

**Elementary School
Parent Teacher Association**

May 26, 2013

Dr. Joshua Starr, Superintendent and
Members of the Montgomery County Board Of Education
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: Boundary Study for the new Clarksburg Village Elementary School

Dear Dr. Starr and Members of the Board of Education:

The Elementary School PTA members thank you for allowing us to be a part of this boundary study for the new elementary school in Clarksburg Village. The community is in agreement that MCPS should adopt Option that meets 8 of the 9 criteria set forth by the Boundary Advisory Committee.

Option clearly meets the following criteria explained below:

- Keep communities together.
- Avoid reassignment of areas that were reassigned in past boundary changes.
- Minimize travel distances to schools and maximize walking access.
- Consider the impact of the opening of the new Clarksburg/Damascus Middle School in August 2016.
- Ensure safe walking access for students.
- Minimize island assignments and promote contiguous service areas.
- Maintain diversity at schools, including race/ethnic, FARMS, and ESOL.
- Distribute area with future development to multiple schools.

Clarksburg is a booming community with a very large population growth over the past few years, and will continue to grow tremendously over the next few years. It is important that our communities are kept together and not divided. Arora Hills makes up the vast majority of Cedar Grove and many of the options have that neighborhood being split in half. Option keeps all of Arora Hills together, and keeps all of Clarksburg Village together at the new Clarksburg Village elementary school. This type of community togetherness is exactly what elementary school aged children need to thrive.

The following criterion may not be met by choosing Option :

-Keep schools within their capacities.

Even by choosing Option : would be just slightly over capacity. Having been through a boundary study 4 years ago, we lost a large portion of our student and staff population. It was very hard on our community and most especially on the children. would rather be filled to capacity than to have our community torn apart again.

The entire community is highly in favor of Option . We thank you for allowing us the opportunity to share our thoughts and reasons with you and we feel confident that your decision will be based upon this information along with the fact that Option meets the criteria that the Boundary Advisory Community developed and deemed most important for the selection process.

Thank you for your time and expertise in this matter.

Sincerely,

PTA President