



The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, Inc.

P.O. Box 203, Mount Vernon, VA 22121-9998

<http://www.mvcca.org>

Fairfax County School Board
8115 Gatehouse Rd.
Falls Church VA 22042

Dear Members of the Board:

The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations is concerned that the current unusual circumstances caused by the pandemic could lead to a reduction in enrollment figures and a de-staffing of positions based on September 30 enrollment figures. In fact, the phased-in period may demand more, rather than fewer teachers. We strongly urge that the School Board “hold harmless” schools that might suffer de-staffing based on the September 30 statistics.

Our resolution, which passed unanimously on September 23, is attached.

Respectfully,

B. Lynn Pascoe
Cochair
MVCCA

Cc:

District Representative Karen Corbett Sanders
Virginia Secretary of Education Atif Qarni
Supervisor Dan Storck
Chairman Jeffrey McKay

MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS (MVCCA) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF "HOLD HARMLESS" ON SCHOOL STAFFING LEVELS, ED 2020-2

WHEREAS the enormous and unprecedented challenges of the global pandemic have forced Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) to provide education only virtually although hybrid in-person learning is planned to be phased in when conditions permit; and

WHEREAS many FCPS schools have seen temporary enrollment decreases as families opt for homeschooling, learning pods, or private schools as preferable to virtual classes; and

WHEREAS in an ordinary school year FCPS would adjust preliminary staffing levels based on actual enrollment as of September 30, but in this pandemic year this process may result in significant loss of teaching positions at many schools; and

WHEREAS in these uncertain times, loss of teaching positions will immediately cause disruption for students learning virtually as classes would need to be readjusted, and even more problems if in-person hybrid learning is resumed, some students re-enroll, and some teachers and students elect to continue virtual learning due to health issues; and

WHEREAS once FCPS is able to begin a phased-in return to classrooms, more teaching positions, not fewer, may be needed to support what will become essentially two separate school systems: one hybrid and one virtual;

WHEREAS de-staffing teachers only to require re-staffing a short time later, is disruptive to teachers, school administration, and to students who may have been shuffled from one teacher to another and, in the case of continued virtual learners, to merged classes with classmates and teachers from other schools; and

WHEREAS disruption and lack of continuity should be avoided as much as possible given the challenges of the current school year even if it means lower staffing ratios and acceptance of lower class size minimums,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, under these unusual circumstances and in the interest of promoting the least disruptive educational experience for students in the Mount Vernon District and throughout Fairfax County, urges the Fairfax County School Board to "hold harmless" schools which have suffered enrollment decreases from de-staffing of staff positions based on September 30 enrollment figures.

Approved unanimously by the General Council on September 23, 2020