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Arlington County School Board Members,

Discovery Elementary PTA has closely followed the APS elementary school boundary process. We know a number of other Arlington County PTAs have already written to advocate for one of the two proposals under consideration by the Board. We are not writing to advocate for the adoption of a particular boundary proposal.

Instead, we are writing to express our school community's belief that minimizing boundary changes for neighborhood schools throughout the County, including Discovery, should be a priority during this boundary review process and futures processes. While we understand periodic changes to school boundaries may be necessary to balance enrollment, continuity is critically important to school community development, parent engagement, and our students' educational experience.

Although we are a relatively new APS school, we have nevertheless succeeded in building a strong community and "identity" thanks, in large part, to our returning students and families who have slowly made Discovery their "home" over the past few years. Building that strong school community and identity is a process that fosters the success of our children's education—but that process is seriously disrupted when students and families are forced to change schools every few years.

We know you have difficult decisions to make and we greatly appreciate the time and effort all of you and APS staff have devoted to this process. On behalf of our community, we simply ask that in making those difficult decisions, you place very significant weight on minimizing changes and disruption to existing neighborhood schools in Arlington.

Thank you for your consideration of our view on this matter.

Discovery PTA Executive Board 2019-2020

Adam Simkin, President
Elaine Broughan
Liang Jensen
Michael Jensen
Kathie Kazan

Mike O'Leary
Sarah Reynolds
Amber Taylor