

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 19, 2021
TO: Members of the School Board
VIA: Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
FROM: Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation

CIP QUESTION: Several North Arlington elementary schools are below capacity. Why isn't one of the CIP options to convert an elementary school there to a middle school to address the middle school seat deficit? Spending \$200M+ on a new Career Center plan that combines meeting enrollment growth needs, PK-8 Montessori desires, and new middle school seats, delays for 6-10 years or longer our ability to address needed facility issues like:

- Upgrading or demolishing & rebuilding our oldest schools (ASFS, Campbell, Barcroft, Randolph, Hoffman-Boston, etc.)
- Full-scale replacements of roofs and HVAC systems instead of ventilation upgrades where necessary
- Etc.

While a plan to address trailers and expected enrollment growth at the CC is necessary, it must be balanced against available dollars and the opportunity cost of using those dollars on the Career Center versus using them on other facility needs.

RESPONSE: If the 2021 projections show a continued trend of low enrollment at some North Arlington elementary schools, Planning and Evaluation could explore the request from the School Board to identify an elementary school to use for other capacity needs as part of the Fall 2022 countywide Elementary Boundary process. To do this, the following would be needed:

- Confirmation that the School Board is requesting and would act upon a change in use. School moves and school closings are controversial and the community pushback during the school moves process and the earlier location analysis could have been lessened if the community knew the School Board planned to take action.
- Collaboration between the FAC and staff to define the criteria for a school conversion, evaluate potential sites and make a recommendation. This work would build off the information used in the school moves and location review process.
 - <https://www.apsva.us/engage/planning-for-2020-elementary-school-boundary-process/>
 - <https://www.apsva.us/engage/elementary-school-boundary-change/location-review/>

Please note that due to the proximity of some elementary schools to Williamsburg, the middle school seats would most likely provide off site space for an overcrowded middle school OR allow for the ACC middle school PBL pathway to open before the ACC building is available.