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Multi-School PTA Resolution Seeks SW Boundary Study Halt

Resolution Submitted to Fairfax County School Board Expresses PTA Concerns

Fairfax County, VA – Monday, January 24, 2011 – PTA leaders from multiple public schools in Fairfax County announced today that they submitted a resolution to the Fairfax County School Board over the weekend requesting that administrators halt the Southwest County Boundary Study.

Cara Radoll, President of the Providence Elementary PTA, said, “This multi-school Resolution demonstrates that a **significant number of our school communities have substantive outstanding concerns about the various options which Fairfax County Public Schools has not fully answered.**”

The SW boundary study is the largest boundary study ever undertaken by Fairfax County Public Schools. In response to growing public concerns, PTA leaders joined forces to create the multi-school resolution that calls for suspension of the controversial boundary study. To date, 11 of the 21 affected elementary schools passed the multi-school PTA resolution. Other PTAs are still considering it.

The memberships of the 11 PTAs which have already passed the resolution have expressed alarm about the quick pace of the FCPS boundary study and displeasure over proposals that involve redistricting large numbers of students.

The PTA Resolution also requests that the School Board answer outstanding questions and concerns prior to implementing any SW county boundary changes. FCPS has proposed moving students to other schools as early as the 2011-12 school year. **PTA leaders at the 11 schools say their memberships agreed that timeframe is too fast for public comfort.**

The FCPS boundary study involves 23 elementary schools and 17,500+ students in the southwest region of the county. FCPS says the redistribution is necessary to address student population growth and capacity issues. **Parents are particularly concerned that children who currently attend brick and mortar schools will end up in trailers as a result of redistricting.**

FCPS held community engagement meetings about the SW Boundary issue last October. The problem, PTA leaders say, is that FCPS has now released multiple versions of additional proposed boundary changes without public discussion. For example, “Option E” – the fifth option in the series of boundary changes – was just publicly released on Monday, January 17th and then presented as the FCPS Staff’s final recommendation to the School Board only three days later. Option E contains major changes from previous options that were presented and discussed October’s community engagement meetings.

PTA leaders say they hope the School Board will take the necessary steps to restore public confidence about the boundary study. “Right now, there are many community members with serious concerns;” said Amy Riddick, Fairview Elementary PTA President, “we look forward to working with the School Board on the concerns expressed in this Resolution.”

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Attachment: Multi-school PTA Resolution