

From: Mary [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at 11:21 PM
Subject: Feedback on Process for 1300 HS Placement

Good evening everyone,

I wanted to take a moment tonight to send you all a note expressing my frustration over the process around the selection of an option for the 1,300 high school seats. I recognize that Dr. Murphy will present his recommendations tomorrow evening at the board meeting for the first time. I will unfortunately miss the meeting to catch one of the last baseball games of the season for my oldest, but I could not let tonight go by without first expressing some concerns.

I have been to my fair share of meetings this spring around capacity but I have paid particular attention to meetings around the selection of the HS option. Throughout this process I have felt that there has been a lack of true engagement with the parent community in a meaningful fashion. I would like to share a few examples:

- 1) At the school board work session, the chart of ratings is passed around for the first time. From my perspective this chart contained an enormous amount of subjectivity, did not list the 700 seat element of the hybrid option, and failed to include any criteria around availability of shared spaces such as cafeterias, libraries, gyms or art and music facilities that would be impacted by the hybrid option.
- 2) We learned at the work session that the criteria were determined by work groups comprised of APS staff and students but lacked any representation from the parent community.
- 3) I attended the Gallery Walk last Monday night at Kenmore that was a complete waste of time. Once again, the 700 student element was not included in the materials or visuals. In addition, the arial photos were biased as only some included pictures of the potential JFAC land. For instance, the Ed Center photo contained a yellow outline for the potential Buck county property but the Kenmore photo was zoomed in and did not include the same consideration for the Carlin Springs VHC property. I spent an hour there that evening, talking to Kenmore neighbors, other parents and some APS staff but overall that was one of the least useful time away from my kids.
- 4) Throughout this spring I have taken time away from my family to weigh in on behalf of APS to JFAC on the need for space and yet at the community forum for JFAC they announce that APS had not made any formal requests to JFAC themselves.
- 5) Finally, we now know that the 600/ 700 seat hybrid option will be Dr. Murphy's proposal tomorrow night. This is not an option that parents and other members of the community have been able to engage and learn more about before now because NONE of the 700 student side of the equation has been presented at all. I even went back to the gallery walk part of the engage website tonight to see if it had been updated and it had not.

I am not leaning one way or the other on the 1300 seat option personally as I believe none of them are good options, we are focused too much on choice for solving the problem and we are not focused enough ensuring equity of educational offerings for all students in the county. In addition, I am one (with my youngest a rising kindergartener) who strongly believes we will need a 4th comprehensive high school.

But tonight I more wanted to leave you with a level of my own frustration as an engaged parent on these issues that feels that your entire process to engage parents and the community is broken. I feel like we keep ending in the same place... with a broken process and I truly hope that we can fix it moving forward. But the more APS lacks authentic communication (meaning real listening and talking) with its parent community, the less parents are going to want to engage in any of these decision making processes.

As a full time working mom, I live the balance between work and home that so many of us do. My kids only get one childhood. Every trade off of a meeting attended is time away from them. I justify this because I feel I am advocating for a better future for my kids and students across the county but I am beginning to feel that this time away from my kids is not making a difference at all.

I know that I am not the only one feeling this way. If we are going to find long term solutions to the benefit of ALL APS students, we are going to have to lead by example... with the county and with each other.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mary [REDACTED]
Discovery Elementary

From: Dawn [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 10:29 PM
To: School Board, Arlington Public Schools
Subject: New High School Seats / No Elementary School at Buck / JFAC and LRPC

Ms. Kanninen,

Thank you for your time this evening during School Board Open Office Hours to discuss our concerns regarding the potential for new high school seats at the Education Center.

To summarize, neighboring residents are very concerned about the impacts on traffic, parking, and pedestrian/bicyclist safety, as well as the apparent lack of coordination and communication among the three county/schools processes that are looming around our Quincy Street neighborhood – to include the JFAC (Buck property) and the LRPC (YMCA/commercial and residential developments at Kirkwood-Washington Blvd) in addition to APS (new high school seats).

We feel it is APS' responsibility to properly analyze these infrastructure needs BEFORE a siting decision is made, and to take all necessary actions to accommodate any increase in seats. For starters, please consider the following PRIOR to any siting decisions:

- A comprehensive traffic and pedestrian study, to include the potential developments at Buck and the YMCA.
- Preservation of bike lanes.
- Traffic calming on our neighborhood streets and the adjacent thoroughfares (Quincy St., Washington Blvd).
- Traffic restrictions on our neighborhood streets, perhaps during school/rush hours.
- Stricter parking restrictions on nearby residential streets.

Lastly, you may recall that part of our conversation focused on JFAC and the lack of presence that APS has had in the process. I also mentioned that the siting of an elementary school on the Buck property has been taken off the table, and I recalled it was because APS had requested as such. I checked my notes, and for the record I want to clarify what we were told at the JFAC Buck Subcommittee meeting on 4/26/17.

JFAC staff indicated that a new elementary school was no longer being considered as a short-term use (next 10 years) for the Buck property due to its required size (too large), because it would require demolition of buildings, and thus would preclude future uses on the site (which is a significant consideration as part of JFAC's Purpose Statement).

JFAC's current Facility Needs/10-Year+ Project List indicates that the minimum site area for a new elementary school would be approximately 3-4 acres (depending on parking), and that "possible joint use site at Aurora Hills Senior Center and library site has been suggested."

I hope this is helpful for your purposes. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you again for your time, and for consideration of the residents' concerns.

Dawn [REDACTED]

From: Heather [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2017 11:05 AM
To: countyboard@arlingtonva.us; jfiset@arlingtonva.us; kcristol@arlingtonva.us;
[jihstadt@arlingtonva.us](mailto:jvihstadt@arlingtonva.us); cdorsey@arlingtonva.us; lgarvey@arlingtonva.us; jfac@arlingtonva.us
Cc: Superintendent Patrick Murphy; Engage; School Board, Arlington Public Schools; Van Doren, Nancy; Goldstein, Reid; Lander, James; Kanninen, Barbara; Talento, Tannia
Subject: JFAC Recommendations Regarding Buck Property and VA Hospital Center-Carlin Springs Property

Dear Members of the Arlington County Board:

I am an Arlington resident and voter. I am deeply concerned about the lack of any major school initiatives in the Joint Facilities Advisory Commission's (JFAC) recent recommendations for the Buck and VHC Carlin Springs properties. Additionally, the JFAC survey on proposed scenarios did not include any opportunity to comment on the need for schools.

Based on expectations for significant student population growth, from 27,000 to 40,000 students in the foreseeable future, Arlington Public Schools estimates we will need another high school, 1-2 middle schools, and 2-4 elementary schools - in addition to the school projects already underway. Large parcels of land do not become available often in our area. This is a critical junction to appropriately evaluate the best use of these available parcels. Schools have large land needs that not only provide the grounds to educate our children and future leaders, but also provide community amenities. Green space, playing fields, playgrounds, meeting spaces, sledding hills - our schools and school grounds are a focal point of our neighborhoods and deserve priority land appropriation.

Please ask the JFAC to reconsider its recommendations and seriously evaluate school uses at the Buck and VHC Carlin Springs properties, as well as for other land they evaluate in the future.

Thank you,

Heather [REDACTED]
Arlington Resident