Plan 6 Additional Rationale

Plan 6 is a strategic plan that maximizes the identified criteria within Policy 6530 paragraph C: Facilities, Proximity, Community, Demographics, Accessibility, Stability, and Cluster Alignment.

**Facilities:** First and foremost, this plan maximizes utilization of school classrooms and right-sizes the burden on school core facilities (e.g.- cafeteria, gym, biology labs, media center). When viewed over the five year enrollment projection window, plan 6 provides at each school for each school year enrollments of between 64% and 111%, the lowest of any of the 7 plans originally considered.

Additionally, those areas facing the greatest growth are balanced between the two high growth schools: JCHS and LRH. Of the 9 zones predicted to increase enrollment at the high school level by more than 20, 4 are at LRJ and 5 are at JCHS.

**DS 13.8, 13.9 are moved** to MMS/JCHS because of the inability to maintain the current levels of enrollment at JML/FHS. Even without students from these two zones (100 MS/120 HS students), FHS will be peaking over 110%.

It is anticipated that new school sites would be most likely in western/south western areas of the attendance zones under consideration, enabling the appropriate re-distribution of students from both western area schools.

**Proximity.** Having our high schools located to the west of each service area creates distribution and proximity concerns. Plan 6 retains the vast majority of zones attending the schools proximate to them with four notable exceptions:

**DS 9.1, 9.3, and 16.1:** Growth in the East Gate zones precludes the ability to place them into Freedom without pushing out more proximate zones who are currently attending FHS/JML. Added distance/time to JCHS is 2 miles/7 minutes over the time to FHS, approximately the same distance/time increase for a bus trip to MMS versus JML. **This plan allows them to stay at MMS/JCHS.**

**DS 13.7:** while closer to FHS than JCHS, this zone is also closer to MMS than JML. For this zone, rapid growth prevents them from being moved to the FHS/JML cluster without removing another community. **This plan allows them to stay at the MMS/JCHS.**

**DS 7.2, 7.5:** For this zone, rapid growth prevents them from staying at MMS/JCHS, **moving them to WMS/LRH.** 7.2 is not currently within a walk-zone, and 7.5 has no secondary students to move in 2020.

**DS 12.6, 13.3, 13.12:** These three communities are part of the Kirkpatrick Farms community, which is both north and south of Braddock Road. While close to MMS than WMS (and about the same distance to JCHS versus LRH), Plan 6 choses to keep the community together, **moving them to WMS/LRH** while relieving the overcrowding at MMS/JCHS.
Community. Plan 6 maintains current community alignments with minor exceptions:

DS13.5 is staying at JML/FHS, despite being a sliver of the Buffalo Trail Community. They align with the South Riding community, and have specifically and emphatically asked to remain in the JML/FHS cluster.

DS13.9 is moving from JML/FHS to MMS/JCHS due to the severe overcrowding at FHS. It is a segment of South Riding. With 100 MS and 100 HS, its move to MMS/JCHS will provide some relief (down to 111% max enrollment) to FHS/JML.

DS 17.6 is staying in the MMS/JCHS cluster, which is a split from the rest of the Pinebrook Elementary school community. However, they are staying with the Stone Ridge community, of which they are a part. They will continue to walk to MMS.

Demographics.

The Dulles South community provides a blended community with respect to demographics. The FRM community ranges from 8%-13% across all middle schools, and 8% to 15% across all high schools. ELL community ranges from 8%-13% across all middle schools, and 5% to 8% across all high schools.

Accessibility.

Accessibility to all schools in Plan 6 is eased by the primarily westerly flow of traffic to the schools in the morning, and easterly flow returning in the afternoon. FHS, JCHS are both on the extreme western boundaries of their Plan 6 service area, while JML and MMS can be accessed by the local community streets plus Gum Springs Road or Loudoun County Parkway (traffic lights at the schools main entrances) with minimum geographic barriers. The longest Plan 6 bus drive distance is 7 miles, from the county line west to JCHS (not including stops).

Stability.

Opening a new high school requires movement of many students. Moving children out of an existing school while trying to move children from another zone into the same school is disruptive and is avoided in Plan 6. This plan minimizes the movement of children between existing schools, while trying to maintain a long term strategic plan which minimizes the need to further burden mature communities which have been the recipient of the 14 new schools in 19 years. The juxtaposition of a currently overcapacity high school (FHS- 110% in 2020) which faces declining enrollment in the future must be balanced with the future overcapacity in the middle schools (MMS at 111% and WMS at 107% in 2024) who will have excess capacity upon opening of LRH but face enormous growth in the upcoming years. Of the nine fastest growing zones, four are aligned with WMS/LRH and five aligned to MMS/JCHS. Loading up WMS and MMS now to alleviate the JML/FHS cluster would require accelerating new boundaries changes.
**Cluster Alignment.**

Plan 6 has 5 elementary schools without direct feeds: BTES, PNB, LIB, CRES, and GPES.

- BTES is an existing splinter issue, and the community being separated out (DS 13.5) is overwhelmingly supportive of continuing at the JML/FHS cluster. The community is anticipating being moved back into a close-by elementary school at the next elementary school boundary process, when excess capacity is expected due to the aging of South Riding community;
- PNB is a new issue (MMS/JCHS 20%; WMS/LRH 80%), with DS 17.6 in favor of staying at MMS/JCHS, further supported by the proximity to both MMS and JCHS and as a member of the Stone Ridge community (see factors above);
- LIB (MMS/JCHS 48%; JML/FHS 52%) continues to be a split feed;
- CRES (MMS/JCHS 39%; JML/FHS 61%) continues to be a split feed; and
- GPES’s dispersed population and location adjacent to both western high schools makes it unusually difficult to create a direct feed (MMS/JCHS 57%; WMS/LRH 43%).

Should Plan 6 be approved, LCPS will minimize the overall impact of overcrowding on students, teachers and school administrations over the long term, and reduce disruptions caused by overflow and future boundary changes.