

Previous APS Updates

07-30-18

Last week, APS announced a few key dates regarding the Elementary School boundary process, the most immediate of which are listed below:

- August 7th, 7:00-8:30pm - Open Office Hours with APS staff at Kenmore Middle School
- August 28th, 7:00pm - School Board Work Session at Syphax Education Center
- September 26th, 7:00-8:30 - "Getting Started" Community Meeting to review boundary scenarios at Kenmore Middle School

An updated timeline that extends through December is provided on the [Engage - Elementary School Boundary Process page](#).

At this time, no new information, apart from timelines, has been presented. ASFS is listed as being included in the Fall 2018 Boundary process, which is consistent with the information presented at the June 7 school board meeting (see the [presentation](#) to the school board for more information). At this time, APS has not communicated the details around which planning units will be impacted when. We do know that APS staff is working very hard to ensure that no planning unit will be affected twice and that communities are not isolated in this process. As they move through the process in the fall, APS staff will provide multiple opportunities for the community to engage and to provide feedback. We strongly encourage everyone to take advantage as these opportunities are announced!

In the meantime, here is what you can do to stay informed:

- Watch the [Engage webpage](#) for updates
- Attend office hours as they are offered throughout the fall
- Attend or livestream the School Board Work session on August 28th (you can watch work sessions [here](#))
- Attend or livestream APS School Board meetings (you can watch meetings live [here](#), and you can watch past meetings [here](#))
- Look for updates in the Electronic Friday Folder. We will do our best to send out information as soon as it is released.

Additionally, we will continue to update this page, and we will provide external updates at PTA meetings.

07-01-18

The Arlington School Board staff announced at the June 7 School Board meeting that a working group would be held in August; however, the exact date has not been released. Staff also

assured the school board that communities would have multiple opportunities to engage over the summer, through office hours, the APS Traveling Trolley, and outreach to Civic Associations. At this time, there are School Board Meetings scheduled on July 2 and July 17, but no other dates or timeline updates have been published.

As described in the 6/14/18 update below, APS staff says it may include some ASFS planning units in the 2018 boundary process. Furthermore, staff hopes to minimize the number of times a student is impacted by boundary changes within a school level (elementary, middle, high) – which means that *families zoned out of ASFS in the 2018 process may not be rezoned again, even if a closer neighborhood option opens*. For this reason, at the June 7 meeting, some school board members encouraged APS staff to consider releasing a 2-3 year plan that includes immediate boundary changes as well as future changes to neighborhood and option schools, so that families will be able to see the long-range impact these shifts may have on their families. At this time, we have no further updates from APS staff indicating if they will heed this advice or not. We will update this page as more information is released. In the meantime, you can stay up-to-date by checking the School Board [updates](#) and [calendar](#) (which should be updated with upcoming meetings as they are announced) and the [Engage – Elementary School Planning Initiative](#) page.

You may have seen reported on [ARL Now](#) that the County Board has approved the use of the Buck Property for APS parking. As stated in the ASFS PTA letter sent to APS in June, (see the 6/14/18 update below), our request refers to a different area of the property. In [a letter to the County Manager from Superintendent Patrick Murphy](#), APS requests that the Buck Property be considered for many potential uses, including elementary school seats, in Phase 3 of the County’s Analysis. From the County Board’s response, it appears that Buck would be considered for elementary expansion in the “long-range,” but not necessarily in the immediate future (see the County Manager’s response [here](#)). However, the letter does state that the analysis will be amended to include some of the Superintendent’s requests. We will keep this page updated as more information is released.

06-14-18

On June 11, we sent a [letter](#) to the APS School Board and to the Arlington County Board requesting that they consider expanding ASFS to the Buck property site. At present, we have not received a response, and we have not heard mention of the Buck Property at the most recent [Capital Improvement Plan Working Group Meeting](#) or at the School Facilities and Capital Programs meetings. We will keep our community posted if/when we get additional information.

The most recent information and timeline regarding the Elementary School Planning Initiative can be found [here](#). In short, some planning units currently zoned to ASFS may be affected by the boundary process, set to take place in the fall of 2018; all others would be included in the

boundary process in spring 2020. APS has not indicated which planning units could be impacted. APS plans to engage the community in a number of ways over the summer, including by visiting Civic Associations, holding office hours, and by releasing a Facebook Live video series. There will be an ESPI working group meeting in August. In late October, the Superintendent will recommend boundary changes to the School Board, which will be adopted in November following community feedback. The new boundaries will take effect in fall 2019. To stay on top of the most current information, be sure to visit the [Engage - Elementary Planning Initiative](#) site. APS staff updates this site frequently.

[ASFS PTA Letter to SB & CB on Buck 11 June 2018 v02.pdf](#)