



Date: February 27, 2014

To: The Albemarle County School Board &
Dr. Pam Moran, Superintendent

From: Long Range Planning Advisory Committee

Re: Direction for Annual Recommendation

We would like the Board's feedback on a few particular items that will influence our annual recommendation. These topics are listed below.

High Schools

Enrollment data currently does not support a new high school. We have the capacity at our current high schools for the next five years. We do not see the need to incur the cost of a brand new school. It makes more sense to us to explore renovation, improvement & expansion (as needed) opportunities at the schools we currently have. The immediate issue is at Albemarle High School. It is over capacity and only projected to grow more. Our recommendation will likely include the convening of a redistricting committee unless we receive different feedback. It is our recommendation that it would be a comprehensive study to include middle schools as well.

Parity/Modernization

As our schools continue to age and the needs of our students evolve, modernization projects will be increasingly important. To date, though, a stand-alone modernization project has not been funded. Any major modernization of a school has only been coupled with a major addition. We anticipate modernization projects to take an increasing presence in our future recommendations. How do we improve the viability of such projects?

Stony Point

The School Board approved a wait-and-see approach two years ago regarding the possibility of redistricting at Stony Point. The school continues to utilize four trailers, but redistricting no longer seems like a viable option. Our previous recommendation included an addition onto the school, but it was ranked lower in priority than other projects. It is our inclination to prioritize it in a similar way below modernization projects such as Red Hill, Yancey & Western Albemarle. We understand the Board's desire to phase out the use of trailers, but is this a more pressing issue than other needs of the division?

Pre-K

Pre-K programs are making an increasing presence at our schools. Notwithstanding their inherent benefits to students, the programs are often occupying rooms in buildings that are nearing or over capacity. How should we view these programs when making long term facility decisions? What is the long-term plan for dedicated spaces for Pre-K classes?