October 28, 2020

Dulles North and Dulles South Planning area elementary school families received an email on October 9, 2020, that shared that the elementary school their students currently attend may be affected by the attendance zone changes presently under consideration by the School Board for the opening of Elaine E. Thompson Elementary School (ES-23) and Hovatter Elementary School (ES-29). Specifically, parents of children attending Aldie, Arcola, Buffalo Trail, Cardinal Ridge, Creighton’s Corner, Goshen Post, Hutchison Farm, Legacy, Liberty, Little River, Madison’s Trust, Pinebrook, Rosa Lee Carter, and Sycolin Creek Elementary Schools were notified.

Elaine E. Thompson Elementary School will be located off Arcola Mills Road (at 24200 Pissarro Drive, Sterling) and within the Arcola Center development. The purpose of this message today is to share that due to construction delays for the Arcola Center development, including road improvements and utilities that will ultimately serve the school, the opening of Elaine E. Thompson Elementary School is now planned to occur in fall 2022 (2022-2023 school year), not fall 2021.

Staff is developing plans pursuant to this delayed opening, which will be included in the Superintendent’s Recommended FY2022-FY2027 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget and discussion. The CIP will be presented to the School Board on November 10, 2020, with ratification expected December 15, 2020; with School Board action on the CIP budget, the planned opening of Elaine E. Thompson Elementary School will officially be deferred one year to a 2022-2023 school year opening.

The construction of Hovatter Elementary School (ES-29) remains on schedule as planned and will open in fall 2021, for the 2021-2022 school year.

Planning staff will present a revised attendance zone plan proposal reflecting the Elaine E. Thompson Elementary School opening change at this evening’s School Board attendance zone work session. The October 28 meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and be broadcast live on Comcast Channel 18 and Verizon Fios Channel 43, as well as viewable via simultaneous webcast on the Loudoun County Public Schools website (www.lcps.org). Please contact the Loudoun County Public Schools Division of Planning Services staff at lcpsplan@lcps.org with any questions.

Information on the current Dulles Area Elementary School Attendance Zone Change Process is posted on Planning Service’s webpage.