

On Tuesday, May 10, 2022, the Department of Instruction presented an information item to the School Board related to overcrowding at Hovatter Elementary School that will impact incoming Hovatter kindergarten students in the fall of 2022.

As you may know, Hovatter Elementary School is presently approaching or is over capacity in all grade levels. Projected enrollment shows this will be the case until the opening of the new elementary school being co-located on the Hovatter campus (ES-32) in 2025. Typically per School Board Policy 8155, when a grade level reaches capacity, a student or students would be regionally assigned to a nearby school with space at that grade level. This could happen at any point during the year, whenever a student enrolls in an overcrowded grade level. To keep the student body together as numbers grow and avoid regionally assigning incoming students to various elementary schools, LCPS has determined another solution specifically for the Hovatter community. While it may be difficult at first, staff believe this solution will provide more stability and consistency for students, families, and staff over the next three years.

Beginning in 2022-2023, all Hovatter kindergarten students will be assigned to attend Pinebrook Elementary. Pinebrook was selected because the school has adequate space and because it is close enough to coordinate LCPS transportation of all students within the Hovatter attendance zone.

These Hovatter kindergarten students will return to Hovatter when they enter first grade. Hovatter kindergarten classes will attend Pinebrook Elementary for the next three years through the 2024-2025 school year.

LCPS staff, along with School Board Chair Jeff Morse and Vice Chair and Blue Ridge District representative Ian Serotkin, will host a town hall to present the plan and answer any questions you might have.

The town hall will be held at Hovatter Elementary School in the Multi-Purpose Room (Gym) on Monday, June 6, at 7:00 p.m.

There has been an appeal submitted to the School Board to reconsider this decision. The committee of the School Board will meet to discuss the appeal on June 22, 2022. At this time, we are proceeding with the current plan unless the School Board determines another decision through the appeal process.

LCPS staff has prepared the following FAQs in response to the questions we have received. Additional questions may be submitted using this [Google Form](#); responses to these questions will be addressed at the town hall. Responses to the questions will also be subsequently posted on Hovatter's website.



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will my child remain at Pinebrook until ES-32 opens?

No, It is planned that all kindergartners in the 2022-23 year will return to the current Hovatter building for grades 1-5. ES-32, the next elementary school colocated on the Hovatter/Lightridge site, will open in the 2025-26 school year.

2. If overcrowding is an issue, were trailers on campus considered?

Yes, trailers or modular units were considered. Because of the layout of the campus and the construction of ES-32, which will be adjacent to Hovatter, modular units are not a viable solution.

3. Has LCPS considered moving the 5th grade students to Willard since they will go there next year?

Yes, this was an option considered. Willard does not have extra capacity for a grade level.

4. Will transportation be provided to and from Pinebrook?

Yes, LCPS bus transportation will be provided to all regionally assigned Hovatter Kindergarten students. The Pinebrook buses for Kindergarten students will stop at the same Hovatter bus stops being used for the students in grades 1-5, at slightly later times to accommodate the different school start times. A schedule will be provided as soon as it is available.

5. Can I request special permission for my older child to attend Pinebrook so my children are at the same school?

You may request special permission, and if there is adequate space at the respective grade level, it will be granted for the 2022-23 school year. There is not sufficient capacity for all siblings of the Hovatter Kindergarten students to attend Pinebrook. While transportation is not provided for students attending a school via special permission, families could request alternative transportation for their older child if special permission were granted and if space is available on the existing bus. See [here](#) for an infographic outlining the special permission process and [here](#) for more detailed information and the application link.

6. Has LCPS considered keeping one or two classes of Kindergarten students at Hovatter?

Yes, this was considered and not an option because of the number of Kindergarten families with older siblings as well as the number of families with current preschoolers living in the Hovatter attendance area and/or moving into the Hovatter attendance zone over the next



three years. The availability of current Kindergarten classrooms at Hovatter this 2021-22 school year will provide additional classrooms over the next three years for students in grades 1-5.

7. Will the kindergarten classes at Pinebrook be separated into Pinebrook students and Hovatter students, or will they be combined classes?

REVISED May 25, 2022

Yes, we will populate classes based on attendance zones until we have utilized all available classrooms. At that point, we may also have a class that is comprised of students from both school zones. Pinebrook will announce screening dates for parents to schedule a session for their child to complete a short readiness assessment. The assessment will help create balanced classes and promote an inclusive classroom learning environment for all kindergarten students.

Revised Response - June 21, 2022 (See also question 58 below):

In LCPS, the school community is critical within a school building. LCPS also understands that friendship building is an essential component of Kindergarten. To meet the priorities of building the school community at Pinebrook simultaneously with Hovatter students creating relationships with each other, we will evenly distribute Hovatter students across the Kindergarten classes. Each Kindergarten class will have at least 12-15 Hovatter students. Pinebrook will announce screening dates for parents to schedule a session for their child to complete a short readiness assessment. The assessment will help create balanced classes and promote an inclusive classroom learning environment for all kindergarten students.

8. What is the impact on the remaining students at Hovatter of moving kindergarten students to Pinebrook? An additional class will be added to each grade level 1-5. Regional assignment at other grade levels is not anticipated to be needed; there will be space for students in grades 1-5 to register and attend Hovatter. This space does not currently exist.

9. What about families who have already arranged before and after school care?

Please contact your provider to determine whether they are able to provide pick up and drop off at Pinebrook Elementary too. For families who have registered or plan to register for CASA, the deadline for registration for Hovatter and Pinebrook was extended through Friday, May 20. LCPS bus transportation from Pinebrook to Hovatter, at the end of the school day, is being arranged by the LCPS Division of Transportation.

10. I've just registered my Kindergarten student and older sibling(s) for CASA at Hovatter. Now they won't be at the same place at the end of the day. What should I do? LCPS' Division of Transportation will provide bus transportation for Hovatter Kindergarten students regionally assigned to Pinebrook. Families will need to submit an Alternative Transportation Request, and their student will be transported from Pinebrook



to CASA at Hovatter. Additionally, if you would like your child to attend CASA at Pinebrook, there may be slots remaining.

11. How will the two schools work together?

Hovatter and Pinebrook principals and PTAs will be working together to coordinate the schedules of events to minimize overlap. The PTAs will remain separate, and Kindergarten students will be Pinebrook students for one year. This action is a regional assignment, per LCPS School Board Policy 8155; Pinebrook will not be identified as an annex or satellite program for Hovatter Kindergarten students.

12. When Kindergarten students rejoin Hovatter, as first grade students, how will they be placed into first grade classrooms? Many factors are taken into consideration for placement, one of those is familiarity with classmates.

13. I have follow-up questions, who may I contact?

Please submit additional questions or comments using this [Google form](#). Additional questions will be addressed at the town hall at Hovatter Elementary School in the Multi-Purpose Room (Gym) on Monday, June 6, at 7:00 p.m.

New FAQs - May 18, 2022

14. With the addition of 160 kindergarten students to Pinebrook, how many kindergarten classrooms will be at that school? Will the existing Hovatter kindergarten teachers be added to the Pinebrook team to assist with this significant increase in students?

There are 11 classrooms and teachers allocated for kindergarten at Pinebrook. There will be sufficient teachers and teacher assistants, per the LCPS staffing standards.

15. How many kindergarten students are currently enrolled at Pinebrook before the addition of the Hovatter students? What will the class size be for each classroom?

As of May 27, 71 kindergarten students are registered at Pinebrook, and 164 kindergarten students are registered at Hovatter. These numbers are changing each day. The current class size at Pinebrook is 21.3 Kindergarten students per class.

16. Please provide reasoning for moving the entire class instead of increasing the class size to 26 or 27, pursuant to School Board Policy 5080(A)(1)(a).

Increasing the class size to 27 would create 164 spaces. There are more than 164 Kindergarten students expected this year and in subsequent years. Also, the spaces



currently being utilized for classrooms at Hovatter do not all have the capacity to accommodate 27 students.

17. Please provide reasoning for why this is to be considered a school assignment change pursuant to School Board Policy 8155, and not a school attendance zone change pursuant to School Board Policy 6350, which requires public participation and at least one public hearing. Policy 8155 has no such public hearing requirement but appears to apply to the assignment of particular students in the case of overcrowding. This is an en masse reassignment of an entire grade, which works as a de facto attendance zone change for all students in the grade.

Section B of School Board Policy 8155, School Assignment, states that at *“the discretion of the school division, students may be reassigned to a school other than their regular school of assignment, for the purpose of relieving overcrowding (also called “regional assignment”), if the regular school of assignment or a particular grade level at an elementary school of assignment is overcrowded. In such situations, the student may be reassigned to another school in which suitable capacity exists, with transportation provided by the school division. Efforts will be made to reassign a regionally assigned student to the closest possible school with suitable capacity and to return the student to their regular school of assignment at the start of the next school year in which the overcrowding situation no longer exists.”*

Hovatter Elementary will be overcrowded until the new elementary school (ES-32) opens in fall 2025. Rather than regionally assigning students from all grade levels, as maximum class sizes are reached (potentially regionally assigning advancing K-4 students who are already attending Hovatter Elementary this 2021-2022 year), the decision to provide additional classroom space for grades 1-5 by regionally assigning incoming kindergarten students to a neighboring school was reached. As the kindergarten students then matriculate to grade 1, they will attend Hovatter Elementary. And transitioning the Hovatter classrooms presently serving kindergarten students to provide additional student seats for grades 1-5 works toward preventing regional assignment of other non-kindergarten children in the Hovatter Elementary attendance area.

Initiating an attendance zone change, as outlined in School Board Policy and Regulation 6350, Changing School Attendance Zones, involves a series of public meetings generally scheduled a year before any zone changes take effect. Further, any streets and/or neighborhoods rezoned to another elementary school would be reassigned back to the ES-32/Hovatter attendance area in fall 2025. The number of elementary students (at all grade levels) and families reassigned to another elementary school attendance area would be significantly greater than the kindergarten students who are just beginning elementary school.



18. Can you provide a guarantee that my child will return to Hovatter for first grade?

All Kindergarten students in the Hovatter attendance zone are anticipated to return to Hovatter for first grade.

19. How many rising Kinders have siblings already attending Hovatter? Why weren't we given first priority — like you said we were going to have? Why not keep a few classes at Hovatter for siblings? There are currently 7 classrooms. Why not devote half of them to siblings or students with special needs?

There are over 60 incoming kindergartners with siblings at Hovatter. This would require dedicating three classrooms to K. Doing so would still require regionally assigning across all grade levels and to more than one nearby school. Additionally, not all of the spaces assigned to Kindergarten classes were originally designed as classroom space due to their smaller square footage. For safety and instructional purposes, the smaller space will not be utilized as a classroom next year.

20. Why wasn't overcrowding an issue this past year?

Hovatter was overcrowded this past year which required the use of space not originally intended for classroom use. Enrollment continues to increase and will do so each year for the next three years.

21. Are you accepting Special Permissions for grades 1-5 in Hovatter?

No, special permission is closed for Hovatter.

22. How will transportation work? Are you going to keep bus stops the same? What will be the time difference for the two busses?

The bus stops will remain the same. The buses will complete the Hovatter pickup and then circle back to pick up kindergarten students for Pinebrook. The exact times will be published as soon as possible.

23. When will we start getting information from Pinebrook?

Families will begin to receive information from Pinebrook after June 1. Stay tuned for an invitation to a "Get the Scoop on Pinebrook" meet and greet for all rising K students attending Pinebrook in the fall.

24. If I opt to keep my rising kindergarten student in a private kindergarten at his current school for consistency and to reduce the number of times he's switching schools, will I lose his spot to move into first grade at Hovatter?

No, if you are in the Hovatter attendance zone, your child will be eligible to attend first grade at Hovatter, pending student enrollment in all grade levels in 2022-2023.



25. If we registered with Hovatter, do we need to re-register now with Pinebrook?
No, the information provided when you originally registered your Kindergarten student will be transferred to Pinebrook. Families who register a Kindergarten student in the Hovatter attendance zone anytime throughout the year should register at Hovatter and will be regionally assigned to Pinebrook.

New FAQs - June 15, 2022

26. So after one year of Kindergarten at Pinebrook, can you guarantee that my kid will come to Hovatter from next year, that is first grade till the completion of elementary school? Why I am asking this is, it will be the same number of students (Maybe more) that will be moving to Hovatter at that time.

Please see the response to Question 18. ES-32 will be open at that time, alleviating the overcrowding at Hovatter Elementary.

27. What is the School Board's stance on the appeal submitted on May 23, 2022?

The select committee of the School Board will meet on June 22, 2022, to act on the appeal.

28. How did this issue occur? How were the projections so "off" and what is LCPS doing to remedy how projections are done, given that this occurs far too frequently in Loudoun County?

Projections are reviewed each fall during the annual development of the Capital Improvements Program and reflect the best information available. Challenges for the past couple of years included the impact of COVID-19 on enrollments which has also impacted most of the country; nonetheless, certain areas of Loudoun have continued to grow. Most communities within the Hovatter attendance zone are "by right" developments that often have a shortened approval process that can influence projection accuracy for the area when building occurs in an accelerated manner.

29. Why was the process outlined in Policy 8155 not followed (to summarize, once capacity is reached, reassignment occurs)? Is this Hovatter scenario not a scenario for which this policy and process was created? On what grounds is the school board allowed to come up with "another solution specifically for the Hovatter community?" This does not appear to be the intent of the policy.

As stated in [Policy 8155](#), each unique situation is analyzed and prioritized against others within that situation based on the date of enrollment at that particular



school.

30. Was a comprehensive cost-analysis done regarding the option of modular classrooms? These have been implemented before; how did that scenario play out?

LCPS has and continues to consider modular classroom options; however, the decision as to whether to utilize this option is related to timing and space constraints and not the costs of installation. The Hovatter campus has limited space upon which modular classrooms can be placed given the planned construction of ES-32 and the estimated number of classrooms needed. It should also be noted that the availability of modular classroom units is affected by the current supply chain issues and would likely take 8 to 10 months for delivery which will not be a viable option for the 2022-2023 school year.

31. Can parents have access to the source data used by the Superintendent's office to rule out the other alternatives considered (e.g., modular classrooms, any costs determined to make alternative options not feasible)?

Source data for the decision has been provided and consists of enrollment projections and actual student enrollments for the 2022-2023 year. Costs of modular classrooms, or other options, were not a factor in the determination of the current plan to address the overcrowding at Hovatter Elementary.

32. Where is LCPS in the process of building ES-32? Have there been discussions to fast-track this build? What are the chances that this build could get delayed (extending the three-year timeframe for using Pinebrook?)

Administrative action approving the required commission permit ([CMPT-2021-0008](#)) has been secured; remaining pre-construction work includes designing of the site plan and the facility itself. Funding for the design processes becomes available on July 1, 2022, as a function of the Capital Improvement Program. The construction process is currently scheduled to be completed in Fall 2025. Staff is currently looking into the potential of expediting the construction of the school for a Fall 2024 opening, the feasibility of which has not yet been confirmed.

33. Have there been instances where an entire cohort/grade has been regionally assigned to a new school? Have there been instances where an entire Kindergarten class has been regionally assigned to a new school?

No, this specific solution has not been utilized before. However, LCPS has utilized annexation, an intermediate school, and other options for large groups of students to address long-term overcrowding. Annexation occurs when there is room at a nearby school that is another level (annexing an 8th grade class to a high school, for example). Annexing a grade from one elementary school to another is not a



practical or efficient use of resources.

34. What will happen to Hovatter's Pre-K program and teachers?

The Hovatter Pre-K program and teachers will remain at Hovatter Elementary.

35. Were the school counselors and other experts consulted to determine the impact this would have on five-year-old students? Or on kindergarteners who will now be separated from their siblings after anticipating they'd be together? School counselors were not consulted.

36. Without the Hovatter kindergarten cohort's numbers, how many Kindergarteners are currently enrolled at Pinebrook for the coming year? How many more are anticipated? The FAQ sent to parents on 6/3/22 states that as of 5/27/22 there are 71 kindergarten students registered at Pinebrook; however, according to the LCPS 9/30/23 Enrollment document, there are 105 Pinebrook kindergarten students. What accounts for this discrepancy?

As of June 16, there are currently 85 kindergarten students enrolled at Pinebrook Elementary for the 2022-2023 school year. That student number is anticipated to increase over the summer as Kindergarten enrollment constantly changes in the months leading up to the start of a new school year.

37. Adding in the Hovatter cohort, how many Kindergarteners are now projected to attend Pinebrook next year?

There are currently 168 Hovatter students and 85 Pinebrook students *registered* to attend Kindergarten at Pinebrook Elementary for the 2022-2023 school year. This number may change as enrollment continues throughout the summer.

38. How many Kindergarten classrooms will there now be at Pinebrook?

See response to Question 14.

39. What is the projected class size for kindergarten students at Pinebrook?

See response to Question 15. Using current enrollment numbers, there are 23.5 students per class. Staff expects class sizes to meet or be below the staffing standard of 25 students per class.

40. Where will the additional Kindergarten teachers come from?

Staffing is addressed division-wide; teachers change grade levels, transfer from one school to another, or are hired from outside LCPS to meet the needs at each school.



**41. How will the area surrounding Pinebrook account for the increase in traffic?
There is only one entrance and it is managed by a four-way stop. Already, this intersection is congested.**

Bus routes are currently being developed for the next school year and the transportation teams are cognizant of the current and potential traffic challenges. It should be noted that Pinebrook is currently under capacity and the addition of the kindergarteners from Hovatter will not exceed their capacity. The transportation infrastructure will be able to accommodate the minimal increase in bus traffic with the understanding that delays during drop-off and pick-up will continue as they do at all school campuses. Parents can also do their part by allowing their children to ride the bus and avoid additional parent vehicular traffic on campus.

42. How will Pinebrook manage the strain on resources, to include recess, lunch times, etc.

Pinebrook will have sufficient resources to effectively manage the entire school population. Pinebrook Elementary has had 1000+ students in previous years, and the staff is equipped to provide instruction and resources for over 900 students.

43. When will the new development immediately adjacent to Pinebrook be completed? How many children will this add to Pinebrook's population?

The Hogan Kent Greene rezoning was approved in December 2020 for 144 total units - 26 single family detached and 118 single family attached units. The preliminary plat has been approved and two record plats are currently under review. Upon approvals and site development, home construction will likely commence 9-12 months later. Current 2021 LCPS student generation factors anticipate 44 elementary school students, 25 middle school students and 33 high school students at buildout of the development.

44. Will Hovatter continue to accept students in Grades 1-5 via special permission requests?

See response to Question 21.

45. If the administrative decision is upheld, will you consider a parent advisory committee of KDG parents to provide input on future decisions related to the regional assignment, including but not limited to bus schedules and logistics, CASA programming, lunch times, class sizes, and classroom assignment?

Many of these logistics are driven by other programming and logistics within the school program. For example, class sizes and classroom assignment are dependent on total enrollment, individual student needs (IEPs, 504s, EL services, etc.). CASA programming is run by Loudoun County Parks and Recreation. Bus schedules for



one school are part of the entire division's transportation programming.

46. When is the next time school zoning will occur? What additional steps and assessments will be followed to ensure that Hovatter and its new sister elementary school will not face this issue again?

Enrollment projections are reviewed annually and any changes in the timing of school projects will be made by the School Board during the capital budget review process each fall. The School Board's adopted FY 2023 Capital Improvement Program identifies the next elementary school opening in the Dulles (north) area in the Fall of 2029.

47. Why were parents of siblings told that rising Ks who have a sibling already at Hovatter would have preference over new LCPS families?

This communication took place in accordance with LCPS Regulation 8155. As Kindergarten enrollment began to increase, LCPS administration began looking at alternative solutions.

48. Why can't Pinebrook and Hovatter not start at the same time, alleviating two different bus stop times? Has the district considered the impact on the already- severe bus driver shortage? Has the district considered how this will look for families with rising kindergartener students and rising 1st or 2nd grade students?

The staggering of school start times was implemented to allow bus and driver resources to serve multiple schools, increase the efficiency and most importantly the reliability of bus service. The split times are expected to also minimize the need for second loads at particular schools as well. In the case of Hovatter and Pinebrook, the split times will aid in the on-time delivery of students at both schools.

49. Who made this decision and why were parents NOT consulted?

This was an administrative decision based on all of the data available at the time.

50. Could you please share the information that was used to determine the projected enrollment at both Hovatter and Pinebrook for the next three years?

Student enrollment projections for all LCPS schools are published in the Capital Improvements Program found here: [School Board Adopted FY 2023 - FY 2028 Capital Improvement Program Capital Asset Preservation Program FY 2029](#).

51. Is it true that part of the projected Hovatter enrollment is from neighborhoods or communities that are not yet built and/or inhabited? If so,



why aren't these currently uninhabited areas (currently zoned for Hovatter) rezoned?

The enrollment projections for Hovatter Elementary are forecast based students coming from approved development only. With exception of individual home lots in Willowsford, in the Hovatter Elementary attendance zone, there are no other unbuilt homes to rezone. Two active development applications currently under review by the County are not part of the forecast. Further, a number of future Peach Ridge Court residents (Willowsford), assigned to the Aldie Elementary School attendance zone, have recently requested an attendance zone change for this street to attend Hovatter Elementary. Based on current and forecast student enrollments at Hovatter Elementary prior to the construction and opening of ES-32, the request has been denied.

52. Has the new community being built behind Pinebrook been taken into consideration for Pinebrook's projected enrollment? Will Pinebrook really be able to accommodate all current Pinebrook neighborhoods AND all current Hovatter neighborhoods' kindergarten students AND all the kindergarteners from the new neighborhoods in both zones?

Yes, staff is monitoring the Hogan Kent Greene development. Also see response to Question 43. The Pinebrook Elementary attendance zone is a maturing area. New residential development in the school's attendance area was considered in selecting Pinebrook Elementary for the regional assignment of Hovatter Kindergarten students.

53. Why isn't the district planning to keep enough kindergarten classes (3?) at Hovatter for students with older Hovatter siblings and for students who qualify for a special exemption due to special needs.

Doing so would continue to result in large class sizes, utilizing space in Hovatter Elementary not designed for classroom instruction, and the regional assignment of multiple grade levels over the next three years.

54. What plans are in place to deal with the inevitable bus driver shortage, late busses, bus breaking down, etc. specifically for families who are being separated and have children attending two separate schools. This has happened numerous times this year already at Hovatter. How does the county expect to be able to handle this entire additional route without issues when there's already transportation issues, mainly being busy driver shortages?

See response to Question 48.

55. How are car riders logistically able to make it to both schools for drop off and pick up when siblings are being sent to different schools? Single parents,



parents who travel for work and only one parent is home caring for the kids, divorced parents, etc. cannot make it to both schools on time for drop off and pick ups. There's many reasons children are solely car riders due to custody arrangements, safety, and children who are fearful of riding the bus.

The split start times will facilitate bus and parent drop off at Hovatter Elementary and then Pinebrook Elementary. Recognizing there are many reasons for students to be dropped off and picked up by parents, the preference remains for students to take advantage of bus service to minimize the number of cars on the campus each day.

56. Upon reviewing the projected enrollments at Pinebrook and Hovatter, as determined and posted by LCPS, I see that in the 22/23 school year, Pinebrook can accommodate 191 additional students. Hovatter is projected to have 206 kindergarten students, which will put Pinebrook over capacity by 15 students. It seems Pinebrook would end up with projected 975 while Hovatter has projected 980 (without kindergarteners). So Hovatter has just 5 students more than Pinebrook. I understand that based on the number of classrooms, the schools have the same capacity, but I also understand that Hovatter is more than 16,000 square feet larger than Pinebrook. It seems this much more space could more comfortably and more safely accommodate more students than Pinebrook. (And not just 5 students more.) Hovatter has the square footage available to accommodate more classrooms, if the interior is modified to make a space for them. Furthermore, Pinebrook is going to be 15 students over capacity in 22/23, but with the enormous enrollment projections for HOV in the 23/24 and 24/25, there will clearly be many more than 206 kindergarten students. How will Pinebrook accommodate them in addition to the students coming from the 144 unit development being built in the Pinebrook zone?

Regarding the design, it is important to acknowledge that since 2005 when Pinebrook Elementary opened, design practices and building code requirements for schools have evolved. The key to comparing the schools is in the classroom calculation and not necessarily the square footage of the overall building. The base building capacities of the schools has been developed with a focus on the instructional classrooms. Specific to students residing in the Pinebrook Elementary attendance zone, the elementary school is in a more mature area - residentially speaking. The limited new residential development in the school's attendance area was considered in selecting Pinebrook Elementary for the regional assignment of Hovatter Kindergarten students.

57. Can you please conduct an analysis to determine how long my 5 year old will be on the bus as it picks up Hovatter children, then picks up Pinebrook



children all the while dealing with traffic on Braddock Road. Also, without his big brother to comfort him.

Bus routes for the fall are being developed countywide now and will be available in early August.

58. Can you please clarify the discrepancy in what was put in the latest FAQs versus what was described at the town hall in terms of keeping Hovatter children together in classes at Pinebrook?

In LCPS, the school community is critical within a school building. LCPS also understands that friendship building is an essential component of Kindergarten. To meet the priorities of building the school community at Pinebrook simultaneously with Hovatter students creating relationships with each other, we will evenly distribute Hovatter students across the Kindergarten classes. Each Kindergarten class will have at least 12-15 Hovatter students. Pinebrook will announce screening dates for parents to schedule a session for their child to complete a short readiness assessment. The assessment will help create balanced classes and promote an inclusive classroom learning environment for all kindergarten students.

59. Can Hovatter Kindergarten at Pinebrook start at the same time as the rest of Hovatter school - without affecting the start of the remaining Pinebrook school (less disruption to pick up and drop off for parents that have kids at both schools).

See response to Question 55.

60. What are the reasons for choosing to reassign Kindergartners over 5th graders to Pinebrook? We are talking about 5 year olds vs 10 year olds?

Several options including grade 5 students were considered. Reassigning rising grade 5 students (grade 5, 2022-2023 SY) would have students who have been enrolled in LCPS since 2020 attend three (3) different elementary schools in as many years:

- 2020-21 = Grade 3 (Goshen Post ES or Buffalo Trail ES, based on residence)
- 2021-22 = Grade 4 (Hovatter ES)
- 2022-23 = Grade 5 (TBD/Regionally Assigned Elementary School)
- 2023-24 = Grade 6 (Willard MS)

61. Since it was brought up at the Townhall last night that it was known Hovatter would be overcrowded a year before it even opened, is there any plan for an additional middle school or high school that would potentially serve our zoned area? (Especially as Willard is already overcrowded, as well.). It seems as though this may be a continued issue as my young children are moving up throughout the grades, and if the funding and planning process takes many



years, I would like to know where the county is in that process. Thank you!

The Capital Improvement Program includes a new middle school (MS-14) and a new high school (HS-14) in the Dulles North area of the county. The schools open in Fall 2024 and Fall 2028, respectively. The School Board will initiate an attendance zone process to establish attendance zones for these secondary schools in the Spring of 2023.

