon families to say this is not the right decision for South Fairlington. Outlined below are the reasons our community is advocating for South Fairlington students to remain at Abingdon Elementary school. The plan to divide the Fairlington community is ill-advised.</p> <p>1. Proximity:</p> <p>a. Although South Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone" it remains within a 1 mile radius of Abingdon. Due to the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of students walk or bike to school from South Fairlington every day.</p> <p>b. All students in South Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service to the neighborhood.</p> <p>c. Transporting students from South Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus every day. Many parents who seldom or never drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems.</p>

2. Efficiency - Moving the full South Fairlington population to Drew will increase the transportation costs. Additional buses, needed for a longer period of time, would be required to move the majority of South Fairlington's large student population over multiple non-walkable boundary roads.

3. Contiguity

a. South Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly street with sidewalks and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions.

b. There are several major barriers, including multiple major roads and parks, that effectively separate the community in South Fairlington from Drew.

c. While it would be theoretically possible to make a corridor to give the impression of contiguity by including portions of Shirlington, such a corridor would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community around Drew.

d. The South Fairlington planning unit is actually adjacent to Abingdon.

4. Disruption/Stability

a. The Fairlington community, including the families of South Fairlington, was a primary advocate for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation. During the renovation Abingdon students learned in relocatable classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) were affected by the ongoing construction during the 2016-2017 school year and even had to be locked down (and subsequently miss a school day) due to a hazardous materials concern in the building.

b. This construction disrupted their education and it would be unfair to submit these students to further disruption.

When it comes to proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for South Fairlington families if moved to Drew.

One final point I cannot state with enough urgency, Fairlington is one community. Our families work together to face our common challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have a 5K, a farmers market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our

		<p>holidays. Many of us moved to Fairlington because we wanted our families to be communally engaged and there are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously as Fairlington. The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task-- I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention.</p> <p>Julie Nichols</p>
10/12/18	Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>October 12, 2018</p> <p>Dear Arlington Public Schools Board Members:</p> <p>I am writing in regard to the recent school board discussion about the elementary school boundaries within the Fairlington neighborhood as I am very concerned about the proposal that was made late during the work session on October 10. While discussing potential boundary proposals, it was suggested that Fairlington could be divided and South Fairlington could be annexed by Drew Elementary School.</p> <p>I am opposed to separating the children of Fairlington into different elementary schools and also disappointed that this suggestion was made late in the game without any advance warning. This option was never in play with the public until late on October 10.</p> <p>My reasons for opposing this proposal are detailed below, they include both an assessment of the board's policy considerations shared during the discussion of evaluating the "getting started" boundary proposal, as well as a number of reasons related to the strong community that is the Fairlington neighborhood and should remain.</p> <p>I'll start with community, because that is why we live in Fairlington. I have lived in Fairlington for more than 15 years, both as a single person and as a married person, and on the north and south sides of the neighborhood. We currently live in S. Fairlington. We chose to stay here to raise our children primarily because of the community itself. We know many families and kids that our children have played with in playgroups, on the playground, at the Fairlington Community Center and at our community pools. And those connections extend to and are enriched by our experiences at Abingdon. Abingdon has been supported tremendously by the PTA, whose executive leaders reside in South Fairlington. Abingdon is supported by the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA), which works to "preserve and protect the quality of life in Fairlington" and worked side by side with the PTA and households of Fairlington to support the upgrades to the</p>

school. The FCA continues to be a big supporter of our community school.

My oldest daughter attended Abingdon while the discussions of upgrading the school facilities and how to upgrade them were being held. This was a long process that I participated in by attending several meetings hosted by the school board and the BLPC. The process required commitment and tenacity by many in the Fairlington community to ensure that our school received what was needed to bring it up to par with other Arlington schools.

My daughter spent fourth grade in a trailer, second grade in a crowded open-air classroom and first grade in a classroom with visible mold issues. Through it all she was proud to be at Abingdon for many reasons but among the most indelible one was her witness of the commitment of her neighborhood – North and South Fairlington – to support her school and her classmates. In fifth grade she was able to enjoy a beautiful renovated school building with art that she and her classmates worked on adorning parts of the cafeteria and with new fifth grade classrooms. She has talked fondly about Abingdon for years to her younger sister who now attends kindergarten and waited patiently for her turn to ride the bus and go to the “new school.”

Her younger sister came with me to her older sister’s kindergarten field trip, to story readings in her classes and the Abingdon fall festival, where the PTA encourages not only students and their siblings to attend but also neighborhood children. Our whole family and the whole Fairlington neighborhood has participated in the Fairlington 5k, which is to raise funds for a Fairlington student with a rare and (thus far) incurable disease as well as the school’s PE program; the Fairlington Fourth of July parade attended by classmates and teachers alike, and the school’s Halloween parade, where parents from all over Fairlington watch the costumed children, their teachers and the Wakefield marching band. Fairlington is truly a community and Abingdon is a rich, vibrant and diverse community school. Therefore the board should not divide this community along artificial lines where true connective tissue already exists.

Regarding the Board’s policy considerations, dividing the Fairlington community is misguided for a number of reasons.

Neither Proximate nor Efficient:

1. Although South Fairlington falls outside the “walk zone,” it remains within a 1-mile radius of Abingdon. Due to the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of students walk or bike to school from South Fairlington every day. Although my younger daughter rides a bus to school, we live less than 0.9 miles from Abingdon and have walked there in less than 20 minutes.

2. All students in South Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service to the neighborhood. Drew Elementary school is 1.8 miles away and not connected to Fairlington by walkable streets.

3. Transporting students from South Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus every day and increase APS transportation costs. Many parents who seldom or never drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems.

Non-contiguous

1. South Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly street with wide sidewalks (even wider over the bridge that goes over 395) and a bike lane and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions.

2. There are several major barriers, including multiple major roads and parks that effectively separate the community in South Fairlington from Drew.

3. While it would be theoretically possible to make a corridor to give the impression of contiguity by including portions of Shirlington, such a corridor would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community around Drew.

I am disappointed with what to me appears to be a last minute, non-transparent attempt at breaking up a cohesive strong community and community school. Our Fairlington neighborhood –North and South, should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. I recognize that drawing up new boundaries is an enormous task, but building a community around our school has taken years of hard work by many committed participants from ALL of Fairlington. We are an invested community and to tear it apart as proposed would be like pulling apart members of a body limb from limb. To separate south Fairlington's children from Abingdon and to split up a community school that has a physical building within the historic boundaries of the neighborhood itself is at best, ill-advised and at worse, unconscionable.

Sincerely,

Erica Brown

10/12/18

Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a parent of a student attending Abingdon Elementary, I am writing in regards to the recent school board discussion about the elementary school boundaries within the Fairlington neighborhood. Reportedly, it was suggested that Fairlington could be divided with South Fairlington being annexed to another school. While we live right outside Fairlington, I am concerned that this proposal might

		<p>impact the unique community nature of Abingdon (one of its many strengths) at the potential cost to taxpayers. Specifically: - like many of the strong community assets of Fairlington, by serving the entire elementary school population of Fairlington, Abingdon builds and reinforces the supportive, engaged neighborhood environment essential to the strong development of its children; and - busing students from South Fairlington to another school might require expanded bus service not previously needed, thereby possibly increasing transportation costs.</p> <p>Thank you very much for considering these concerns.</p> <p>Sincerely, Sarah Walter</p>
10/12/18	<p>PU 48121 Should Remain at Oakridge</p>	<p>Oakridge Elementary</p> <p>Your Comment or Question</p> <p>The revised Hoffman Boston boundaries don't align with the proximity or stability goals. Why doesn't Hoffman Boston draw from more of the Columbia Pike area vs trekking kids who currently walk and bike to Oakridge (planning unit 48121)? Under the current plan, a number of the schools under redistricting south of HWY 50 are projected to be at or exceed 100% capacity in in 2021. What happens in 2022? I was told there are no new school additions planned in south Arlington in the draft APS strategic plan. How does Arlington plan to adapt to the increased residential density in the Crystal City/Pentagon City area and the Columbia Pike corridor? There are numerous construction projects underway. Growth is "smart" when it creates attractive communities with a range of housing and transportation options near jobs, shops, services and schools (from arlingtonva.us). Arlington is just as attractive to families with kids under 18 as it is to families without kids. When will Arlington return to smart growth and give schools the same priority it gives green space? Has Arlington considered partnering with developers to build an urban school in a new or existing structure adjacent to one of its parks in the Crystal/Pentagon City area?</p> <p>Your Name</p> <p>Anna Hudson</p>
10/13/18	<p>Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon</p>	<p>APS Board Members and Boundary Planning Committee,</p> <p>I am writing with regard to the recent school board discussion that would potentially divide elementary school students living in the Fairlington community into different schools. I am strongly opposed to separating the children of the Fairlington community into different schools and offer the following support for my opposition:</p>

My wife, Catherine, and I moved to Fairlington when we got married in 2005. We originally planned to live in Fairlington for 2-3 years but quickly fell in love with the neighborhood and have now been residents of South Fairlington for 13 years. We currently have four children [REDACTED] and all of them, during their elementary school years, have attended Abingdon Elementary. My opposition to this proposal has nothing to do with a resistance to change but is based on a number of key factors that are associated with this ill-advised proposal.

- Proximity - Abingdon Elementary is located 0.5 miles from our home and is easily accessible as the street we take to the school is a wide local road that contains sidewalks, bike lanes and a 25 mph speed limit. The road is not subject to any thru traffic, there are no stoplights and we only encounter two stop signs on our route to the school. As a result, we frequently walk or bike with our kids to school. All of our South Fairlington neighbors live in close proximity to Abingdon Elementary and a significant number of them walk or bike to school every day. In addition, the proximity and walk-ability to Abingdon Elementary coupled with the positive impact that a local neighborhood school has on our community has significantly influenced our decision to raise our children in this area. If this proposal is approved, all students in South Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because options to walk or bike are not practical or safe for children. Lastly, traffic in many spots on the route between South Fairlington and Drew is already a significant problem that would only be made worse by this proposal.

- Contiguity - While it would be theoretically possible to make a corridor to give the impression of contiguity by including portions of Shirlington, such a corridor would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community around Drew. My wife and I were absolutely shocked when we learned of this proposal as the contiguity that North and South Fairlington enjoys appears to be ideal from a school zoning perspective while the proposal being considered is clearly forced and contrived.

- Fairlington is One Community - Our families share parks, pools, an annual 5K run, a farmers market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. The geographical alignment that Abingdon Elementary has with all of Fairlington contributes significantly to enhancing our community. Any elementary school experience will foster the opportunity for children and parents to get to know each other and work together but the key impact to our community is that these associations are formed with the people that live next door to each other. Therefore our children play together constantly, we are able to easily carpool with other families to sporting events and our parents see each other every day in our community. Many of us, including my family, live in Fairlington because we want our families to be communally engaged and there are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously as Fairlington. As I am sure you are aware, the Fairlington Civic Association has two voting stations with over 1,500 voters is each association.

My wife and I look forward to attending and participating in the community meeting on Wednesday evening at Kenmore Middle School.

		<p>The Abingdon Elementary community of North and South Fairlington stands as an excellent example of how school zones can enhance a neighborhood and help bring a community together. I am deeply concerned as the approval of this proposal will have a lasting erosive impact on the entire Fairlington community.</p> <p>Regards, Scott Ladd</p>
10/14/18	Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>Hello Mr. Murphy,</p> <p>I am writing in response to the most recent proposal that South Fairlington will be annexed to Drew Elementary in 2019. I encourage you to strongly reconsider taking us out of Abingdon, where we can currently walk and ride bike to from anywhere in the Fairlington neighborhood. Putting South Fairlington at Drew would only make it tougher for us to get to school. I'm not sure the bus route, but it looks like they may drive right by Abingdon to get to Drew. That seems like a lot of trouble and money spent on transportation when we could just walk there. I know of at least 50 kids that walk/bike from South Fairlington to Abingdon now. If our children had to go to Drew, they would never be afforded the experience of biking with their friends to school. The route from South Fairlington to Abingdon is extremely bike friendly with contiguous sidewalks throughout as well as a bike lane. I would feel 100% comfortable with my kids riding there alone. The route to Drew is certainly not bike friendly while accompanied by an adult, much less unaccompanied children.</p> <p>The Fairlington community, which does not distinguish north from south, as a whole is extremely close. From 5K's to parades, pools, and parks, our neighborhood is extremely unique with how tight knit it is. We have chosen this community because of what it is. We all know one another and are able to help each other out with pick up and drop off when needed. Breaking us up would severely limit that ability to help one another in times of need. Our children love the fact that most of their friends from school live in the same neighborhood so they can build their friendships both inside and outside of school.</p> <p>Have you guys considered making all of Fairlington a walk only zone and leaving us at Abingdon? That would be a much better option and save the county money on transportation. It would also alleviate more traffic in an already high traffic area and eliminate an unnecessary lengthy commute to school. I would prefer my children to be able to play outside versus spend extra time commuting to and from school.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration! -- Regards,</p> <p>Danielle Adams</p>
10/14/18	Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>Dear Superintendent Murphy,</p>

		<p>I am writing to you in regards to the current proposal being considered to divide the historic community of Fairlington into two separate elementary schools. I am opposed to separating the children of Fairlington into different elementary school and am for keeping our neighborhood cohesive within the Abingdon school boundaries.</p> <p>Fairlington is one community. Our children have shared playdates since birth, play on shared parks and pools, meet up at our community farmers market on Sundays, and participate in festival and parades throughout the year together. I moved to Fairlington because of this community's cohesiveness. A simple bridge does not dictate two communities.</p> <p>It is stated that "only about 35 percent of students in the United States live within two miles of their school." (https://www.saferoutespartnership.org/state/bestpractices) As decision makers I hope you see the the benefits of community-centered schools that encourage students to safely walk/bike. Safe Routes to Schools are important please let us keep ours. Logistically, moving the southern portion of the Fairlington community to Drew would create unsafe and impractical walking or biking conditions for families. Currently, the commute to Abingdon from the southern portion of Fairlington has no major parks, highways or dangerous intersections which allows a large student population to safely walk/bike to school. There are several major barriers, including distance, intersections, highways, and unsafe sidewalks that would negatively effect the commute from south Fairlington to Drew school.</p> <p>Abingdon's community of Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community-centered school relies not only on committed families but on proximity, and Fairlington currently has both. Displacing our committed families will not "recreate" the Abingdon/Fairlington participation at Drew as the proximity portion of the puzzle will be missing. I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved.</p> <p>We ask the board to reject any proposal that would seek to divide our united community.</p> <p>Thank you, Kristine Zbranek</p>
10/16/18	Support South Fairlington Added to Drew	<p>Subject: Re: We support adding South Fairlington to the Drew school boundary</p> <p>We sent the following email a few minutes ago and realized that our signature was inadvertently omitted.</p> <p>Our names are Elizabeth Fabrizio and Matthew Jacobi.</p> <p>On Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 11:19 AM Elizabeth <elizandmatt@gmail.com> wrote:</p> <p>> We are writing to express our support for expanding the Drew > Elementary School boundary to include the South Fairlington</p>

		<p>planning > unit. > > Drew has been a black majority school since the days of segregation in > Arlington. Racial inequity continues to be a significant problem in > Arlington schools, despite various efforts to reverse the effect of > structural racism in our county. We believe that integrating the South > Fairlington planning unit with its approximately 150 students and > their families will begin to address some of this inequity. > > We are the parents of an APS elementary student and live within this > South Fairlington planning unit. Our child attends an option school, > but if she did not, we would be happy for her to attend Drew. The new > principal and the school's emphasis on a project-based, STEAM > curriculum demonstrate that the school is moving forward to provide > its students with an excellent education. > > With the departure of the Montessori program, the existing Drew > community needs to grow. We believe that sending the students in the > south Fairlington planning unit -- who are already part of a strong > community -- will help both communities. The neighborhoods are > adjacent, with only Shirlington between them. Even though the 395 > interchange lies between one Fairlington border and Drew, the school > is only a few minutes away by car or bus. Both the neighborhood > surrounding Drew and the Fairlington neighborhood use Shirlington as > one gathering point of their communities. > > Moving South Fairlington to Drew would also have the benefit of > reducing Drew's FARM rate, since fewer than 10 Fairlington families > qualify for that assistance. This would increase the economic > diversity of the Drew community and could also enable the PTA to > provide more assistance to the school community. > > As parents of a child who does not attend Abingdon, we can attest to > the fact that attending a different school does not mean that we are > cut off from the greater Fairlington community. We have many friends > in our Fairlington neighborhood and feel very much a part of the > community. We participate in the Fourth of July parade, shop at the > Farmers Market, visit the playground to check on the new construction, > and love all the Halloween festivities. More importantly, we feel part > of the broader Arlington community, through friends we have made at > our school, through programs and classes offered through Arlington > County, and through sharing common values of inclusivity and equity > with our fellow Arlington citizens. With the entire South Fairlington > moving to Drew, Fairlington could adopt Drew much as the neighborhood > as done with Abingdon. > > While we understand that school changes are very difficult, we believe > that this proposed change--modifying Drew's boundaries to include the > South Fairlington planning unit--serves a greater good: addressing > historical inequities in Arlington. > > Thank you ></p>
10/13/18	Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am reaching out in regard to the recent school board discussion about the elementary school boundaries within the Fairlington neighborhood. I am strongly opposed to separating the children of Fairlington into different elementary schools by keeping the north side at Abingdon and moving the south side to Drew. Dividing the Fairlington community into two school zones is detrimental for many reasons.</p> <p>Fairlington is one community. By dividing the community into two different school zones, it will significantly impact the unity of the community long-term. Our families work together to face our common challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have a 5K, a farmers market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. Many of us moved to Fairlington because we wanted our</p>

families to be communally engaged and there are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously as Fairlington.

Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task-- I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved. There are no gains- and significant losses- if south Fairlington families are moved to Drew.

1. Proximity:

a. Although the southern part of Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone" it remains within a 1 mile radius of Abingdon. Due to the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of students walk or bike to school from this part of Fairlington every day.

b. All students from the southern part of Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service in the neighborhood.

c. Transporting students from Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus every day. Many parents who seldom or never drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems.

2. Efficiency

a. Moving the population of the southern part of Fairlington to Drew will increase the transportation costs. Additional buses, needed for a longer period of time, would be required to move the majority of Fairlington's large student population over multiple non-walkable boundary roads.

3. Contiguity

a. Homes in the southern part of Fairlington currently have no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly street with sidewalks and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions.

b. There are several major barriers, including multiple major roads and parks, that effectively separate the community in Fairlington

		<p>from Drew.</p> <p>c. While it would be theoretically possible to make a corridor to give the impression of contiguity by including portions of Shirlington, such a corridor would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community around Drew.</p> <p>d. The Fairlington planning unit in question is actually adjacent to Abingdon.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, and your vested interest in the children of Arlington.</p> <p>Best,</p> <p>Emily Wick</p>
<p>10/14/18</p>	<p>Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon</p>	<p>Dear Superintendent Murphy,</p> <p>I am writing to you in regards to the current proposal being considered to split the historic community of Fairlington into two separate elementary schools. Fairlington children are currently assigned to Abingdon which is within the community.</p> <p>The Fairlington residents are strong supporters of Abingdon and are continually supporting the school whether or not they have school age children.</p> <p>This deep tie with what we consider to be "our" elementary school is part of the unique nature of our community. I was hesitant when moving to Virginia from a rural town to leave in Arlington. I was overjoyed to find Fairlington which has an incredible small town attitude within the city. Part of this close knit community comes from our continuing focus in our school.</p> <p>While I am a parent to a pre-school child I have often participated in opportunities to support the school. It is a reflection of values of our community that the entire community rallying around the theme of #FairlingtonUnited</p> <p>We ask the board to reject any proposal that would seek to divide our community.</p> <p>Thank you, Jill Knaus</p>

10/14/18

Keep South
Fairlington at
Abingdon

To Whom It May Concern, I am writing in regard to the recent school board discussion about the elementary school boundaries, particularly within the Fairlington neighborhood. In a recent discussion it was suggested that Fairlington could be divided and that the southern part could be annexed to Drew Elementary. I am strongly opposed to separating the children of Fairlington into different schools, and urge you to reject any such proposals for the following reasons: 1. Proximity Although the southern part of Fairlington falls outside of the "wall zone" it remains within a 1 mile radius of Abingdon. With walkable neighborhood streets and contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of students walk or bike to school from this part of Fairlington every day. While we live in the southern part of Fairlington, our 3-year old routinely uses Abingdon Elementary's playgrounds in the evenings and on weekends, and it is an easy walk, bike or scooter ride for our family. He also sees the "older" kids in the neighborhood walking or riding to Abingdon in the mornings and is already talking about doing the same when he is ready for Kindergarten. I cannot fathom explaining to him why he would have to ride a bus to a school that is farther away when he is already used to us walking to Abingdon on a regular basis. All students from the southern part of Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service in the neighborhood. Transporting students from Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus every day. Many parents who seldom or never drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, also increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems. 2. Efficiency Moving the population of the southern part of Fairlington to Drew will increase the transportation costs. Additional buses, needed for a longer period of time, would be required to move the majority of Fairlington's large student population over multiple non-walkable boundary roads. 3. Continuity Homes in the southern part of Fairlington currently have no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly bridge/ street with wide sidewalks and bike lanes that does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions. In contrast, there are several major barriers, including multiple major roads and parks, that effectively separate the community in Fairlington from Drew. While it could be theoretically possible on paper to make a corridor to give the impression of contiguity by including portions of Shirlington, such a corridor would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community around Drew. The Fairlington planning unit in question is actually adjacent to Abingdon. 4. Disruption/ Stability The Fairlington community, including the families of Fairlington, was a primary advocate for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation. During the renovation Abingdon students learned in relocatable classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) attended school on a construction site during the 2016-2017 school year and even had to be locked down (and subsequently miss a school day) due to a hazardous materials concern in the building. This construction disrupted their education and it would be unfair to submit these students to further disruption. When it comes to proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains and only significant losses for these Fairlington families if moved to Drew. One final point I cannot state with enough urgency, Fairlington is one community. Our families work together to face our common challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have a 5K that runs thru both "sides" of Fairlington, a farmers market, joint summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. Many of us moved to Fairlington because we wanted our families to be communally engaged and there are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously as Fairlington. The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting

		<p>stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Abingdon's community of northern and southern Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task-- I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved. Again, I urge you to keep all of Fairlington in Abingdon. Respectfully, Christine O'Donoghue</p>
<p>10/14/18</p>	<p>Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon</p>	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>My name is Greg Gyor and I am a single parent and homeowner who has lived in South Fairlington for over 12 years, my daughter recently started her third year at Abingdon Elementary School. I would like to provide my input to the board proposal of proximity and efficiency considerations for Elementary School boundaries, specifically slide 36 from the boundary proposal slides dated October 10th, which would potentially move South Fairlington from Abingdon to Drew. I frequently walk with my daughter to Abingdon from South Fairlington and we live outside the 'walk-zone' indicated on the boundary map. This is because Abingdon is in such close proximity to all of South Fairlington, we live less than a mile from the school. It is not efficient or proximal to potentially force us to go to a school nearly three miles away from our home where we would not be within walking distance of the school and then have to drive or take a bus, when Abingdon is less than a mile away from our house. Bus resources for Arlington schools are already under pressure and adding most of South Arlington to be bussed to Drew would only add to the problem. Drew school would be almost three miles away from our house and requires crossing major roadways and parks.</p> <p>Regarding contiguity considerations, it should not be understated that North and South Fairlington are a considerably contiguous South Arlington neighborhood that goes well beyond physical proximity. The South Fairlington planning unit is adjacent to Abingdon and Fairlington has no major parks or highways deterring students from Abingdon. Moving the southern portion of Fairlington to Drew incorporates multiple major roads and parks which obstruct families from the school as well as the neighborhoods surrounding Drew. The sense of Fairlington community should not be understated and includes sharing the community center where both sides gather for events and where my wife's funeral reception was held, supporting local farmers at the wonderful recently-added Farmer's market on the south side, participating in the annual 5k race, celebrating holidays with the Thanksgiving parade and santa visits, as well as sharing a local fire station and newly added STEM pre-school where families have a chance to meet and bond before even sending their kids to Abingdon. These are all events and places that North and South Fairlington community families share along with their Elementary school, which serves as a common thread that connects families together. The Fairlington community as a whole, to include North and South, fought for a much-needed Abingdon school renovation, with Abingdon students in relocatable classrooms for a year, and would potentially not be able to enjoy the benefits of a new community-supported school. Separating the Fairlington Community by school boundaries would needlessly fragment a very cohesive, historically important, and thriving South Arlington neighborhood.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>

		<p>Greg Gyor</p>
<p>10/15/18</p>	<p>Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon</p>	<p>Dear School Board Members:</p> <p>My husband and I have lived in Fairlington since 2002. Our son is in 7th grade at Gunston Middle School and attended Abingdon. The proposal to have South Fairlington schoolchildren attend Drew instead of Abingdon is ludicrous. It completely goes against Arlington values, and that is what is so unbelievable about this 11th hour and poorly thought-out idea.</p> <p>Arlington prides itself on valuing environmental sustainability and creating walkable neighborhoods. Arlington proudly touts its numerous awards on its website: https://departments.arlingtonva.us/des/awards-sustainable-community-environment/ Many South Fairlington families walk to school even though they are eligible for the bus. The benefits are huge (less cars on the road, reduced congestion, and allowing for exercise). I find it very hypercritical that last Thursday was Walk to School Day (October 11), the same time period that this proposal was announced.</p> <p>Fairlington is a tight-knit community. We are served by the Fairlington Citizens Association and engage in numerous year-round activities for Fairlington residents. Having two elementary schools serve the same community of school children undermines the County's emphasis on neighborhood identity and cohesion. Please reconsider this ill-conceived idea and keep all Fairlington children at Abingdon.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Susan Boerstling</p>
<p>10/15/18</p>	<p>Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon</p>	<p>Hello APS school board,</p> <p>We want to express our strong concern that Fairlington NOT be divided in the elementary school boundary process as recently discussed at the school board meeting on 10/10. We are residents and owners of two residences in South Fairlington with three children. In total, we have lived in Fairlington for 16 years, in 5 different residences in both North and South Fairlington. We are just now entering APS with the first of our 3 children in kindergarten. South and North Fairlington are one united community with a long history and are both part of a registered historic district. South Fairlington should continue to go to Abingdon, which is our neighborhood school in walking-distance and physically located in Fairlington. Please keep Fairlington together and at Abingdon elementary. Thank you.</p>

Respectfully, -Susan and Rob Brockhaus

Reasons why this proposal is ill-advised for the students and families of Fairlington and Abingdon Elementary:

1. Proximity

-- Although the southern portion of Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone" it remains within a 1 mile radius of the school. -- A significant amount of students walk/bike to school from the southern area of Fairlington to Abingdon. APS could potentially remove one bus servicing the southern area which would improve overall transportation efficiency and costs. -- All students in Fairlington would most definitely need bused to Drew. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation which is not a luxury APS has. -- Bus rides from Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the ride for kids.

2. Efficiency

-- Fairlington fought for a much-needed school renovation, with Abingdon students in relocatable classrooms for a year, and would now not be able to enjoy the benefits of a new community-supported school. -- Fairlington families that now walk/bike to Abingdon won't be able to do so if moved to Drew. -- Fairlington families that bus will have to start their day even earlier as the length of the ride will triple if moved to Drew. -- Fairlington families that drive to school would have to cross over major roadways to get to Drew. This is inefficient and would cause additional traffic in South Arlington.

3. Contiguity

-- Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways deterring them from Abingdon. Moving southern portion of Fairlington to Drew incorporates multiple major roads and parks which obstruct families from the school as well as the neighborhoods surrounding Drew. -- A portion of Shirlington planning units would potentially need to move as it likely that buses would travel through Shirlington to get to Drew. -- The South Fairlington planning unit is currently adjacent to Abingdon.

When it comes to proximity, efficiency, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for Fairlington families if moved to Drew.

One final point we cannot state with enough urgency, Fairlington in and of itself is one big Community, both North and South. There is dynamic engagement which unite both students and families in Fairlington (community centers, 5K, farmers market, parks, summer swim teams, parades; the list goes on and on). Fairlington Civic Association is a very active and engaged association; with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Abingdon's community of Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones not trying to tear it apart.

10/14/18

Keep South
Fairlington at
Abingdon

Dear Dr. Murphy and Arlington Public School Board Members,

First, I would like to commend the School Board on their efforts as they undergo the incredibly challenging task of a County-wide rezoning process. Clearly, this and the anticipated future student growth is a complicated issue. These efforts are vital for effective long-term planning and enrollment management. We turn to you, our elected officials, to take great care to assure that economic, educational and residential considerations for our students are measured first. We trust in your commitment to ensure children's safety as the number one priority and to be prudent stewards of tax-payer dollars by keeping transportation and education costs low. We also partner with you in support to create contiguous attendance zones, to maintain racial and socioeconomic balance across schools, to use schools' proximity to closest neighborhoods in determining school assignments and to nurture community adhesion. I appreciate the Board's work towards these common criteria. I am writing as a motivated registered voter, a highly active community member, a parent to two Abingdon students and a 26-year Arlington County government employee. My concern is specific to the recent proposal of moving school boundaries within the Fairlington neighborhood. I share with most of my neighbors a passionate connection to and pride for the unique, warm neighborhood called Fairlington. This community is a second family to many of us and Abingdon is the heart of our family. I am vehemently opposed to separating the children of the Fairlington community into separate elementary schools.

One of the most major flaws with the current proposal is that of student safety. The natural barriers that exist for Fairlington parents to get their kids to Drew - whether it be by car, school bus or walking - are extremely prohibitive. Even with recent traffic calming efforts, there simply is no safe route from Fairlington to Drew. This walk is jammed packed with physical barriers (i.e. 395, lack of safe walking paths, highly congested roadways, multiple intersections, active Metro bus system, parklands). Additionally, the County has fabulous programs that support family well-being (walk-to-school programs and policy, 'Walk Arlington', 'Bike Arlington', 'Car-free diet', etc.) Many Fairlingtonians are indeed car-free families. Fairlington parents on both the north and south section currently enjoy the ability to walk their kids to Abingdon. We will not be able to safely walk our kids to school and continue to practice what Arlington County has created as a health culture if you vote to move us to Drew. This then brings up the issue of students' proximity to schools, bus/travel time and overall efficiency. These components must be considered. The majority if not all south Fairlington children will need to be bused to Drew thereby increasing transportation costs. The amount of time our kids will be sitting on the bus also goes up significantly. It is my understanding the bus that will transport South Fairlington students to Drew will be unable to use the most direct route. What would typically be a 6-minute drive [to travel the 1.4 miles to Drew] will place these students on the bus upwards of 50 minutes. The longer kids are on buses, especially in a busy metro area, the higher the risk. Safety is a substantial concern for me and many parents. The more you take people out of their neighborhood, their safety is jeopardized. Furthermore, the school assignment process should promote student welfare. How does making a student ride on the bus for upwards of 50 minutes which was previously either a 5-minute bus ride or 10-minute walk - as they pass right in front of their old school, literally seeing all their friends walking in - put the child first? How is this efficient and fiscally responsible? How is busing our kids to a school over allowing them to continue to be in their walkable community best serving our children and the neighborhood at-large?

Proximity is key and must be a significant consideration when it comes to re-zoning. If Fleet moves north, Patrick Henry students on the south side of the Columbia Heights community [up to and north of 16th street] should go to Drew. They are geographically closer than Fairlington students and many within that community already attend Drew. The southern aspect of Douglas Park and Columbia Forest are also closer. It does not make sense for Fairlington students to go Drew in the spirit of proximity when at least three other neighborhoods are closer to Drew than Fairlington. I'm challenged to comprehend how County leadership would deliberately select a neighborhood that is further away vs. choosing neighborhoods that are geographically closer to attend school. Also and perhaps the Board is unaware but Abingdon is currently not over prescribed. Next year's student numbers do not place Abingdon at full capacity. I recognize the partial transfer of Drew's student body to another school opens Drew's capacity but it does not line up when room currently exists at Abingdon. I'm again challenged to understand the thinking here.

The Board must seek to maintain neighborhood cohesion. Fairlington is an intact, viable, highly engaged community that is NOT divided by 'the bridge'. 395 is simply a highway that runs underneath our primary walking and biking path to our neighborhood school, Abingdon. Fairlington IS the predominant neighborhood that surrounds Abingdon. You can't divide Fairlington in half. This simply does not make sense! We are ONE community, grounded in a national registered historic status that Abingdon is part of. Fairlington has rich traditions, such as Fourth of July which draws on all of Abingdon families, the Farmers Market, an annual Abingdon 5K that spans the entire neighborhood, an active Civic Association, Abingdon's Halloween parade that goes through Fairlington streets, ongoing Abingdon programs at Fire Station #7 and the DPR's Fairlington Community Center is predominantly programmed by Abingdon families. The list could go on. These initiatives and programs are grounded in and supported by Abingdon families that live in all of Fairlington. The community strength is built significantly around our sweet little elementary school. Fairlington is Abingdon and Abingdon is Fairlington on so many levels. The current proposal will alter the united feeling in the community, Cutting the Fairlington community in half will dismantle what so many have worked so hard and so long to foster. I'm again challenged to understand why the School Board would propose dividing a community that has the name honored within a national designation and clear, deep, solid community cohesiveness.

Finally, school assignment processes should be transparent and equitable. Strategies to solicit community feedback should be fair. The concept of dividing North/South Fairlington was not part of the ongoing dialogue and community engagement process up to this date. It was introduced on October 10th via a broadcasted school board meeting literally at the 11th hour. It is imperative to engage parents in the school boundary and assignment process equally. This was not exercised with the Fairlington community. Perhaps it was simply an oversight. I trust you will hear us and incorporate the Fairlington community's concerns into the final plan.

In closing, the School Board has a tough job in the immediate and certainly, the challenges over the next 5-8 years are tremendous. Again, I applaud the work-to-date but implore the Board to dig deeper and kindly request them to vote 'NO' to rezoning the southernmost portion of Fairlington to Drew Model School. Your vote is going to affect thousands of lives. Please take a step back; take a deep breath; and generate a plan that serves the greater Arlington. If you are unable to vote 'no', please choose to uphold the current "grandfather proposal" where 4th grade students will be allowed to finish up their fifth-grade year at Abingdon and for their siblings to

		<p>remain. It would not serve a 4th grade child who has been at the same school their whole elementary experience to be sent to another school their final year. These students' academic success will certainly be affected, friendships will not be maintained, Drew teachers will need to dedicate more classroom time, etc. I'm certain the Board agrees and will align with the overwhelming high percentage of Arlington families (close to 80%) that have already registered in support of the grandfather clause. I am available to assist APS administration to evaluate what makes the most sense.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, service and warm consideration,</p> <p>Michele Gregory</p>
10/15/18	Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>Dear Superintendent Murphy and APS School Board Members,</p> <p>As a 10-year resident of South Fairlington, I was very disappointed to recently hear that the school board was discussing changes to the elementary school boundaries within the Fairlington neighborhood, specifically the suggestion that Fairlington could be divided, and South Fairlington could be annexed by Drew Elementary School. I am strongly opposed to separating the children of Fairlington into different elementary schools. Dividing the Fairlington community is ill-advised for several reasons, some of which are priorities already identified by the Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity <p>-Although technically outside the "walk zone," South Fairlington remains within a 1-mile radius of Abingdon. Due to the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of students walk or bike to school from South Fairlington every day.</p> <p>-With a switch to Drew, all students in South Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service to the neighborhood.</p> <p>-This additional transportation would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus every day. Traffic congestion in the area, which is already significant, would likely increase with many parents, who seldom or never drive their children to Abingdon, driving them to Drew.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficiency <p>-More transportation needs described above would increase transportation costs. Additional buses, needed for a longer period of time,</p>

would be required to move the majority of South Fairlington's large student population over multiple non-walkable boundary roads. This would also put additional strain on the paucity of bus drivers in APS.

• Contiguity

-South Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. Even the "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly street built over the highway with sidewalks and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions.

-Conversely, there are several major barriers, including multiple major roads and parks, that effectively separate South Fairlington from Drew.

-Any potential corridor created to give the impression of contiguity between South Fairlington and Drew, such as including portions of Shirlington, would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community around Drew.

-The South Fairlington planning unit is actually adjacent to Abingdon.

• Disruption/Stability

-The Fairlington community, including the families of South Fairlington, was a primary advocate for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation. During the renovation Abingdon students learned in relocatable classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt with the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) were affected by the ongoing construction during the 2016-2017 school year, and the school even had to be locked down (with students subsequently missing a school day) due to a hazardous materials concern in the building.

-Further disruption, particularly so soon after the construction and completion of the renovation, would be unfair to the students.

When it comes to proximity, efficiency, contiguity, and disruption/stability, there are no benefits and significant costs for South Fairlington families if moved to Drew.

One final point, which I note with significance, is that Fairlington is one community, and Abingdon is truly a community school (maybe in the truest sense of any APS school). Our families work together to face common challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have our own 5K, farmers market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. Many of us, including my family, moved to

		<p>Fairlington because we wanted our families to be communally engaged, and there are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously as Fairlington. The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task. This has happened in Fairlington and is an example to the rest of the county. I hope that you and APS realize that preserving an invested and committed community is critical for our families, schools, businesses, and the county as a whole.</p> <p>Thank you, Jason Spangler</p>
<p>10/15/18</p>	<p>Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon</p>	<p>October 15, 2018</p> <p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>I recently heard about a proposal to shift children from south Fairlington from the Abingdon School District over to Drew Model. This is a horrible idea.</p> <p>Fairlington is a neighborhood and community. That can be seen from the 4th of July parade , the Fairlington book group, Fairlington Moms to 5k Run for Elie (which helps to raise money for a local Abingdon student) and incidentally is run in both North and South Fairlington. How do you split a community like that?</p> <p>My oldest graduated from Abingdon 2 years ago and the second will be graduating this year. So obviously the shift over to Drew model does not directly affect my family. It has been and is lovely for my kids to walk or bike around the neighborhood and see other kids from their school throughout Fairlington. To move south Fairlington over to Drew Model creates an artificial community and cannot replace one that already easily exists.</p> <p>The entire Fairlington community supported the renovation of the school not just North Fairlington. We all went through the mess of construction together and our kids dealt with the changes in their school. People love living here because it is a neighborhood. An easy example of that is to view the crowds watching the Abingdon Halloween parade. It is not just filled with parents but all ages enjoying and supporting the kids and teachers of Abingdon. Spending time, caring for each other and supporting each other is what community is all about.</p> <p>So please keep Fairlington together!</p>

		<p>A concerned parent and voter,</p> <p>Poomima Chandra</p>
<p>10/16/18</p>	<p>Keep All of Patrick Henry at Fleet</p>	<p>Subject: FW: Elementary School Boundaries - Process Concerns</p> <p>Members of the School Board,</p> <p>I moved to South Arlington so my sons could go to Patrick Henry for both its diversity and its academic achievements. I am so proud of our community, and the fact that Henry is Blue Ribbon School. That said, I would urge you to maintain the current Henry boundaries at Fleet, and believe doing so would reflect your stated goals of proximity, efficiency, stability, alignment and demographics. I understand you are reconsidering the boundaries from your initial proposal. Should you decide to change the boundaries based on different priorities, I would encourage you to state your new priorities, and then start the engagement process over based on the new priorities. There are also several considerations I'd like you to keep in mind when considering whether to move Henry planning units south of Columbia Pike out of Fleet:</p> <p>* Transparency Concerns: The Henry community agreed to construction of a new school that was not in its preferred Henry location based upon the School Board's representations that the Henry community would move to Fleet.</p> <p>* Proximity and efficiency considerations: Henry's southern planning units can walk or bike through our existing community space on Irving- to Fleet. Those units cannot walk to Drew. The intersection at Walter Reed and Glebe is a pedestrian nightmare even for adults.</p> <p>* Efficiency considerations: The goal of the boundary process is to fully utilize the capacity we have at the elementary schools. The current plan keeps several schools overcrowded, and that overcrowding could be alleviated by filling seats at schools that are under capacity. Fleet itself is currently under capacity, so removing planning units south of the pike to another school would exacerbate that underutilization. * Efficiency considerations: Families will lose the opportunity to have elementary and middle school students at adjoining campuses. This has enormous potential to increase traffic, which will already be exacerbated in the neighborhood with the Montessori program housed at Henry. If planning units south of Columbia Pike move to another school, a new traffic study must be done to see how much traffic this will add when combined with the Montessori choice school and the increased number of high school students going to the Career Center. My understanding is that the traffic study originally done assumed that the Henry boundaries would stay the same at Fleet.</p> <p>* Demographics considerations: It is unclear that moving Henry's southern units to Drew will have a net positive impact on equalizing FARM-based diversity. Fleet may be left with a lower FARM rate and Drew's may not be lowered in any significant way. Several Board members have said they make decisions exclusively based on data - so I strongly urge you to gather accurate data before making a</p>

		<p>change based on this consideration. In light of the above, I encourage you to keep Henry together at Fleet. Thank you for your consideration, as always, I truly appreciate your work and dedication to our schools. Sincerely,</p> <p>Melanle Devoe</p>
<p>10/16/18</p>	<p>Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon</p>	<p>All,</p> <p>This email is to express my opposition to the plan being considered that would break South Fairlington from Abingdon Elementary. My two daughters would no longer be able to attend Abingdon, and this change is not expected or welcome. We value the connection to our neighborhood school, and have developed a very positive relationship with the school and its staff and faculty.</p> <p>Please do not break up the Fairlington community when redoing the school boundaries. Thank you.</p> <p>Alex Hughes</p>
<p>10/13/18</p>	<p>Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>First of all I want to thank you all for your work on behalf of all Arlingtonians. I know it is a challenge to do any re-zoning project and there are a diversity of opinions and values to consider.</p> <p>As the mother of a two-year-old and a South Fairlington homeowner, I learned with alarm that APS is considering moving South Fairlington out of the Abingdon zone.</p> <p>Abingdon is an anchor of the Fairlington community, north and south. My daughter is 2 and she regularly plays at the playground adjacent to the school, I ran the 5k this spring and she and my husband came to cheer me on, we know families whose older children go there. We have watched with excitement as the school has begun to take advantage of its recent renovations.</p> <p>I know that Proximity is one of the key values in the re-zoning process. When I reviewed the PowerPoint presentation on considerations for re-zoning, I was surprised to see that we are not in the "expanded walk zone" for Abingdon (slide 9). Our home is half a mile from Abingdon. The walk is pleasant and short and all within what we consider "our" neighborhood. It seems reasonable to think that a walk that any 7- or 8-year-old could take alone should be considered "proximate" for purposes of re-zoning.</p> <p>Another key value, Contiguity, would be totally thwarted by removing us from Abingdon. South Fairlington is a unique corner of Arlington bordered by North Fairlington on one side and by Alexandria on *all other sides.* This means that separating our</p>

neighborhood from Abingdon would slice us off from our *only* Arlington neighbors. We would be forced to send our kids to school much farther away and totally unwalkable from our homes.

The unique architecture, layout, and history of the community is such that all of Fairlington truly functions as a unified neighborhood. We share the Fairlington Community Center, including the farmers' market and soccer field and the soon-to-be-renovated playground. We share Shirlington village, its library and shops and movie theater. We share the Fairlington Babysitting Co-op, of which we are members and through which we have become friends with North Fairlington families. And we share Abingdon. We are friends and neighbors. It would be counter to the APS key values and to the spirit of community to change our school zone.

Please keep Fairlington united and keep South Fairlington in the Abingdon zone.

Thank you,

Helen Vera and Paul McLaughlin

10/14/18

Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon

Subject: Civic Association Letter on Abingdon Boundary Changes

Attached please find a letter from the Fairlington Citizens Association concerning proposed boundary changes to Abingdon Elementary. I'm also including the text of the letter in this email. Thanks for your consideration. Guy Land, President, Fairlington Citizens Association. Dear Chair Goldstein and Members of the School Board: I am writing to convey the views of the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) concerning potential changes to the existing boundaries of the Abingdon Elementary School zone. FCA is the civic association that covers North and South Fairlington, as well as Park Shirlington and Shirlington House, with a population of about 7,500 people. The FCA Executive Board supports keeping our represented, contiguous communities entirely within the Abingdon Elementary School zone. The School Board is considering a proposal that would fragment our community by assigning students who live in South Fairlington to an elementary zone other than Abingdon. Fairlington is one cohesive, yet diverse, community. Major activities within the neighborhood don't draw lines between North Fairlington and South Fairlington. The Abingdon Street bridge links the two, rendering I-395 meaningless as a boundary. A steady stream of joggers, pet walkers, baby strollers, and kids go seamlessly back and forth between North and South along that bridge every day. The Fourth of July parade draws equally from all parts of the neighborhood. The race course for the annual Fairlington 5K, jointly sponsored by FCA and Abingdon Elementary, runs through both North and South. The Fairlington Farmers market serves the entire community; while the market is in South Fairlington, scores of North Fairlington residents walk to the market every Sunday, meeting with neighbors from across the neighborhood. Quite simply, people see themselves as members of one vibrant community, what I would call "One Fairlington." Maintaining the existing boundaries for those areas represented by FCA advances three key goals of the boundary realignment process: • Proximity. Abingdon is unquestionably the closest elementary school to all the residents of Fairlington. The South Fairlington Planning Unit is directly adjacent to Abingdon. No student in South Fairlington lives more

		<p>than 1 mile from Abingdon. Shifting students who live in South Fairlington will inevitably move them farther away from their school and their new classmates. • Transportation Efficiencies. Because of the closeness of Abingdon, many students from South Fairlington walk to school when the weather is good. The walk from all of South Fairlington crosses no major roads or other obstacles and features contiguous sidewalks for the entire distance. Assigning those students to another school will result in increased transportation costs (financial and environmental) for both county buses and private automobiles. • Community continuity and connectedness. Fairlington is one connected and cohesive community. It is an organic whole—One Fairlington. Shifting South Fairlington students to another school will weaken the fabric of the community, diminish the cohesiveness of the community, and disrupt social and educational connections that currently exist. It runs counter to the community-centric focus that Arlington has for years promoted. Major roadways separate South Fairlington from any other elementary school, so separating Fairlington into different zones will both increase the distance elementary and pre-school students must travel and make it more difficult for those students to be part of a larger school community after hours. Abingdon is a very diverse school, an attribute that Fairlington values. According to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), roughly 47 percent of Abingdon student are eligible for free or reduced lunch. Almost 50 percent of the students are classified as economically disadvantaged. VDOE numbers show that Abingdon is about 35 percent white, 38 percent Hispanic, and 11 percent African American. That diversity is embraced and is a source of pride within our community. Abingdon is truly a neighborhood school. That neighborhood is ALL of Fairlington. The students' classmates are their neighbors. Roughly a half dozen of the Abingdon faculty and staff live in Fairlington, with most of those living in South Fairlington. They see their students on the sidewalks and the courtyards, not just in the classroom. The community has strongly supported the school, endorsing the bond issue for Abingdon's renovation and financially supporting the Abingdon PTA (whose leadership is itself drawn from all parts of the neighborhood). Both North and South Fairlington had representatives on the BLPC and PFRC for the Abingdon renovation project. It is hard to imagine a school more firmly anchored in the community it serves. It does pretty much everything the literature says a neighborhood school should do. Accordingly, FCA strongly urges the School Board to keep all of Fairlington, Park Shirlington, and Shirlington House within the Abingdon Elementary zone. The FCA Board will be happy to meet with you or respond to questions to ensure that the final decisions will advance the educational opportunities of Fairlington students and contribute to the strong sense of community for which Fairlington is known. Sincerely, Guy Land President</p>
10/16/18	Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>Dear Arlington County Public School Leaders, You possess an incredibly difficult job in educating our children from every imaginable level – setting policies, determining academic standards, offering transportation in many different forms, amongst thousands of other conclusions made on behalf of our children. Making decisions during the boundary Elementary School Boundary Process is another difficult choice for you, the leaders. While I have not been able to attend any of the sessions in person, I appreciate the opportunity to provide written feedback during this process. As a South Fairlington family, I am writing to express concern about the potential of splitting North and South Fairlington between two elementary schools, and South Fairlington no longer attending Abingdon Elementary School. My first concern relates to proximity - we live half a mile from Abingdon, and this is incontestably the closest elementary school to us. This will move us further away from our school, Abingdon Elementary. Another concern of mine focuses on the efficiencies of the school district. Given that we do live so close to Abingdon, we would now need to be bused, adding additional transportation costs to</p>

the district, and our students will need to start their day even earlier as we would need to be transported past Abingdon to attend school. Currently, we technically have bus transportation services but do not utilize these. On beautiful days we can simply walk to school and don't need that service. A final concern involves contiguity and community. Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways deterring us from Abingdon. Moving the southern portion of Fairlington to Drew incorporates many significant roads and parks obstructing us from the school as well as the neighborhoods surrounding Drew. Also, the South Fairlington planning unit is already currently adjacent to Abingdon. Fairlington is one large community that has welcomed us in many ways – regardless of there being a north and south. We see many of our school friends at community events, the community center, on the playgrounds, and during parades (the Christmas fire truck is a favorite!). I appreciate the diversity that Fairlington brings to Abingdon. We indeed have built a community in and out of our schools, and I strongly urge that you, as our school leaders, will keep North and South Fairlington a part of the Abingdon School family. Sincerely, Jill Abbott

10/17/18

S. Fairlington
Redistricting

Dear Members of the School Board and Superintendent Murphy,

I am a fifteen year Fairlington resident and parent of two APS children [REDACTED]. I have nothing but praise for my children's educational experience in the APS system. Tonight I feel compelled to write you with respect to the proposal on October 10 at a School Board work session to create an attendance zone island by removing part of our neighborhood and sending kids to another school. I have thought very hard as to why South Fairlington would be selected among the criteria presented.

As I follow this development, I have learned that a strong argument has been made for "balancing demographics." Of course this community values diversity - that is part of what makes our school so attractive and why parents like me chose not to send our kids to choice schools that are less so. When I compare the data to adjacent elementary schools to Drew that are less diverse, it becomes even harder to understand the reasoning. I am wondering too if the school board has considered what happens to Abingdon's existing "balance" should you remove 140-150 Fairlington kids out of Abingdon.

I am sure you have received many letters from the community regarding how Fairlingtonians consider themselves ONE neighborhood - and one that has given so much support for this school. When the Fairlington Civic Association hosted its monthly meeting at Abingdon last February, turnout was overwhelming. In our neighborhood's All Fairlington Bulletin (monthly newsletter delivered to 3000 units) the article "Abingdon School Tour Delights Residents," featured School Board members Barbara Kanninen (then Chair) and Monique O'Grady, as well as County Board member Christian Dorsey extolling the virtues of when community and school work together, great things can happen. At no point would the concept of community mean that only half of Fairlington could attend the new school.

That is why I cannot understand the rationale for why the School Board would choose this particular neighborhood to split up. What message are school board members sending when they applaud a community's collective effort to improve their neighborhood school and then 8 months later consider breaking it apart? The school's recent successes are a result of an organic movement within

neighborhood over the course of 10-15 years.

This concept of community support is also reflected in one of the APS strategic goals adopted last June:

Goal: Strong and Mutually Supportive Partnerships

Develop and support strong connections among schools, families, and the community to broaden opportunities for student learning, development, and growth.

I also wanted to look at other schools in South Arlington, like Randolph and Hoffman-Boston - as these are also considered success stories of diverse schools. I pulled these from the APS website.

"The strong sense of community at Randolph is nurtured by the involvement of our PTA, business partners, neighbors and also by the community service our children provide to others."

"Hoffman-Boston Elementary School is the home of the All Stars, a global community that sets high student and staff expectations. It boasts a strong program of after-school choices for students and enjoys strong community and parent involvement.

And looking at the County Staff's Elementary School methodology based on School Board Policy B-2.1:

Stability and Contiguity considerations have little impact because no current elementary students in the schools involved have been part of a previous boundary process and the proposal eliminates an island from current boundaries. Alignment is addressed by examining elementary school to middle school patterns. Efficiency, proximity, and demographics have greater impact in proposal development. Efficiency and proximity are closely related to walkability and to the attempt to balance the percent utilization of each building. Demographics also impacts the boundary proposal; while it is difficult to balance the percentage of students receiving free and reduced lunch across the schools involved, staff seeks to bring the percentages closer to the county-wide average.

So what does this mean for the Abingdon-Fairlington connection? Why can't a school that is already 65% minority and 48% free and reduced lunch be able to continue its success story with a strong supportive community? Why create an island from current boundaries?

Lastly, I understand that there will be another boundary process in a few years. Why wouldn't you wait and approach it holistically when you have all the information?

* * See what the numbers are * in the new Fleet? * * * See what the numbers are * in the re-located Montessori program? * * * See

		<p>what numbers are at * Drew without Montessori? * * * See what the impact on * all schools will be after the new choice lotteries and transfer policies are in place? * *</p> <p>I would think this data would help you make a more informed and sustainable decision.</p> <p>I do not doubt for a moment how difficult this process is for you, but PLEASE take the time to carefully review these issues and look at all the data. From where I see it, you are creating more divisiveness within community and among two schools. There is an expression - If it ain't broke, don't try to fix it.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to read this.</p> <p>Dr. Edward Beck</p>
10/17/18	S.Fairlington Redistricting	<p>Good Morning Members of the School Board and Planning Committee,</p> <p>As a resident of North Fairlington, I am extremely concerned about the redistricting proposal that suggests moving the southern portion of my community, Fairlington, into another school district, Drew Elementary.</p> <p>When my husband and I moved here, everybody told me what a wonderful community we were moving into - and they were right! The people in Fairlington are a fantastic community and we have worked together over many years to build an engaged, vibrant community. Like many communities, a lot of community life centers around our local school.</p> <p>So, although we would remain in the Abingdon school district if the proposed boundary changes went through, over half of my daughter's friends would not. Kids need a certain amount of stability and taking away half of her friends isn't good for her or the other children who would be moving.</p> <p>In an area where parents and other community residents are burdened by heavy traffic and other logistical challenges, increasing school-related commuting times adds an undue burden for parents, children and ultimately the community. The current proposal would also take many of our more active parents out of our community, and I am not certain that they will continue to be active if they are at Drew. Like most parents in Fairlington, both my husband and I have full time jobs. And like many parents, we are lucky enough to work from home from time to time and on those days, I can often take an hour to help out at the school to help out in a classroom or do a PTA activity - if I had to travel 20 minutes or so each way to get to the activity, work for an hour, and travel 20 minutes back, I simply couldn't make it work. Similarly, I lead a Daisey troop, and I am typically running into the room as I come straight from work. I couldn't do it if the meeting took place 20 minutes away. Parents in our area are stressed, and adding a logistical burden would only decrease</p>

		<p>overall parental involvement.</p> <p>There is a lot of value in going to a school you can walk to (especially when the parents are walking with their kids), and the current redistricting plan would move kids who can walk to school - often with their neighbors - into neighborhoods where they can't do that. Every morning, I spend a few minutes talking to my neighbors, many of whom are from South Fairlington, and catching up on what is going on with our community. During these conversations, a lot of parents get nudged into helping out with the PTA or the Girl Scouts and they have a chance to touch base with the school principle and many of the teachers. Under the proposed redistricting plan, none of these interactions would continue to happen. There is both a social value to these interactions and a monetary value - as stronger communities tend to have fewer social problems that require monetary solutions.</p> <p>Because I really value my community connections and the friends that my daughter has made at school, I hope that you will reconsider and vote to preserve Fairlington as a community. I also hope that you will do this because, as a taxpayer, I am opposed to spending money to bus kids and put increased pressure on our already overburdened infrastructure.</p> <p>Thank you, Beth Jarrett</p>
10/17/18	S. Fairlington Redistricting	<p>Mr. Murphy, Your proposal to split up our 75 year old neighborhood is impressively bad. Is this the best idea you can come up with? If you go forward with this proposal families will move and it will be another epic fail for you. For your attempt to disrupt lives and futures to these residents is appalling. This neighborhood has been established for 75 years and you think its a good idea to change that? Are you for real?</p> <p>Impressively bad idea, 20 year Fairlington resident whose plans were to retire here.</p>
10/17/18	S. Fairlington Redistricting	<p>Dr. Murphy,</p> <p>I have been closely following the APS elementary school boundary process, and watched the last school board meeting (10/10/18) twice online. At the last meeting, it seemed that the school board became so distracted by the FRL numbers for two of the schools in the ongoing boundary process, that the reality of this demographics issue was lost in the discussion. One of the suggestions made by staff was to annex South Fairlington (Planning Unit 36130) to Drew to assist in reducing the FRL rates at Drew. However, a very simple look at the publicly available data on FRL at APS schools, clearly shows that annexing South Fairlington (Planning Unit 36130) would have disastrous effects on the FRL rates at Abingdon. If you look at the attached PDF chart (FRL Data Projection for Abingdon), the data shows that such move would increase to FRL rates at Abingdon to at least 60%.</p> <p>Looking at the data for the last five years, Abingdon's average FRL rate is 48%. Using the latest available data (2017), there were 668</p>

students at Abingdon, with 315 receiving FRL at a rate of 47.16%. Using common sense math, if you annexed the 141 students from South Fairlington (Planning Unit 36130) out of Abingdon, who do not receive FRL, the new FRL rate for the school would immediately jump to 59.77%. If you factor in new students coming from a new affordable housing unit that is about to come online in the Abingdon boundary zone, the FRL rate would jump to 63.26% for Abingdon. Annexing South Fairlington to Drew would be merely shifting children, which has great negative consequences in and of itself, to drive one FRL number down, while the other FRL number shoots up even higher. An old maxim sums it up best - "You can't rob Peter to pay Paul". The math and explanations of the data are all contained in the attachment.

The most important factor for you and the school board to consider is that the children at Abingdon are thriving. The leadership, teachers, and staff there are doing an incredible job. It is an incredibly diverse school in every way. Looking all of my daughter's class photos show a rainbow of children who are learning and working closely together. The high FRL rate clearly shows there is substantial demographic diversity, and children from 45 countries are represented at Abingdon. The school is the beating heart of our community and a shining example for other Arlington schools. The school is strongly supported by the Fairlington community, and it helps fund a substantial amount of the developmental and charitable programs for the school. The most students from any planning unit at Abingdon, come from South Fairlington (Planning Unit 36130)! These students are not part of the FRL rate! Annexing them from Abingdon, will tear that school and our neighborhood apart. You have a thriving and demographically balanced school here, how could any responsible decision maker consider messing with that?

These facts support a simple and easily articulable decision: Leave South Fairlington (Planning Unit 36130) at Abingdon. It's best for the children at the school and in the community, and it will ensure that the Abingdon FRL rate stays balanced. South Fairlington meets all of the common sense standards of proximity, contiguity, alignment, and efficiency, and the planning unit is immediately adjacent to Abingdon. All students in South Fairlington live between .3 and 1.0 miles to Abingdon, and it should have been designated as part of the expanded walk zone for the school. There is another neighborhood (Columbia Heights) that is literally across the street from the proposed boundary zone for Drew, which can assist Drew in organically growing that new neighborhood school, in all the ways the school board has identified, without other negative consequences.

My daughter [REDACTED], is a third grade student at Abingdon. We are thrilled with the school leadership, teachers, and staff, and the education that she is receiving. We love our Fairlington community, and moved here because it's a community like no other neighborhood in the entire metro area. We live in the South Fairlington, and oppose any consideration of annexing our part of the Fairlington community to another school in the strongest possible terms. There is wide support from the entire neighborhood for maintaining all of Fairlington at Abingdon. We have a petition which has gathered almost 1000 signature in a few days. I've never seen so many people so vocal or angry over any one issue than this particular one, in my 15 years of living in Arlington. If South Fairlington were annexed, it would be a very different political climate of angry voters in this large community for future local elections. I've attached a letter from the Fairlington Citizen Association, which represents 7,500 people in and around Fairlington. That letter

eloquently states numerous reasons for not annexing South Fairlington, so I will not repeat them here.

It's important for you to know that my daughter is receiving special education services at Abingdon. We have worked hard to set the conditions, so that she performing at grade level by the end of the school year. I truly believe that she has been progressing because of the relationships and trust that she has formed with her teachers at Abingdon. We have fought to ensure that school was a safe and comfortable place for her, and that she was happy to get up and go every morning. She has only two more years to go there before she will need to move on to middle school. Moving her to another school now is simply unfathomable. It would undue a lot of the work we have put in to ensure that she can learn and advance with her peers, and have a positive attitude about school. There is no way that the importance of this can be encapsulated by the "six factors" that the school board is considering.

You should also know that for two years Abingdon underwent major construction and a total renovation of the entire building. This process was very disruptive to all students there. While there is a history in Arlington of putting older students in trailers when space is at a premium, at Abingdon, all of the students (except the Kindergartners) were in trailers for a year! They had gym class in a double-wide! The library (with a limited book supply) was in a trailer. They had no playground, and the school field was housing all the trailers. There was constant construction noise just outside of all of the classroom trailers for a year! It's hard enough for kids to concentrate without jackhammers and construction equipment right outside your classroom. Regardless of how brutal the weather was, they had to go outside to attend specials in other trailers, or walk a considerable distance to get to the main cafeteria for lunch. There was an asbestos lock-down one day at school, and another day school was canceled because they needed to do extensive asbestos testing, to ensure that no one was exposed. After the school year ended, major construction went on until the morning the students returned to school for the new school year. The teachers had the meet your teacher event in the parking lot, because it was still unsafe to enter the building! Returning teachers quickly discovered that a large family of Raccoons had moved in to the school during the summer (the same summer of the Raccoon attacks in Fairlington), and they all had to be captured before teachers could set up their rooms. The noise and construction continued that year, so that they could finish the library and other key areas of the school, while the students were in school building. It finally stopped after the winter break 2017. If all of this isn't a major disruption, I don't know what is! It's not like the students who will be going to Fleet, who will just show up on the first day and the building will be new and ready. There is a big difference here! Part of the school board's consideration is not disrupting the lives of the students twice while attending elementary school. This was a major disruption that they had to endure. Abingdon students who had to endure the construction should be grandfathered into any boundary decisions, so that their elementary education is not twice disrupted. This group of students would be Abingdon second, third, and fourth graders. Since there is not currently an overcapacity issue at the school, and the school board staff have proposed grandfathering this year's fourth grade students anyway, the school could easily also provide this accommodation for current Abingdon second and third graders.

In the last school Board meeting, Ms. O'Grady stated that she thinks that diversity is a strength, and that our kids get a lot from being with kids with backgrounds from families who have different balance sheets, and that this will help make our kids ready for the 21st

century and for working with people of all different backgrounds. This is exactly what is happening at Abingdon right now! All of these pieces are in play. South Fairlington is an important part of this, and adds some of the demographic diversity that was stated as so important. Furthermore, the school board stated that they did not want to lose sight of the FRL issue. As I discussed in detail above, moving South Fairlington will skyrocket the FRL rate at Abingdon, and it will harm the aforementioned diversity, as it is the planning unit with the largest amount of students at Abingdon. There are other ways to assist Drew, without harming Abingdon. The Columbia Heights neighborhood is the best place to start looking.

V/R, Ross Hyams

10/17/18

S.Fairlington
Student Response

Dear Sirs and Madams,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am [REDACTED] and my little brother is [REDACTED]. I am in second grade and this is my third year at Abingdon. It would be very disruptive to my day and my routine to move to Drew because an important part of my day is walking to school with my mom and my brother. I also take Irish Step Dancing [REDACTED] and could not do that because Drew starts later. I also take gymnastics [REDACTED] and it would be too rushed to get there because Drew starts later and because of the traffic. All of my friends and teachers walk to school with me and this is my community and I want to stay at Abingdon please. This is my home. My neighbor used science and data to show I would have to ride the bus for the equivalent of 8 days in a whole school year when I could be using this time for walking and exercising. This is not a good idea for my time! Thank you.

[REDACTED] Second grader Abingdon

10/16/18

Keep S. Fairlington
at Abingdon

To whom it may concern: I am writing in regard to the recent school board discussion about the elementary school boundaries within the Fairlington neighborhood. While discussing potential revisions, certain members of the school board suggested splitting off the southern part of Fairlington from the rest of the Fairlington neighborhood and placing it within the boundaries for Drew Elementary School. I am opposed to separating the children of Fairlington into different elementary schools. My husband and I moved to Fairlington in 2010 with our two oldest children. We fell in love with the community, and especially with the neighborhood school that our children could walk or bike to. We now have one proud Abingdon graduate, two more currently enrolled, and a fourth who will begin kindergarten in 2022. We love that not only can we walk to and home from school as a family but that our children can practice the skills to walk to and from school independently. The fact that Abingdon is an easy, safe walk to and from our home in the southern portion of Fairlington, enables our children to develop independence, self-awareness, and a sense of their neighborhood. Many families within the southern part of Fairlington walk and bike to/from school every day, even though they are offered bus service, because of the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks. They do this because Abingdon is less than a mile from their homes. If rezoned to Drew Elementary School, all of the students from the southern part of Fairlington would have to be bused to school, thereby significantly increasing their commute to school and eliminating the opportunity for them to walk or ride their bikes to school. Further, this increase

in bus service demand would put a greater strain on APS transportation, increase transportation costs, and increase the time demands on bus services. Our community in Fairlington is connected by a pedestrian-friendly bridge over 395 and has no major parks or highways separating the southern portion from Abingdon. Alternatively, if rezoned to Drew, students from the southern part of Fairlington would have to cross multiple major roads and parks in their commute to Drew. Finally, the entire Fairlington community worked closely together, those with school-age children, those with younger children, and those without children, to advocate for Abingdon's much needed renovation. Abingdon students navigated the changes associated with ongoing construction for a year - learning in relocatables and not having a playground. Many of the current 2nd - 5th grade students attended school on a construction site during the 2016-2017 school year. My current 4th grader is one of those students. She is so excited to have been involved in the transformation of the school and feels an immense amount of pride in being able to attend her "new" school. Part of the beauty of Fairlington is the community. When families seek out a home, they often search for a place where their kids can have an active, engaged, and supportive community. And it is hard to find. We count ourselves as lucky to have found our community in Fairlington. Rezoning southern Fairlington into the Drew district would fray the bonds of community that we and our neighbors have worked so hard to build. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Rebecca Wyckoff Kim

10/16/18

Keep S. Fairlington at Abingdon

To whom it may concern: I am writing in reference to the meeting that will soon take place to determine if the children living in the Southern portion of the historic Fairlington neighborhood in Arlington, Virginia will be relocated for schooling purposes from the Abingdon school district to the Drew school district. We were recently made aware that this was a possibility. We learned of our return to the D.C. area approximately 13 months ago. As soon as possible, we began planning where to enroll my older daughter into daycare so that she would have a position near a school that she would attend the following year. Her baby brother also will require a spot in daycare next year. He will be allowed onto the top of the wait list for his sister's daycare due to sibling preference. Otherwise, children can be on daycare wait lists 1-2 years in advance before allowing admission. So next year, as his sister begins schooling at Abingdon, he will have a spot in a daycare near her school. This is imperative for commuting purposes as both my husband and I work. We planned to live in a home near both schools. I also am currently onboarding with a hospital that will employ me at the urgent care immediately outside of the South Fairlington neighborhood. Proximity of the children's school as well as my job and the length of bus commute to my husband's job in Rosslyn were all carefully thought out a year ago before moving to this area. Planning for this was in an effort to relieve the general traffic congestion in the D.C. area as well as to be able to spend quality time with our kids daily before and after school. We believe this to be incredibly important for children in general. Please consider not splitting up this neighborhood. If it must happen, please give at least a 1-5 years notice so that families can plan accordingly. In the NOVA area, we all must plan around the crowds and traffic very far in advance. Many families will decide not to live in the Southern portion of the neighborhood if it is known in advance that the school district will be located out of the neighborhood, walking distance. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely,

Kate Snodgrass

10/16/18	Keep Fairlington at One School	<p>Good evening, I am a homeowner in South Fairlington, and I have a two year old daughter that I was looking forward to walking to school at Abingdon one day. My neighbors rave about the school, and it is such a great part of the Fairlington community. I don't want my daughter to have to take the bus to school at Drew while her friends on the other side of Fairlington, who we play with at the Fairlington community center literally every day, get to go to Abingdon. Whether North or South, all Fairlington residents identify as Fairlington. We have parades together, farmers markets, share the community center, and constantly walk in the entire Fairlington neighborhood regardless of which side of 395 we are on. To divide Fairlington into separate schools seems like a sad way to divide the community. I had heard such great things about the community involvement at Abingdon, and I know part of that is because of the special atmosphere we have in Fairlington itself. I would hate to see my daughter have to go to a different school that does not have the same community feel. Please keep all of Fairlington together at Abingdon. Sincerely, Karen Chandler</p>
10/16/18	Keep Fairlington at One School	<p>Dear Dr. Murphy,</p> <p>I am writing out of concern with the boundary revision issue and its effect on Abingdon and South Fairlington. My family and I have lived in South Fairlington since we moved here from Arizona in 2012. My husband works for the U.S. Patent Office in Alexandria and I am a teacher at Thomas Jefferson Middle School in APS. We have three children [REDACTED] Our oldest currently attends Abingdon, and our four year old eagerly awaits the day that he will set foot in kindergarten at Abingdon.</p> <p>In my family we pride ourselves on living modestly and appreciating the beauty of family and community. Most families in the area head for the true suburbs once they have had children, citing lack of affordable space and a need for a yard for their kids to run free. As a family of five, we should be long gone to the outskirts of Northern Virginia. But Fairlington is our unique community, and Abingdon keeps us anchored here. We attend every back to school night, book fair, STEAM event etc by walking or biking across the bridge. It is a rare and impactful experience for our kids to bike or walk to their community school alongside the many teachers who live in Fairlington and work at Abingdon. Our children play with the children of Abingdon teachers, they see their teachers supporting Ellie at the Fairlington 5K every year, and we trick or treat at teachers' houses. This is an experience that should not be taken from the children who have grown to love and trust our community.</p> <p>My argument and the views of my community have nothing to do with the quality of education that we would receive at any other school. This is about keeping something in place that is working well, and that is supported by hard-working families. We have a new school within walking distance of everyone in North and South Fairlington. It is logical for North and South Fairlington to attend the neighborhood school that we care so much about. Before making a decision, I sincerely invite you to drive through Fairlington. It is one community.</p> <p>As an APS teacher, I respect that there are many issues at play here. Thank you for taking the time to consider my point of view.</p>

		<p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Megan Detweiler</p>
<p>10/15/18</p>	<p>Keep P Henry Boundaries Same for Fleet School</p>	<p>Dear School Board, County Board Members and Dr. Murphy,</p> <p>Please reconsider recent proposed changes to the boundaries for Fleet that do not include all of the current Henry planning units. If reducing the FRL rate is the new overall priority of APS, then it should be done uniformly across the county and not erratically, impacting only certain schools and neighborhoods. Furthermore, if the Board is going to reconsider the proposed boundaries in response to very recent community concerns with those boundaries, it must equally consider our community's steadfast support for boundaries that keep Henry together at Fleet. Please honor your previous statements regarding keeping the Henry Elementary community together at Fleet. Breaking us apart in an attempt for a quick fix to a county wide problem of unequal FRL rates is not an equitable solution.</p> <p>Best regards,</p> <p>Chris Gabel</p> <p>Patrick Henry parent</p>
<p>10/15/18</p>	<p>Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon</p>	<p>I, like many individuals in my community, am concerned about the recent school board discussion about the elementary school boundaries within the Fairlington neighborhood. While discussing potential boundary proposals, it was suggested that Fairlington could be divided and the southern part of Fairlington could be annexed by Drew Elementary School. I am opposed to separating the children of Fairlington into different elementary schools.</p> <p>Dividing the Fairlington community is ill-advised for a number of reasons.</p> <p>1. Proximity:</p> <p>a. Although the southern part of Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone" it remains within a 1-mile radius of Abingdon. Due to the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of students walk or bike to school from this part of Fairlington every day. My children are currently learning to ride their bikes in hopes of being among their friends and neighbors who already ride. Re-Zoning the Fairlington neighborhood to Drew Elementary would negate their ability to bike as it would not be safe nor convenient. Even if there were a "safe route" for them to bike to school they would not be able to physically navigate up and down the hills between their home and school.</p>

b. All students from the southern part of Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service in the neighborhood.

c. Transporting students from Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus every day. Many parents who seldom or never drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems.

2. Efficiency

a. Moving the population of the southern part of Fairlington to Drew will increase the transportation costs. Additional buses, needed for a longer period of time, would be required to move the majority of Fairlington's large student population over multiple non-walkable boundary roads.

3. Contiguity

a. Homes in the southern part of Fairlington currently have no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly street with sidewalks and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions.

b. There are several major barriers, including multiple major roads and parks, that effectively separate the community in Fairlington from Drew.

c. While it would be theoretically possible to make a corridor to give the impression of contiguity by including portions of Shirlington, such a corridor would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community around Drew.

d. The Fairlington planning unit in question is actually adjacent to Abingdon.

4. Disruption/Stability

a. The Fairlington community, including the families of Fairlington, was a primary advocate for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation. During the renovation, Abingdon students learned in relocatable classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt with the

		<p>noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) attended school on a construction site during the 2016-2017 school year and even had to be locked down (and subsequently miss a school day) due to a hazardous materials concern in the building.</p> <p>b. My children are particularly susceptible to this type of disruption. Having come out the other side of the construction they are finally in a physical and mental state where they have built up trust relationships with their teachers, school councilors, and the administrative staff at Abingdon Elementary.</p> <p>c. This construction and my children's personal susceptibility to it and other life event changes disrupted and would further to disrupt their education for a years to come. It would be unfair to submit these students to further disruption.</p> <p>When it comes to proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for these Fairlington families if moved to Drew.</p> <p>One final point I cannot state with enough urgency, Fairlington is one community. Our families work together to face our common challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have a 5K, a farmers market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. Many of us moved to Fairlington because we wanted our families to be communally engaged and there are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously as Fairlington. The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task-- I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved.</p> <p>Michael Schneider Parent of children attending Abingdon Elementary Fairlington Resident</p>
10/15/18	Keep P Henry Boundaries Same for Fleet School	<p>Dear School Board & County Board Members and Dr. Murphy,</p> <p>Ahead of the School Board's upcoming decision on new elementary boundaries, the Patrick Henry community is anxious and upset about how these changes may impact its move to Fleet Elementary in September 2019. To reference APS' own wording, "On April 7, 2016 the School Board identified Patrick Henry Elementary as the school community that will occupy the new elementary school." That Fleet would be the "New Elementary School for the Henry Community," is repeatedly referenced in nearly every presentation posted on Fleet's project website. Which leads me to ask, who does the School Board think the "Henry Community" is, if not the current students and families that attend, volunteer at and are dedicated to the National Blue Ribbon success of Patrick Henry?</p>

It's very troubling to see proposed boundary maps for Fleet that do not include all of the current Henry planning units. The proposed boundary map shared with the community on September 26, 2018 excluded two of Henry's Planning Units. Even more upsetting was the proposal from the October 10, 2018 work session which further eroded the Henry community, by removing southern planning units from Fleet and potentially zoning them to Drew Elementary. Why tear apart the Henry community and bus them to Drew? Apparently, it's because some School Board members instructed staff to change the proposed boundaries in an effort to reduce Drew's FRL rate. While reducing Drew's FRL rate is important, the process used for implementing that decision is not consistent with prior APS goals for redrawing school boundaries. For months, APS indicated that balancing all of its policy considerations at all schools was important. But as of October 10th, APS is prioritizing different policy considerations at different schools. For example, by preserving Randolph's boundaries, which keeps the FRL rate at 67% in exchange for an all-walkable school, the Board is showing that proximity is more important than diversity there. But by focusing on reducing the FRL rate at Drew, they are prioritizing demographics over all the other policy considerations.

If reducing the FRL rate is the new overall priority of APS, then it should be done uniformly across the county and not erratically, impacting only certain schools and neighborhoods. Furthermore, if the Board is going to reconsider the proposed boundaries in response to very recent community concerns with those boundaries, it must equally consider our community's months and months long adamant support for boundaries that keep Henry together at Fleet.

As the final decisions of moving Patrick Henry to Fleet are made, the Henry community has more than honored our part of the deal, living with construction at the Thomas Jefferson site and moving our children from their familiar, existing school. Please honor your part by keeping the Henry Elementary community together at Fleet instead of breaking us apart in an attempt for a quick fix to a county wide problem of unequal FRL rates.

Sincerely,

Ellen Gabe

10/15/18

Keep S. Fairlington at Abingdon

Hello Respected Board Members and Superintendent Murphy,

I am writing you to express my deep concern regarding the recent proposed changes to the Fairlington neighborhood school boundaries. This proposal has created an uproar with the local Fairlington Facebook page and there is much opposition to the idea. I will not go into why this is a bad idea for the community as I am sure that you are well aware of the arguments against the proposed changes however I would like to refer you to a change.org<<http://change.org>> petition that is gaining movement.

<https://www.change.org/p/keep-all-fairlington-students-at-abingdon-elementary-no-annexing-fairlington->

		<p>united?sfmc_tk=y%2b9mE5WZEKp6ZZ3GIZBa3PgO4nyZ q3%2f1%2fkZdpRtlkqCenwiS%2fhcCea%2fy%2bGR3dlH8&share_context=signature_receipt&u tm_medium=email&utm_source=petition_signer_receipt_pp1&utm_campaign=triggered&j= 438476&sfmc_sub=1575419597&l=32_HTML&u=65612910&mid=7233052&jb=33656</p> <p>This issue is important to those in the community and important enough that it will effect our vote during the next election. Please do what is best for the neighborhood and keep the boundaries as is.</p> <p>Thank you have a great day. -- Derek Fronabarger</p>
<p>10/16/18</p>	<p>Keep South Fairlington at Abingdon</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>First of all I want to thank you all for your work on behalf of all Arlingtonians. I know it is a challenge to do any re-zoning project and there are a diversity of opinions and values to consider.</p> <p>As the mother of a two-year-old and a South Fairlington homeowner, I learned with alarm that APS is considering moving South Fairlington out of the Abingdon zone.</p> <p>Abingdon is an anchor of the Fairlington community, north and south. My daughter is 2 and she regularly plays at the playground adjacent to the school, I ran the 5k this spring and she and my husband came to cheer me on, we know families whose older children go there. We have watched with excitement as the school has begun to take advantage of its recent renovations.</p> <p>I know that Proximity is one of the key values in the re-zoning process. When I reviewed the PowerPoint presentation on considerations for re-zoning, I was surprised to see that we are not in the "expanded walk zone" for Abingdon (slide 9). Our home (3356 S. Wakefield St.) is half a mile from Abingdon. The walk is pleasant and short and all within what we consider "our" neighborhood. It seems reasonable to think that a walk that any 7- or 8-year-old could take alone should be considered "proximate" for purposes of re-zoning.</p> <p>Another key value, Contiguity, would be totally thwarted by removing us from Abingdon. South Fairlington is a unique corner of Arlington bordered by North Fairlington on one side and by Alexandria on *all other sides.* This means that separating our neighborhood from Abingdon would slice us off from our *only* Arlington neighbors. We would be forced to send our kids to school much farther away and totally unwalkable from our homes.</p> <p>The unique architecture, layout, and history of the community is such that all of Fairlington truly functions as a unified neighborhood. We share the Fairlington Community Center, including the farmers' market and soccer field and the soon-to-be-renovated playground.</p>

		<p>We share Shirlington village, its library and shops and movie theater. We share the Fairlington Babysitting Co-op, of which we are members and through which we have become friends with North Fairlington families. And we share Abingdon. We are friends and neighbors. It would be counter to the APS key values and to the spirit of community to change our school zone.</p> <p>Please keep Fairlington united and keep South Fairlington in the Abingdon zone.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Helen Vera and Paul McLaughlin</p>
<p>10/16/18</p>	<p>Keep Fairlington Community at Abingdon</p>	<p>Dear Members of the Arlington Public Schools School Board; Members of the Boundary Planning Committee; and Mr. Patrick Murphy, Arlington Public School Superintendent:</p> <p>While our children are now adults, we are writing to oppose, and strongly object to, the proposed moving of Abingdon Elementary School students who live in South Fairlington to Drew Elementary School. Our reactions to your proposal follow.</p> <p>We are stunned that you would propose to take this step on top of the stress placed on these young students during the recent renovation of Abingdon Elementary School. You all know better than most the importance of stability in young lives. Reconsider your proposal with the Fairlington children as the priority.</p> <p>Our outrage was immediate when we saw you proposing to move in opposition to ALL principles of healthy community management. In this case, you are proposing to separate a community that has worked tirelessly to keep itself whole. Fairlington is a community that has overcome what most communities cannot. Fairlington has overcome an 8-lane Interstate Highway right through the middle of the community. Shame on you for proposing an action that will undermine the decades of work by parents and community leaders to keep our neighborhood together. You should be doing the opposite and celebrate and keep whole the Fairlington community.</p> <p>Reconsider your proposal and leave Fairlington children together at Abingdon Elementary School. We absolutely will remember your individual final actions when we next vote. We will remember your final decision.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Ann Bowman Smith and Richard M. Smith</p>

10/16/18	Keep S. Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I am writing in regards to the recent school board discussion of elementary school boundaries within the Fairlington neighborhood. I am opposed to separating children from the southern part of Fairlington from Abingdon Elementary to Drew Elementary for several reasons:</p> <p>1. Walk-ability! - With contiguous sidewalks a significant number of students from the southern part of Fairlington walk or ride their bikes/scooters to school. - Busing children past their local school to another school would put unnecessary strain on the APS and/or would increase traffic for those parents who would have to drive their children to school. - In this day & age when childhood obesity is at an all time high why would you want to take walking to school away from children? - 395 is not a Fairlington "boundary". Again, the great sidewalks we have make it easy to walk across the bridge to school.</p> <p>2. Fairlington is one community! - We share parks & pools, a 5k specifically for a member of the community, farmers market, parades for holidays & so much more. - The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged with over 1,500 voters (between two voting stations), we nearly double other civic associations in the county. Abingdon's community (of both the north and south sides of Fairlington) should be something APS strives for when building school zones.</p> <p>Thank you, Taryn Habberley Proud Fairlington parent</p>
10/16/18	Keep S. Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>Dear Arlington County School Board,</p> <p>I am a resident of South Fairlington and I writing in regard to the recent school board discussion about the elementary school boundaries within the Fairlington neighborhood. While discussing potential boundary proposals, it was suggested that Fairlington could be divided and South Fairlington could be annexed by Drew Elementary School. I am opposed to separating the children of Fairlington into different elementary schools. Dividing the Fairlington community is ill-advised for a number of reasons. 1. Proximity: a. Although South Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone" it remains within a 1 mile radius of Abingdon. Due to the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of students walk or bike to school from South Fairlington every day. b. All students in South Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because the walk would be neither practical nor safe for children. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service to the neighborhood. c. Transporting students from South Fairlington to Drew would significantly lengthen the amount of time that kids spend on the bus every day. Many parents who seldom or never drive their children to Abingdon would likely choose to drive their children to Drew, increasing congestion in an area already burdened with traffic problems. 2. Efficiency a. Moving the full South Fairlington population to Drew will increase the transportation costs. Additional buses, needed for a longer period of time, would be required to move the majority of South Fairlington's large student population over multiple non-walkable boundary roads. 3. Contiguity a. South Fairlington currently has no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly street with sidewalks and does not require crossing</p>

		<p>guards to maintain safe walking conditions. b. There are several major barriers, including multiple major roads and parks, that effectively separate the community in South Fairlington from Drew. c. While it would be theoretically possible to make a corridor to give the impression of contiguity by including portions of Shirlington, such a corridor would be artificial compared to the natural proximity of communities that are actually contiguous with the community around Drew. d. The South Fairlington planning unit is actually adjacent to Abingdon. 4. Disruption/Stability a. The Fairlington community, including the families of South Fairlington, was a primary advocate for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation. During the renovation Abingdon students learned in relocatable classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) were affected by the ongoing construction during the 2016-2017 school year and even had to be locked down (and subsequently miss a school day) due to a hazardous materials concern in the building. b. This construction disrupted their education and it would be unfair to submit these students to further disruption. When it comes to proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for South Fairlington families if moved to Drew. One final point I cannot state with enough urgency, Fairlington is one community. Our families work together to face our common challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have a 5K, a farmers market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. Many of us moved to Fairlington because we wanted our families to be communally engaged and there are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously as Fairlington. The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Abingdon's community of North and South Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task-- I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Randal Black</p>
10/16/18	Keep Fairlington One Community at Abingdon	<p>This is an extremely important issue, so I appreciate your time. I am an 18-year Fairlington resident and a parent of two young children who attend Abingdon. I am writing in regard to the recent school board proposal about the elementary school boundaries within our Fairlington neighborhood. Discussed potential boundary proposals, It was suggested that Fairlington could be divided and the southern part of Fairlington could be annexed by Drew Elementary School. I am opposed to separating the children of Fairlington. I understand that demographics and economic diversity are important considerations for the Board. I love that Fairlington has the economic and cultural diversity that it does. However, I am concerned that in the effort to balance another school's demographics the Board would inadvertently increase Abingdon's free and reduced meals (FARMS) levels significantly. This is not the best choice, especially when an alternative solution is available that would keep Abingdon's FARMS under 50%, while also bring Drew's percentage of FARMS down. The proposal to annex South Fairlington will harm Abingdon and the Fairlington community where other options will benefit Drew, without a detriment to the annexed neighborhood. Abingdon is a Title I school that has been struggling to keep its head above water for years. It is economically and culturally diverse. Which is one of the best things about it. The faculty at Abingdon teaches our kids that our</p>

differences are what make us special. Last year, the percentage of children receiving FARMS at Abingdon was over 47%. Annexing the south side of Fairlington students out of the school (1/3 of the non-FARMS students), would increase its FARMS rate to 60% or more. Secondly, Abingdon is in Fairlington. It is less than 1 mile from my house and it is our neighborhood school. Although the southern part of Fairlington falls outside the "walk zone" it remains within a 1-mile radius of Abingdon. Due to the walkable streets with contiguous sidewalks, a significant number of students walk or bike to school from this part of Fairlington every day. I have two children at Abingdon and we frequently walk or ride our bikes to the school instead of taking our assigned bus. We can ride from our home on the south side of Fairlington to Abingdon in 4 minutes. It's a great way to start the day. If the south side of Fairlington is annexed, all students from the southern part of Fairlington would need to be bused to Drew because the walk would not be safe and the distance would be too far. This would put a greater strain on APS transportation and would likely require that APS expand bus service in the neighborhood, which last year was a problem because of a shortage of buses and bus drivers. We moved to Fairlington to avoid that very thing because it is convenient to their school and so many other things! I hate the idea of my kids and their friends sitting on longer bus rides in the morning and afternoon. That just wastes time that they could be playing with friends, doing homework or extracurricular activities, unwinding from a busy day or spending time with family. If we wanted our kids to spend a lot of time on a bus we would have moved farther out to Fairfax, or Prince William. I grew up in the country and my bus ride was extremely long and awful. Relatedly, busing all of the kids from the south side to Drew is inefficient and will increase the transportation costs. Additional buses, needed for a longer period of time, would be required to move the majority of Fairlington's large student population over multiple non-walkable boundary roads. More buses on the roads for longer trips causes more traffic on residential streets, more wear and tear on the roads and more pollution. All of those are things that the Board could and should avoid during this redistricting process. Also, contiguity-homes in the southern part of Fairlington have no major parks or highways separating them from Abingdon. The "boundary" of 395 is a pedestrian-friendly street with extra-wide sidewalks on both sides, bike lanes and does not require crossing guards to maintain safe walking conditions. In contrast, there are several major barriers, including multiple major roads and parks, that separate the community in Fairlington from Drew. It's much farther! Your proposal makes no sense to me. I haven't seen any pros to this proposal at all. Taking a piece of a model school and throwing it into another doesn't make two model schools. The Fairlington planning unit in question is adjacent to Abingdon. Recall in February when you attended the FCA meeting which included a showcase of the newly renovated building. The Board lauded the project as a success story of the neighborhood and the school coming together to create a beautiful new school for all of the community's children to learn in. It is important to remember that the Fairlington community was a primary advocate for Abingdon's much-needed school renovation. My daughter literally learned to read in a construction zone. During the renovation Abingdon students learned in relocatable classrooms, went without a playground, and dealt with the noise of construction for a year. Many of the students currently at Abingdon (2nd through 5th graders) attended school on a construction site during the 2016-2017 school year and even had to be locked down (and subsequently miss a school day) due to a hazardous materials concern in the building. My daughter was in kindergarten at the time and moved classrooms multiple times during the year to accommodate the construction schedule. This was incredibly inconvenient, especially for the youngest students who need consistency most of all. The stress was so great that I dropped her off and picked her up for the remainder of the school year instead of riding the bus. This construction disrupted their education and it would be unfair to submit these students to further disruption. To deprive them

		<p>of the opportunity to continue to go to the beautiful school that they advocated for, supported and were inconvenienced by is not acceptable. When it comes to demographics, proximity, efficiency, disruption/stability, and contiguity there are no gains and significant losses for APS, Abingdon and these Fairlington families if moved to Drew. One final point that cannot be overstated, Fairlington is one community. It is special and unique: there is nothing like it in Arlington or even the Metro DC area. Anyone who has spent any time here knows that to be true. And that's why we decided to live here. We wanted the community: the civic activism, the community center and the neighborhood school. Our houses are tiny and our plumbing is old and terrible, but we love this place. Our families work together to face our common challenges, our children share parks and pools, we have a 5K race, a farmers market, summer swim teams, and parades to mark our holidays. Many of us moved to Fairlington because we wanted our families to be communally engaged. There are few neighborhoods in Arlington that take the responsibility of community engagement as seriously as Fairlington. The Fairlington Civic Association is very active and engaged, and with two voting stations with over 1500 voters on each side, we nearly double every other civic association in the county. Abingdon's community of Fairlington should be an example of what APS strives for when creating school zones. Building a community around a school is a difficult task-- I hope that APS will realize that when an invested community exists, it is critical that it be preserved. Thank you, Matt Boucher</p>
<p>10/16/18</p>	<p>Keep South Fairlington One Community</p>	<p>Greetings -</p> <p>Please find attached a letter from the Board of Directors of the Fairlington Commons Council of Co-Owners regarding proposed school boundary changes potentially affecting Abingdon Elementary School.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Andrea Solarz, President Board of Directors Fairlington Commons Council of Co-Owners</p>
<p>10/16/18</p>	<p>Keep S.Fairlington at Abingdon</p>	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>I am writing in regards to the potent redistricting of South Fairlington from Abingdon to Drew.</p> <p>As a parent of young children who will enter APS shortly, I am concerned that if my child is redistricted they will not be able to walk or bike to school.</p> <p>Currently we live less than a mile from Abingdon. Our hope was that our children could walk or bike to school without crossing any major roads. They would have to pass over the 395 neighborhood bridge which I consider safe with its high fencing, bike lane and wide sidewalks.</p>

		<p>If sent to Drew, the distance would be twice what it is to Abingdon and require the crossing of two major roads.</p> <p>Please consider this request for all children in South Fairlington who could walk this saving the county additional busses.</p> <p>Best,</p> <p>Sarah Glsriel</p>
<p>10/13/18</p>	<p>Proximity Between Planning Units and Elementary Schools</p>	<p>I am writing regarding the elementary school boundary process in South Arlington. I know that one of the objectives in establishing new elementary school boundaries is to ensure that students remain in as close proximity as possible to their assigned school in order to maintain safe walking conditions and the shortest possible bus ride.</p> <p>After mapping the closest and the farthest houses in both the southern portion of Fairlington (planning unit 36130) and the Columbia Heights neighborhood (planning units 46010, 46011, 46130, 46133, 46132, and 46120) to the nearest school options, I've arrived at the following proximity breakdown:</p> <p>Closest House to Abingdon</p> <p>Farthest House to Abingdon</p> <p>Closest House to Drew</p> <p>Farthest House to Drew</p> <p>Closest House to Fleet</p> <p>Farthest House to Fleet</p> <p>Southern Fairlington</p> <p>.3 miles</p> <p>1 mile</p>

1.4 miles

2.1 miles

N/A

N/A

Columbia Heights

N/A

N/A

.6 miles

1.4 miles

.8 miles

1.6 miles

There are several conclusions that can be drawn from this data:

1. All of southern Fairlington is within 1 mile of Abingdon. This is an area that by county standards can receive a walk designation. The walk from all of southern Fairlington crosses no major roads or other obstacles and features contiguous sidewalks for the entire distance. It would not be unreasonable for the county to expand the walk designation for Abingdon to include southern Fairlington in order to save transportation costs.

2. Columbia Heights is closer to Drew Elementary than it is to Fleet. A portion of the Columbia Heights neighborhood would be within walking distance of Drew (without considering the necessity of crossing Glebe Road).

3. The farthest house in Columbia Heights from Drew would be equidistant with the closest house in southern Fairlington to Drew. In other words, all of Columbia Heights is closer to Drew than any of southern Fairlington.

		<p>4. None of southern Fairlington is within walking distance of Drew. Furthermore, walking conditions between the entire southern Fairlington community and Drew involve multiple major obstacles. Perhaps most significantly, while a pedestrian and bike friendly bridge spans 395 between southern Fairlington and Abingdon, there is no easily walkable or clearly safe highway crossing between southern Fairlington and Drew.</p> <p>The proposal to send the children of southern Fairlington to Drew fails the test of proximity: the distance for even the closest parts of the community are not reasonably walkable, the route crosses several significant obstacles and is not uniformly safe for walking and biking children, and bus rides would be significantly longer than the current bus to Abingdon. Furthermore, by keeping southern Fairlington within the Abingdon boundaries, the county has the option of expanding the walk zone to ease demands on county transportation.</p> <p>This data also demonstrates that in terms of proximity, Columbia Heights does provide a suitable alternative, if the boundary committee is looking to add additional planning units to Drew Elementary. When considered against the criteria against of creating demographic diversity within schools, adding Columbia Heights to Drew would also reduce the total F&RL percentage at Drew, without causing a significant spike in the F&RL rate at Fleet. (Shifting southern Fairlington to Drew would also reduce the F&RL rate at Drew, but would also result in a significant increase of the F&RL rate at Abingdon to approximately 60%.)</p> <p>In this case, both the criteria of proximity and diversity suggest that adding Columbia Heights to Drew Elementary School is a much more in line with the county's boundary priorities than incorporating southern Fairlington into Drew. Southern Fairlington is most proximate to Abingdon, where it also serves to maintain Abingdon's demographic diversity (as measured by the F&RL rate).</p> <p>Sincerely, Mike Rosenberger</p>
10/13/18	Boundary Changes for Drew Elementary	<p>Hi there,</p> <p>Wanted to provide my opinion, as a mother of two little ones who will attend Abingdon Elementary School in the next 4 years. Please consider sending Columbia Heights neighborhood to Drew. Logistically, it makes the most sense. They are closest to Drew, and one of the more diverse socioeconomic neighborhoods. Some families may be resistant to change and not want to be zoned for Drew because of its ranking or current demographics. But those reasons are not acceptable. Years from now, the Board should be proud they stood by their decision to do what is best for Drew and not cave to families protesting. Some of my neighbors are fighting to keep Fairlington United. And while I agree the southern associations should stay zoned for Abingdon, it is purely logistical. Fairlington is not as close to Drew as Columbia Heights. Moving these students would cause more need for transportation and cause more traffic.</p>

		<p>Thank you for considering.</p> <p>Jenni Hogan</p>
<p>10/14/18</p>	<p>Concerns with October 10 Presentation</p>	<p>All,</p> <p>I will have several comments concerning the unfolding boundary process, but hope it is easiest for you to take into account each of my comments if I separate them into several emails. Please also know that I respect you as staff and appreciate that you are under very difficult time constraints and directives. I will be emailing my comments directly to the board members as well, as they are the ones directing you to reformulate your considered work. None of that is meant as a criticism of the professional staff!</p> <p>I have concerns that the presentation given to the Board at October 10's working group was inaccurate because it did not account for any feedback from the Henry community in support of the proposed boundaries as they were drawn. I know I expressed that support and believe others did as well. It is certainly the case that the support has been expressed over the last nine months, publicly and often. For the presentation to omit that fact leaves the impression that there are concerns at other schools, but no countervailing support for the boundaries to the extent they include most of the Henry units at Fleet. I find that misleading, inaccurate, and dangerous, as it invites Board action on erroneous data. APS designed a community engagement calendar that began last Spring. The Henry community has worked tirelessly to engage in the process as designed by the county. To entirely ignore Henry's concerns/comments/support is a serious mistake that should be corrected immediately and publicly, with an accompanying explanation of how it IS taking into account the community's input. If that is not done, to me at least, it reveals that while the Board SAYS is is concerned about the community's input, it arbitrarily ignores that input at critical decision-making stages.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lisa</p>
<p>10/17/18</p>	<p>Responses to Emails</p>	<p>Dear School Board Members -</p> <p>There are many in my community that have not received any responses to our emails and we are growing increasingly concerned that "what we heard" is not all of our letters. Some have, some haven't.</p> <p>Can you confirm that you are reading all of our messages?</p> <p>Thank you,</p>

		Jennifer
10/14/18	Impact of PU 36310 on Abingdon	<p>Good evening everyone -</p> <p>For the most part, I am no stranger to several of you. I have served two years as PTA co-president at Abingdon, 1.5 yrs + as BLPC Chair for the school's renovation and construction, as well as the Abingdon representative on the South Arlington Working Group. I have been an active and engaged parent to my two APS kids of which I am very proud.</p> <p>My civic engagement was not and is not limited to the school. I was a co-founder and Vice President of the Fairlington MOMs Club, served on the board of the county administered Fairlington Cooperative Playgroup and about to complete my second year as a board member on the Fairlington Citizens Association. I have lived in Fairlington for 15 years, on both the "north" and "south" side (not realizing such a distinction mattered). I am proud of my commitment to this neighborhood and community.</p> <p>All that to say...I know my neighborhood and my school very well.</p> <p>On October 10, the same day my 8 year old scootered to school on Bike and Walk to School Day (no more than 10 minutes), when the School Board was holding its work session, I was at our monthly civic association meeting. At our meeting, Virginia House of Delegates representative, Mark Levine, commended Fairlington for its civic engagement and its remarkable voter participation rate. I have heard County Board members and other Virginia politicians echo those same sentiments at previous meetings. The irony of the School Board's consideration to move South Fairlington out of Abingdon was not lost on me.</p> <p>I write you today, not in a PTA or FCA official capacity but as a resident and parent with a vested interest in the wellbeing of my school and community.</p> <p>I am aware of the letters you have received from Fairlington residents and I no doubt realize you are receiving similar ones from other groups.</p> <p>So I am trying to put myself in your position. If I were on the School Board and charged with making new school attendance zones, how would I approach it? What criteria would matter to me?</p> <p>I think I would start by assessing each planning unit that is being considered re-zoned for Drew.</p> <p>What role does a given planning unit have in its current school community? What would it mean to that school community if that</p>

planning unit were to be removed? For the past 12 years (as far back as I know), planning unit 36130 (South Fairlington) has represented between 25% to 75% of the PTA leadership. Every year. These past three years, South Fairlington has represented 60% to 75% of the PTA's board. When Abingdon's Project GIFT was being considered for elimination, it was a group of Fairlington families (led by South Fairlington PTA co-president) that led the charge with petitions and advocacy to save it. When the school was up for CIP consideration for renovation and construction, the parents involved with leading the advocacy charge were from Fairlington (both sides). In terms of PTA involvement (membership and volunteerism), planning unit 36310 does more for Abingdon than many other planning units combined. That should count for something.

Having been PTA co-president, I can share with you that monetary contributions from planning unit 36310 is disproportionately higher than other planning units zoned in the school. As a Title 1 school, this means that those monies go to things like buying winter coats and eyeglasses, purchasing Thanksgiving dinners for families and supporting after school programs like Kids Cardinal Club mentoring program. The PTA provides much needed resources for certain members of the school community. Not all PTAs that are adjacent to Drew must make these careful financial allocations, nor do they serve as large a proportion of students on free and reduced lunch. By removing this critical source of funding and involvement, there will be an adverse effect on the school and its students. That should count for something.

What will the impact be for moving a given planning unit to a new school? Fair to say, most everyone wants to stay in their current neighborhood school. No one wants to leave! That is a great testament to the APS school system. With that in mind, I would then ask myself, what connection does this planning unit have to the neighborhood of its existing school that they so badly want to remain part of? You have read enough letters by now, including FCA's powerful letter, on how Fairlington residents see themselves as one community and one neighborhood, with Abingdon in it. How does this compare to other planning units under consideration? Would other planning units feel the same loss of connection to their (current) school's neighborhood?

How will accessibility to a new school impact the planning unit? What is the difference for this planning unit between transportation to school now vs. at a proposed re-zoned school? The majority of planning unit 36310 lives within 1 mile of Abingdon. All sidewalks. Only stop signs. No traffic lights. There are no other planning units outside of Abingdon's current walking zone that can claim this. That should count for something.

Moving planning unit 36310 to Drew involves 4 traffic lights and a traffic circle that VDOT is reviewing for safety OR take you past Abingdon to get to there. The difference between getting to these two schools is stark. I would urge you to compare these differences when looking at other planning units like 48060 (distance to Oakridge vs Drew) and 46132 (distance to Fleet vs Drew.) as well as other planning units within Abingdon's current school boundary.

As you are aware, the school is 45-50% free or reduced lunch and 35% white. The student body is composed of 45 countries. Diversity

		<p>is embraced and celebrated at the school. I do not feel like I need to elaborate on the merits of these statistics.</p> <p>Lastly, I would like to point out that many Abingdon staff call Fairlington home. In fact, five live in planning unit 36310. Four of them have children that attend or plan to attend the school. It is a pretty compelling argument that these teachers have chosen to live in a community in which they work...and send (or want to send) their kids there. That should count for something.</p> <p>It is my sincere hope that you carefully ask yourself these questions -</p> <p>1. What impact and role does a given planning unit have to its school community and what would be the impact should it be removed? 2. What connection does a given planning unit have to the neighborhood in which the school is located? 3. What is the differential (net travel gain or loss time) between keeping a planning unit within its existing school boundary and a new school? 4. What does it mean when APS staff call a given planning unit home and want to send their kids to the same school?</p> <p>Please think carefully about these questions and the planning units under consideration.</p> <p>Planning unit 36310 is more than a number. It is part of a strong community that is closely interwoven into the fabric of Abingdon. You will hurt neighborhood and school by taking South Fairlington out of Abingdon.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jennifer Davies</p>
10/14/18	Applying Priorities Uniformly	<p>Subject: Moving the Goal Posts</p> <p>School Board Members and Staff,</p> <p>The proposed boundaries that you released a few weeks ago made a lot of sense and showed that you were listening to the community. As a member of the Patrick Henry Community and Fort Meyer community, I didn't like that you broke a piece of Henry off to Hoffman-Boston or sent the Fort Meyer kids to Hoffman Boston, but I understand compromise.</p> <p>I was the SEPTA Representative to the Fleet BLPC. My wife was on the Fleet naming committee and the Walkability committee. You put out your priorities--Walkability and efficiencies. Your proposed boundaries met that. We filled out the endless surveys and participated in all the meetings that were held.</p>

Now you decide at a working meeting in October that you are going to play chess with a few planning units from Fleet or Abingdon and just move them to Drew to "fix" the FARMS rate at Drew. You are the king and queen and we are your pawns. Drew (60%) has a lower FARMS rate than Randolph (67%), but you don't plan to change Randolph boundaries. 67% FARMS is ok if you don't make noise.

Based on my experience to date with APS, I have questioned your transparency since the first CIP meeting I attended in 2012. I really questioned your transparency during the BLPC and Naming process. Those felt like you wanted people to rubber stamp your plans. Then you came out with your proposed boundaries and I was shocked that you kept your promise that Mr. Goldstein delivered to the BLPC that the boundaries would expand not change or contract.

You moved the Goal Posts on us at the last minute and made this about fixing FARM rates at one school and not your highest FARM school. If this is a new top priority, look at Randolph and the rest of the schools. You have punted on your duty to look at this holistically across the County. You backed away from looking at all boundaries. If you want to fix FARM rates, look at all the boundaries across the County.

My wife and I will be at the debate on Monday and at your meeting on Wednesday. You need to be accountable to all the people. Your use permit to build Fleet required you to tell the county where the kids were coming from. The county planner then told me that the County has no recourse to make the school board follow the rules. You were also going to announce the new boundaries in September. I am very interested to hear from Mr. Vihstadt and Mr. De Farenti their view of the County Staff and whether they hold everyone to standards of if they allow their Staff to pick and choose who has to follow the rules. I am also interested in Ms Talento explaining the new view on Boundaries.

Thank you for your time,

Joe Everling

10/14/18

Fairlington
Boundary Change

Dear Ms. Talento,

Hello, my name is Will Steinmetz and I'm a resident who lives in the Fairlington neighborhood. First of all, thank you for serving on the school board and promoting APS. The strong school system in Arlington is a principal reason why my wife and I purchased a home here, as we have a five-year-old in kindergarten and a three-year-old in preschool.

To that point, I am emailing to voice my strong displeasure with the initiative to shift the south section of Fairlington away from Abingdon Elementary. I'm not going to provide arguments focused on property values or bus route efficiencies; I know that many other Arlington property owners deal with redistricting and that there won't be a dramatic change in bus expenses.

What I will argue, however, is that the *cohesiveness of Fairlington* (north and south) as a community and that *community's synergy with Abingdon Elementary* is well-established and special. In essence, what we have now is something that any community in this country would aspire to have.

Just yesterday we walked to the in north side of Fairlington to visit the fire station and to attend the Fairlington Fall Festival. This morning we walked through the Fairlington Farmer's Market with the rest of our neighbors from across Fairlington. We'll be trick-or-treating throughout the neighborhood in a couple weeks, and we'll be in north Fairlington for the Christmas party in December. Before construction began, we were always at the Community Center's playground, connecting with families across the neighborhood, including those who go to school with our son. We've taught our kids how to ride scooters/bikes on the track next to Abingdon Elementary. In essence, the 395 bridge (which APS has drawn as a hard boundary) is anything but that.

Finally, I'll close noting that I (and many of our neighbors) had been following the boundary proposal process from September - the proposals consistently had all of Fairlington designated to Abingdon - so I did not feel the need to provide write in during the open comment period. Early last week when the new "October Revision" documents were uploaded, I was shocked to find that on slide 36, there was a new consideration to move South Fairlington to Drew. I'm disappointed that the boundary planning commission would make such a dramatic change (that will have a tremendous effect on our community) after the comment period closed!

Fairlington is one of the most unique communities in Arlington and in the United States. Our architecture, history, and community organizations support the synergy of our community - this synergy supports Abingdon and Arlington Public Schools. Please do not destroy what makes us unique.

Thank you considering my points.

Best, Will Steinmetz

10/14/18

Fairlington
Boundary Change

Dear Ms. O'Grady,

I am writing in regard to the Elementary School boundary process. I noticed that in the most recent documents that were released on the Engage APSVA website ("October Revised"), there is a suggestion that the southern side of Fairlington could be divided from the northern side of Fairlington. The south pointing to Drew while the north pointing to Abingdon. I am strongly opposed to this destruction and division of our community!

Fairlington is a special community that unites around one school. It is the fabric of our community. My friends and neighbors throughout

Fairlington send their children to Abingdon - we connect through and in this experience. As one community, we support Abingdon providing a "partnership" to the school that the School Board, and APS at large, should value and protect.

In acknowledging the consideration for the boundary process, please consider the following:

Proximity & Efficiency - although the southern part of Fairlington falls outside the walkable zone, most of it remains within 1 mile of Abingdon. Every morning there is a significant amount of walking traffic across the 395 bridge to Fairlington. I walk my son [REDACTED] frequently with friends and neighbors across this bridge to Abingdon. If you annex South Fairlington, all students in our planning unit will need busing to Drew, increasing transportation costs and congestion.

Contiguity - there are no major boundaries that separate South Fairlington from Abingdon. The 395 bridge is pedestrian friendly with large sidewalk space and no need for crossing guards. Moving South Fairlington to Drew would create several significant boundaries (parks, major roadways, etc.) between residents and the school. Furthermore, Abingdon would remain the closest school by distance and proximity for South Fairlington residents.

Abingdon is a part of our neighborhood, annexing South Fairlington to Drew would disrupt the special relationship Fairlington has with APS. Please consider how important the continuity of our community is to Fairlington residents! Our families work together, our children share parks and pools, clubs and community organizations. Families from all over Fairlington meet together at Abingdon. We see ourselves as ONE COMMUNITY - and have done so since Fairlington was established in the 1940's. The 395 boundary is an artificial border that does not divide us! If the school board were to annex South Fairlington to Drew, this historic, unique, and very special community would lose one of the most significant threads that bind us.

Please consider my voice and the voices of my neighbors as you move forward with the boundary process.

Best Regards,

Catherine Stelnmetz

10/14/18

Abingdon
Boundaries

Subject: Abingdon Boundaries

Dear Committee:

I am writing in regard to the recent school board discussion about the elementary school boundaries within the Fairlington neighborhood. While discussing potential boundary proposals, it was suggested that Fairlington could be divided and the southern part

		<p>of Fairlington could be annexed by Drew Elementary School. I am concerned about dividing the Fairlington community for several reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proximity: Students in south Fairlington can currently walk to school, and that would not be a viable option if they go to Drew. Rather, they would need to be bussed or driven. 2. Efficiency: Moving the population of the southern part of Fairlington to Drew will increase the transportation costs. Additional buses, needed for a longer period of time, would be required to move the majority of Fairlington's large student population over multiple non-walkable boundary roads. 3. Contiguity: Fairlington more naturally falls within the "boundary" of Abingdon rather than Drew. 4. Disruption/Stability: Many students currently at Abingdon have experienced the construction/etc. and have been at Abingdon for several years. Moving them now would be disruptive. North and South Fairlington effectively function as one community, and it would be a shame to see it divided by schools. <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Best,</p> <p>Andrea Carpenter</p>
10/14/18	Abingdon Boundaries	<p>Dear Arlington School Board Members,</p> <p>I'm a resident of Fairlington and am very concerned about the proposal to redraw school boundaries to move the southern portion of Fairlington to Drew Elementary School. Fairlington is one community, not two. There is a misperception that the bridge over 395 divides us; this bridge facilitates our activities and unites us as a community. Just this weekend, the fire station in Fairlington held a heavily attended event for the whole community. While the event was held on the north side of the community, it was equally attended by residents from both sections of Fairlington. The same holds for a Fall Festival in the North Fairlington Community Center. Similarly, the Fairlington Farmers Market, which serves all of Fairlington, is on the southern side, though is used by all of Fairlingtonians.</p> <p>Abingdon Elementary School is 0.4 miles from my house, while Drew is over 2 miles, making Abingdon walkable and convenient, while Drew is not. Our walk to Abingdon does not cross any major streets or highways; the bridge over 395, including the wide sidewalks and bike lanes, ensures that the walk to Abingdon is safe. Conversely, moving the southern portion of Fairlington to Drew would require</p>

additional costs for busing, and is thus not efficient or cost effective. Given that APS transportation system is already "straining at the seams", according to Kristen (sorry, don't know her last name), keeping all of Fairlington in Abingdon would not exacerbate the already strained system. My court in Fairlington has several students who qualify for bussing to Abingdon, but every student walks. We plan to walk too. Abingdon is the easiest and "most logical" school for all of Fairlington, to quote Dr. Kanninen.

Finally, in the last School Board Work Session, there was discussion of "neighborhood schools" and the importance of "community" - the Fairlington neighborhood is one community and our school is Abingdon. Separating the two neighborhoods would be disruptive to an established community. This is something that all five board members clearly stated. While I understand the need to reduce the Free and Reduced Lunches at Drew, it does not seem efficient, effective, or fair, to achieve this one objective at the cost of maintaining neighborhood contiguity and walkability, which as Ms. Van Doren highlighted, is the clear and overwhelming desire of the community.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of my comments.

Sincerely, Patrick Endress

10/14/18

Fleet Bounday
Should Include All
of Patrick Henry

Dear Ms. Stengle and Arlington Public Schools School Board Staff:

I am writing regarding the elementary school boundary process, specifically in response to last week's working session. My daughter, [REDACTED] currently attends Patrick Henry Elementary School and, in the initial draft of the new boundaries, our planning unit had been slated to continue on to Alice West Fleet Elementary.

We were elated to learn this as that means that our daughter could stay with the friends she has made and continue on with them to Thomas Jefferson Middle School. We had moved from Washington, D.C. to Arlington specifically for Patrick Henry because of its rich ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic diversity and proven success at closing the achievement gap. Based on the makeup of the student population alone, my daughter is learning to navigate the world in a positive way. Her teacher has a global classroom that focuses on a different country to travel to each week, and she has invited parents from those countries, or with an affinity for a particular country, to come in and share with students.

This is truly special, especially because my experience growing up as an "other" in a fairly homogenous suburb in the Midwest was vastly different. My daughter belongs at Patrick Henry in a way she hasn't felt she belonged before. Not only are there others from her ethnic and cultural background in the school, but her culture and all of her friends' cultures are celebrated.

We live in planning unit 46010, which I now understand is back "in play" for the board due to concerns about decreasing the percentage of economically disadvantaged students for Drew Model School. I dug into the October 2018 data in the Excel sheet that you posted on

		<p>the Elementary Boundary Process landing page. What I found reaffirmed what I already knew: our planning unit is incredibly diverse. Based on the 2017 actual data, 44% of the elementary aged children in 46010 are economically disadvantaged, Fifty-four percent of our planning unit is comprised of English Language Learners, and based on my understanding of our community, those children speak Spanish, Amharic, Thai, and Hindi among other languages. Forty-nine percent of our community is Hispanic.</p> <p>In aggregate, the planning units south of Columbia Pike include double digit representation from every ethnic group aside from "Other" (9%). The percentage of economically disadvantaged students in our planning units may be as high as 45%. I fail to understand how our neighborhoods would make much of a difference to the numbers at Drew.</p> <p>Additionally, I am concerned about alignment. My daughter, if she is sent to Drew Model School, would be taken away from the friends she has made at Patrick Henry and then have a few years to make deep relationships with new friends. Then she would be separated from many of those very children in the 6th grade when she would attend Thomas Jefferson Middle School. The rest of the children would feed into Gunston and Kenmore Middle Schools. This goes against the principles that the School Board stated were your objectives.</p> <p>Of the six considerations that the School Board stated were priorities, our planning units south of Columbia Pike currently zoned for Patrick Henry more than meet the standards for proximity, efficiency, alignment, and contiguity. This is why we were originally placed in the Alice West Fleet Elementary zone. This is where we should stay.</p> <p>Thank you for all of the work that you do. I understand that this is often a thankless job. I am an educator myself. I also understand that this process has been challenging. For the sake of transparency, it only makes sense to continue the process as you started it.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Regards, Perrine Punwani</p>
10/14/18	Keep S.Fairlington at Abingdon	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>I am writing to express my significant disappointment with the proposal to redistrict the students in the South Fairlington neighborhood to Drew Elementary School rather than Abingdon Elementary School. We moved to Fairlington about two years ago because of the tight-knit community feeling. Since our arrival, we have come to love our community and participate in community events with both North and South Fairlington residents. Our family has enjoyed the experience of living in a community where we feel embraced and</p>

united with our neighbors across Fairlington. To divide students at this juncture would fracture the community and ensure South Fairlington students are separated from the community they know and love.

On a personal note, our [REDACTED] daughter has been enrolled through the IEP process in [REDACTED] at Abingdon for the past year and a half. She has had a wonderful experience and has progressed significantly since starting her therapy. In addition to her [REDACTED], our daughter [REDACTED] anxiety and I have been using our weekly visits to her [REDACTED] as a way of orienting her to the school and preparing her for kindergarten there. The thought of having to restart this effort and disrupt her comfort and familiarity with Abingdon is extremely disconcerting.

I hope you will reconsider this proposal for our community and for children like my daughter.

Regards, Amy Cowart