

RECOGNITION OF ARLINGTON'S SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS, COUNSELORS AND PSYCHOLOGISTS FOR EXCEPTIONAL COMMITMENT AND SERVICE TO STUDENTS AND FAMILIES DURING THE COVID-19 GLOBAL PANDEMIC

Whereas the COVID-19 global pandemic required schools around the world and in Arlington to close school facilities and provide an array of services to students and families virtually; and

Whereas many of Arlington's students and families have experienced illness, loss, financial hardship, food insecurity, homelessness, unemployment, stress, isolation and other adverse impacts from the global pandemic; and

Whereas school social workers, counselors and psychologists have performed critical, front-line work to mitigate these adverse impacts in the communities they serve, identifying needs and confidentially distributing goods often in conjunction with local PTA unit donation efforts; and

Whereas it has required extraordinary dedication, professionalism, compassion and creativity to identify ways to support the well-being of students and families outside of the normal structures for doing so;

Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Arlington County Council of PTAs recognizes and expresses its deep appreciation to school social workers, counselors and psychologists for the vital services they have performed for Arlington's children and families during the COVID-19 global pandemic and the collaborative nature of their work with local PTA units in doing so; and

Resolved that in keeping with the position statements of the National PTA and Virginia PTA on the reopening of schools and the mental health return to learn safety net, we call upon Arlington Public Schools to prioritize the health and well-being of its students by ensuring that appropriate resources are dedicated to providing trauma-informed mental, social, and emotional support to students when they return onsite to school; further we call upon Arlington Public Schools to maintain, and as resources permit, increase its investment in highly qualified school social workers, counselors and psychologists.

Adopted by the Arlington CCPTA Executive Board and Delegates, December 14, 2020

Arlington County Council

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