



October 20, 2020

Lisa Stengle and Gladis Bourdouane
Department of Planning and Evaluation, Arlington Public Schools
2110 Washington Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22204

Dear Ms. Stengle and Ms. Bourdouane,

The Madison Manor Citizens Association ("MMCA") appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Arlington Public Schools (APS) Fall 2020 Elementary School Boundary Process – Phase 3 of Elementary Planning for 2021, Initial Proposal for New Boundaries (the "Proposal"). MMCA is our neighborhood's community association, recognized by the Arlington County Civic Federation, which represents our highly engaged community of more than 500 households in the western corner of Arlington County. Our neighborhood includes Planning Units 14020 and 14010, which will be directly impacted by the Proposal.

As you know, through the APS elementary school moves that the School Board approved earlier this year, Madison Manor will be losing McKinley Elementary, the neighborhood school it has been home to for almost 70 years. While the move will be exceptionally difficult for our community, we are encouraged by APS' commitment in the initial boundary proposal to keep the impacted Madison Manor children together. Below is feedback and requests that we think will benefit our community as we prepare to lose McKinley Elementary:

- **We strongly support the Proposal which will move Madison Manor's McKinley students (Planning Units 14020 and 14010) to the new Reed site.** Moving the two impacted planning units will ensure that the children and families of Madison Manor who have previously attended McKinley will stay with the majority of the McKinley community at the Reed site. The Proposal as it stands provides the most consistency and continuity for our community in the Fall of 2021 and beyond.

The Westover business area has long been a heart and hub of our community, and Madison Manor has close connections with our neighboring communities to the north, such as Highland Park/Overlee Knolls and Westover Village, that also previously attended McKinley. For a community that is losing its beloved neighborhood school, the familiarity that the Reed site presents - from both a geographic and community perspective - will provide some solace. If our children must move, we believe it is best for them to move with their community to Reed.

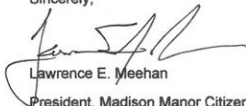
- Alternative scenarios indicate that Madison Manor students who attend McKinley today could potentially move to Tuckahoe Elementary School (ES). **We strongly oppose moving Planning Units 14020 and 14010 to Tuckahoe ES as it will continue a path of inconsistency, uncertainty, and likely more movement for the children of our community.** We are concerned about the potential move of Planning Units 14020 and 14010 to Tuckahoe for the following reasons:
 - APS discussions suggest moving Campbell ES or Claremont ES to a school north of Lee Highway in the future. Under this scenario, the most likely candidates for the schools to be moved include Tuckahoe ES, based on its current enrollment and its (relatively) easier transportation options compared to the other northern schools. If a school were to be moved to Tuckahoe, this could mean moving Madison Manor's McKinley children twice in the next several years. This would break with APS' intent of minimizing multiple moves during a student's elementary school years.
 - Likewise, moving Madison Manor students to a school other than Reed may reduce or limit APS's options when assessing future boundary changes and school moves. Since APS rightfully places a high priority on not moving students twice during their tenure at a school level, moving Madison Manor's McKinley students to Tuckahoe in this process would raise serious concerns about APS moving an option program to Tuckahoe, and would significantly complicate moving an option program to Nottingham, as Tuckahoe would have less capacity to absorb students previously assigned to Nottingham.
 - We appreciate APS' commitment to aligning and moving as many children as possible from the same elementary school to middle school together. In the Proposal, certain planning units have been moved to elementary schools to better align children in the transition process to middle school. However, we are concerned that if Madison Manor McKinley children are placed at Tuckahoe they will leave the vast majority of their fellow elementary students (who would transition to Williamsburg) when they transition to middle school at Swanson.
- **We support the idea of grandfathering for current 4th graders.** We encourage APS staff to explore more creative options to consider grandfathering for the schools as part of this boundary planning process.

Additionally, we request more information about transportation and construction planning for the new Arlington Traditional School (ATS) moving into our community. As you know, our members patiently endured the significant, disruptive construction associated with the multi-year expansion of McKinley. As we have learned from previous school moves in Arlington, additional construction will be needed to ensure that the McKinley facility can accommodate ATS. Similarly, the increased busing will disrupt our neighborhood's traffic flow. Madison Manor families want to know APS' plan on these matters and are willing to provide input.

Madison Manor families are deeply saddened to be losing the neighborhood school that has been the bedrock of our community since 1951. The changes for our children will be trying, especially during a time where many are already feeling isolated. Still, the Madison Manor

community recognizes the magnitude of the challenge before APS and we appreciate this opportunity to engage with you. As the APS School Board begins its work session on elementary school boundaries, we hope you will strongly consider our input and continue engaging with us in this process. We stand ready to answer any questions or provide any additional feedback upon request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lawrence E. Meehan', written over a horizontal line.

Lawrence E. Meehan

President, Madison Manor Citizens Association
on behalf of the MMCA Executive Board

cc: Monique O'Grady, School Board Chair
Barbara Kanninen, School Board Vice Chair
Reid Goldstein, School Board Member
Tannia Talento, School Board Member
Nancy Van Doren, School Board Member
Dr. Francisco Duran, Superintendent