



Office of the School Board

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Dear Chair Gallaway and Members of the Board:

We write in support of a proposal that has the potential to significantly increase the number of children in the western feeder pattern who would benefit from an after-school care program.

Later this month, Claudius Crozet Park Inc., a local non-profit organization, will appear before you to discuss their plans to improve their existing recreational facility. In addition to the broader health and fitness benefits an expanded facility would offer the community is the prospect of a substantial increase in the number of families able to meet the after-school enrichment needs of their children.

There is a current after-school care program operated by the YMCA at this facility but space limitations limits capacity to 27 students. If the building is expanded, the program will be able to accommodate more than 10 times as many students. In our western feeder pattern elementary schools, there now are 123 students on waitlists for our Extended Day Enrichment Program (EDEP). A reasoned estimate is that the need among families for these services is greater than that; knowing that wait lists are a multi-year occurrence, some families undoubtedly are discouraged from even applying for EDEP and others are discouraged by tuition costs that can reach \$2,000 or more for a full-year..

We see expanded community partnerships as a desirable and effective strategy in narrowing the gap between students who would benefit from after-school enrichment and those who actually are able to participate.

Earlier this year, we approved a lease with the Boys & Girls Club of Central Virginia to reduce this gap in our northern feeder pattern and we have worked with the club to expand their services for southern feeder pattern students.

We conceptually support the proposal that will come before you later this month as one that will make it possible for Claudius Crozet Park to become an even more valuable community resource.

Respectfully,

Jonno Alcaro
Chair, Albemarle County School Board

