

BOARD MEMO

Date: February 16, 2023

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

No

FROM: Sophie Huemer, Planner II
Azuka Bartlett, Director of Capital Programs, Planning and Design
Erika Gulick, Executive Director for Facilities

THROUGH: Dr. Alicia Hart, Chief of Facilities and Operations
Dr. Marcia Jackson, Chief of Student Services
Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Interim Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Meagan L. Alderton, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Boundary Analysis Proposal

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

- Goal 1: Systemic Alignment
- Goal 2: Instructional Excellence
- Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support
- Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation
- Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

FY 2023 BUDGET PRIORITY:

- Reduce Class Size*
- Transportation
- Modernizations
- Capacity Projects
- Planning for Future Projects
- Communications Support
- Transparency and Engagement for CIP Projects

SUMMARY:

Staff are proposing a boundary analysis and timeline for a redistricting effort for the School Board's consideration.

Boundary Analysis

The boundary analysis is proposed for the School Board to collect data to determine whether a redistricting effort is required. The analysis will use GIS and current (final SY 22-23 Enrollment as of September 30, 2022) student data to determine if discrepancies between school attendance zones warrant a redistricting effort. Below is a summary of the boundary analysis

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proposal for the Board's consideration:

- Information will be collected by the sum of students who *live-in* the school's boundary by applicable grade levels as well as a sum of students who *attend* each school.
- Student counts representing 10 or more students will be explicitly documented in the analysis.
- The specific data staff recommend for inclusion are breakdowns by each school (both live-in and attending student populations) for:
 - Total Student Population
 - Gender
 - Race
 - Ethnicity
 - Grade
 - Specialized Instruction
 - English Language Learner
 - Free or Reduced Meal
 - Walk Zone
- Comparisons will be made to the average for ACPS in the above categories. A capacity and utilization chart will also be provided for live-in and attending student populations.
- All grade levels, PK-12, and all ACPS schools will be included in this analysis.
- In addition, staff will provide a summary of recent or forthcoming residential developments or known demographic changes which may impact ACPS enrollment in the next five years.

Once this approach is supported by the School Board, staff will execute the analysis and prepare a report for the School Board's consideration. Staff will not solicit feedback on this portion of the work, as it is intended to be data driven and reflect only the existing demographic conditions. If a redistricting effort is determined to be needed based on the outcomes of the report, the School Board will discuss the scope of redistricting effort including a family and community engagement process.

Considerations for Possible Redistricting Effort

Programmatic decisions which may impact enrollment for the next five years will need to be determined before a kick-off for a redistricting process begins. These program decisions should be made prior to a redistricting process so that the program is driving the amount of capacity in each school. These decisions include, but are not limited to:

- Determination if ACPS will maintain the K-8 programming at Jefferson-Houston and Patrick Henry for the next five years and how space is allocated to accommodate that. This determination should be supported by a K8 analysis.
- Determination if it is a goal or need to provide pre-k classes at all elementary schools.

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Policy Considerations

Policy decisions related to implementation, such as timeline for new boundaries to take effect and any phased implementation (or “grandfathering”), may be made by the School Board at a later time in the process.

BACKGROUND:

As part of the School Board’s policy JCE, the School Board is charged with conducting a boundary analysis every five years or with the opening of a new school. The last redistricting effort was implemented in September 2018 and five years will therefore have passed this coming school year. Additionally, ACPS will be opening the new Douglas MacArthur Elementary School with increased capacity in August 2023. Increased capacity for Douglas MacArthur was assumed in the last redistricting effort, however, the exact capacity increase and programs to be served were not considered.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Interim Superintendent recommends that the School Board review and consider the boundary analysis approach (for approval in the near future). The School Board will discuss this at an upcoming work session.

IMPACT:

The boundary analysis will allow the School Board to determine if a redistricting effort is warranted and maintain compliance with Board policy.

ATTACHMENTS:

REFERENCES:

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