

September 8, 2020

Dear Ms. Vincent:

Thank you for meeting with Kathy and me about the APS planning initiatives for the 2020-21 school year. We appreciate hearing from the CCPTA Board about the elementary school boundary process that will take place this fall.

We understand that this upcoming school year will have many challenges and be unlike previous school years. Thank you for all that the CCPTA and PTAs have been doing to help APS families at this time.

The 2020 elementary school boundary process will proceed as scheduled. We have a new school opening and several schools where enrollment significantly exceeds the school's capacity. We need to make enrollment levels manageable across our elementary schools.

In terms of the data that APS will use, we expect that 2020-21 enrollment data will be an anomaly that will not impact our long-term enrollment trends. Boundary adjustments will be made using the best data available, which is based on the 2019 10-year projections and has been vetted internally and externally during the Spring 2020 Data Review. We appreciate the input from hundreds of community members, the CCPTA, FAC and other advisory groups, as we refined and finalized this data; to see how this input was used, please visit [www.apsva.us/engage/data-review-for-fall-2020-boundary-process/](http://www.apsva.us/engage/data-review-for-fall-2020-boundary-process/).

As we shared with you in August, the 2019-20 school moves process and the Spring 2020 data review process were both shaped by the [Spring 2019 CCPTA letter with recommendations for APS](#). This boundary process also reflects these recommendations from CCPTA and others to separate the data review from boundary scenarios and to use a countywide perspective in sharing information with all stakeholders. We appreciated the ongoing check-ins with CCPTA leadership, ensuring that our messages were consistent and clear, and we hope to continue this partnership with the CCPTA.

Please know that we are mindful of the stress that families are experiencing. We will offer families multiple opportunities for engagement to accommodate various preferences for scheduling, language, and communications format. Some examples include:

- The APS Engage webpage has been published early so families have advance notice of the timeline and engagement opportunities.
- Two virtual Community Meetings will feature the same content so that families who may not be able to engage early have the chance at a later date to “catch up” and ask questions.
- Information at these meetings and in other formats will be available in several languages.

- APS will share information using a variety of communication channels such as social media, School Talk messages, WhatsApp, and more.

As this boundary process gets underway, we hope the CCPTA and the elementary school PTAs will continue to help share information with families and encourage their engagement. Working together and with other groups that represent the diversity of APS families, we are confident that we will hear many voices in this process. And we hope families know that principals, staff and teachers are ready to welcome each student, regardless of whether the student is assigned to their current school or a new school.

We value our collaboration with the CCPTA and all our PTAs. Thank you for your ongoing partnership and thoughtful feedback in APS initiatives as we plan for our school division's future. We look forward to continuing to work together this year.

Sincerely,

Lisa

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