

JES PTA CIP Advocacy Campaign

The Issue

Please pay attention if you plan to send your child to Williamsburg Middle School in the coming years. The Arlington Public Schools (APS) board approved its 2014 bond funding proposal in June and, regrettably, punted on deciding how and where to build new middle school capacity in north Arlington. Opposition from some community members to APS's conceptual plans for use of the Wilson site as a secondary school, and potential changes at the Stratford facility (where the H. B. Woodlawn program now operates) caused the board to drop all north Arlington middle school construction money from the 2014 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) proposal. The board-approved CIP includes \$4 million for planning and community engagement process, but omitted the funds requested by Superintendent Murphy to build new capacity. The APS CIP proposal now goes to the County Board for approval in mid July. If approved, it will be placed on the November ballot for voter approval. The next CIP will be considered two years from now. Your PTA board is quite concerned that the APS board's action will delay new construction needed to reduce the expected overcrowding at Williamsburg. A Kindergartner starting at Jamestown this fall will reach Williamsburg when the middle school seat deficit will be at least 1,000 seats!

What You Can Do

It is vital and urgent that you email, call, write or meet with the County board and School board. The messages to the two boards are a little bit different:

Tell the County Board:

1. You are an Arlington resident and voter with a child (now at Jamestown Elementary -- as applicable) who will attend Williamsburg Middle School in ____ years.
2. You are very concerned/disappointed/angry that the APS 2014 CIP proposal fails to include funds for new middle school capacity in north Arlington.
3. You object to deferring availability of new middle school capacity because the APS school population projections show that Williamsburg and other north Arlington middle schools will grow seriously overcrowded in the next few years.
4. You do not want the County Board to approve the APS CIP unless the near- and long-term middle school capacity needs in north Arlington are going to be addressed in a timely way.
5. You expect the Board to find a way to correct the shortcoming in the 2014 APS CIP or decline to bring the CIP forward for voter approval in November.
6. *[Anything else you may wish to express regarding school operations or use of your tax dollars for schools in Arlington.]*

Tell the School Board:

1. You are an Arlington resident and voter with a child (now at Jamestown Elementary -- as applicable) who will attend Williamsburg Middle School in ____ years.
2. You are very concerned/disappointed/angry that the APS 2014 CIP proposal fails to include funds for new middle school capacity in north Arlington, particularly measures to head off expected near- and long-term overcrowding at Williamsburg and Swanson.
3. You expect to oppose County Board and voter approval of the APS CIP unless it is clear that the middle school capacity needs in north Arlington are going to be addressed in a timely way.
4. You expect the School Board to find a way to correct the shortcomings in the 2014 APS CIP or to withdraw it from County Board consideration.
5. *[Anything else you may wish to express regarding school operations or use of your tax dollars for schools in Arlington.]*

Keep reading---->

How You Can Contact

Contact the County Board and the School Board.

County Board

via email: countyboard@arlingtonva.us

via phone: 703-228-3130

via fax: 703-228-7430

via mail: Arlington County Board, 2100 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 300, Arlington VA 22201

School Board

via email: school.board@apsva.us

via phone: 703-228-6015

via fax: 703-228-7640

via mail: Arlington Education Center, 1426 N. Quincy St., Arlington VA 22201

Mark Your Calendar

June 24	County board work session #3 (IT and utilities; APS not on agenda)
June 30	County Board Open Door Monday, Aurora Hills Library (735 South 18th St; 7 - 9pm)
July 1	School Board Meeting, Education Center, 9:30am
July 7	County Board Open Door Monday, Westover Branch Library (1644 N Mc Kinley Rd; 7 - 9pm)
July 14	County Board Open Door Monday, Arlington Mill Community Ctr (909 S Dinwiddie; 7 - 9pm)
July 17	County Board CIP Wrap-up and Chairman's Mark (3-4:30pm)
July 19	County Board adoption of CIP/Bond Referenda
Dec 31	APS Completion of Secondary School planning process

Ways to Stay Informed

PTA email	To be added to the Jamestown PTA listserv, contact the newsletter editor at newsletter-editor@jamestownpta.org
PTA website	www.jamestownpta.org
Facebook	Jamestown Elementary School PTA
Twitter	@JESmoreseats