

Distinguished School Board Members, Superintendent Crawley, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to speak in response to the recommended redistricting options. My name is Pamela Kesner and I live in Planning Block 63 in Seminary Hill, which is immediately west of the Virginia Theological Seminary and Episcopal High School. My husband and I have 2 daughters that would enter ACPS in 2018 and 2021. We strongly feel that both options 8 and 9, as proposed, are most consistent with the Board's redistricting criteria.

You will note that Block 63 currently has two elementary school children and Block 62 has none. Based on the Transportation Criteria, Options 8 and 9 will streamline transportation by allowing the few children in our Planning Block to ride buses on existing routes that we see passing by our neighborhood daily. This is not only a much more efficient use of ACPS resources, but these routes also greatly minimize bus time for our children in both the morning, allowing for additional rest, and in the afternoon allowing for additional activities.

Based on the Sensible and Fair Boundary Criteria, Planning Block 63 and neighboring Planning Block 62 are contiguous with the current MacArthur district along both Braddock and Seminary. Options 8 and 9 consolidate our Planning Block within our neighbors, uniting the northern section of the Seminary Hill into one school zone, rather than creating arbitrary and illogical divisions among the approximately 20 children living in the northern section of Seminary Hill.

Looking at the data published by ACPS, there are no issues with the enrollment capacity or diversity criteria associated with zoning the few children in our planning blocks to MacArthur.

This has been a challenging process with maps showing four different schools for these few children and the effect on isolating our neighborhood with no justification. We hope that the Board will proceed in adopting Options 8 or 9, which districts Block 63 (and neighboring Block 62) to MacArthur.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to speak as an Alexandria parent and taxpayer and proponent of options 8 and 9.