

News Release

Alexandria Public Schools

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alexandria School Board Delays Facility & Elementary Boundary Changes

In light of the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, the Alexandria School Board committees met last week to discuss the best course of action regarding the district's commitment to reducing class size, which included implementing boundary changes and expanding Woodland elementary school classroom spaces. Due to the tremendous amount of uncertainty our school community is experiencing, the Board determined the prudent thing to do is to pause on any action addressing elementary class sizes or facility changes based on these considerations:

- The need to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, including financial uncertainty on the part of state, district and local taxpayers.
- The need for time to study school enrollment trends and community growth, measured against previous projections.
- The need to ensure a sense of stability for students, staff and families. There is comfort in what we know, so allowing students to 'stay put' when school resumes is our best course of action at this time.

Given the considerations outlined above, at the April 20 meeting the Alexandria School Board unanimously approved rejecting the bids for the Woodland renovation project, keeping the district services at the current location and rescinding the boundary changes for the 2020-21 school year. The School Board believes it will be important to monitor enrollment, community growth and the state of the economy before deciding to move forward with those initiatives.

"The conditions last fall were very different with signs of community growth and financial stability. We can't continue to plan in the same way, given the amount of uncertainty we are now experiencing," said Superintendent Julie Critz. "We must take a more conservative approach to our budget and planning as we monitor conditions over the coming year, at the same time ensuring that we support our students with quality, sustainable programs."

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If you have any additional questions, please contact Julie Critz, (320) 762-2141 ext. 4203, jcritz@alexschools.org