

TO: Arlington County Board
Arlington County School Board
Chair, South Arlington Working Group (SAWG)

FM: Arlington Ridge Civic Association
Aurora Highlands Civic Association
Crystal City Civic Association

RE: South Arlington Elementary School
Site Selection

October 15, 2015

We write to advise that all three Civic Associations representing the citizens in our 22202 community are of a like mind with regard to the need and desire for construction of a new elementary school within the next decade, the sooner the better, to be located centrally within our community. Oakridge is already the most populous elementary school in the entire County, as well as the most over-enrolled school in south Arlington. Moreover, given the high-rise, residential development the County has already approved for construction in 22202 in the coming years, the need for an additional school to be paired with and augment the capacity of Oakridge is inevitable and will soon become urgent.

The SAWG has identified three possible sites for a new school in 22202, Gunston, River House, and Virginia Highlands Park, particularly where the Aurora Hills library and community center are currently located on the separate parcel of land that was designated in the 1976 Pentagon City Phased Development Site Plan (Condition #44) for the location of County facilities.

Unfortunately, while conceptual plans for a new school in 22202 have been developed for the Gunston and River House properties, none have been developed for this more central and potentially ideal site which makes it impossible to evaluate and compare the pros and cons of all three sites. Accordingly, we strongly urge the County and School Board to fund and promptly develop, as a first step in a participatory siting process, one or more conceptual plans for a multi-use facility on that site which would contain a new library and community center, together with an elementary school. (Our three Civic Associations stand ready to ensure well-informed community participation in such a siting process.) Further, we ask that construction of a new elementary school in 22202 be included in the upcoming CIP.

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF:

/s/ Sandra Borden

Crystal City Civic Ass'n

/s/ Joel Nelson

Aurora Highlands Civic Ass'n

/s/ Arthur Fox

Arlington Ridge Civic Ass'n