

MVCCA Resolution ED 2015-04 In Support of Comprehensive School Boundary Evaluation

WHEREAS Fairfax County Public Schools ("FCPS") will construct a new elementary school ("Pinewood Lakes") for opening in 2017, the new elementary school on Fort Belvoir is expected to open in 2016 and renovation funds for several local schools are or will be available in the near future; and

WHEREAS this new construction and renovation will create an historic opportunity for FCPS, as well as the Lee/Mount Vernon Corridor community, to address in an organized, comprehensive and holistic manner the realignment of school boundaries across the Corridor to:

(1) Promote the return to a neighborhood school construct where students have the best opportunity to attend a school close to their homes, where parental and community support is most available and beneficial, and busing is reduced (see ED 2015-3 "MVCCA Resolution urging Priority Consideration for Neighborhood Schools");

(2) Locate programs, services and resources in the most efficient and logical manner so that all students have appropriate access according to their needs;

(3) Address enrollment imbalances among schools, reducing the number of trailers and modular additions, to promote both a better instructional environment and a more efficient use of taxpayer funds; and

WHEREAS FCPS is in development of its FY 2017 Capital Improvement Plan ("CIP") which will contain enrollment and capacity projections and may suggest the manner and scope of boundary studies and realignments in the Corridor; and

WHEREAS in order to take full advantage of this historic opportunity, any boundary studies suggested or to be implemented in the CIP should be comprehensive and include all schools in the Corridor, at all levels from elementary to high school, all programs from Advanced Academic to special needs preschool, and all academies and self-contained units such as autism support; and

WHEREAS all school boundary changes or program realignments are likely to be upsetting or controversial for students, families and the larger community, experience suggests that when boundaries are reviewed comprehensively and logically, and with transparency, short term disruption can be overcome in favor of long term stability and benefits to current and future students, and to our communities as a whole;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations (MVCCA) requests the FCPS Superintendent and the Fairfax County School Board to direct FCPS staff, as part of the FY2017 Capital Improvement Plan or otherwise, to conduct comprehensive, holistic and transparent boundary studies of all schools, at all levels, in the Lee/Mount Vernon Corridor in order to make best use of an historic opportunity to promote the goals expressed above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MVCCA reserves its right to comment on the specifics and details of any boundary process or realignment suggested, proposed or implemented by FCPS and/or the Fairfax County School Board.