

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council is committed to supporting a superior public education system in Alexandria;

WHEREAS, due to an urgent need for extensive renovations, the educational environment at George Washington High School restricts or may tend to restrict the educational opportunity of the students at that institution and projections indicate that renovations at Francis Hammond High School will also be needed in the immediate future;

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Board of Education has found and the City Council agrees that consolidating the ninth and tenth grades now located at both George Washington and Francis Hammond High Schools in a single complex will result in significantly increased educational opportunities for all students at the ninth and tenth grade level together with significantly reduced operating expenses; and is, therefore, a desirable and appropriate objective;

WHEREAS, the deteriorating structural condition of George Washington High School mandates an immediate policy decision by the Board, and agreement thereto by the City Council so that implementation may begin;

WHEREAS, the commitment to providing superior public education requires implementation of said decision with a minimum of disruption to ongoing educational programs at both schools and throughout the system.

WHEREAS, among available alternatives and sites therefor, the George Washington site is deemed to be suitable with respect to access, available usable space, and centralized location for construction of a consolidated ninth and tenth grade school;

WHEREAS, the applicable laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia contemplate that a decision to provide additional capital funding for public education rests with the City Council but that the decision to seek such funds from the City Council rests with the Board of Education;

WHEREAS, for this reason, it is desirable and appropriate for the City Council to express its opinion as to alternatives in addition to the George Washington site.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL:

1. If the Board of Education adopts the George Washington High School site as a suitable site for a consolidated ninth and tenth grade educational complex the City Council shall

- (A) Agree to and support said decision;
- (B) make available such funds as are currently budgeted, as needed, to plan for implementing said decision with the least possible disruption to ongoing educational programs; and
- (C) use their best efforts in cooperation with the Board to develop and implement a construction plan acceptable to both the Board and Council for whatever new construction, renovation and/or demolition is necessary to complete said educational complex as soon as possible.

2. In the alternative, if the School Board elects not to proceed immediately with a consolidation of the ninth and tenth grade at the George Washington site, it is the sense of the City Council that the existing facilities at George Washington and Hammond be maintained and that a sum sufficient to operate, maintain, and repair such facilities be provided for these facilities for a period up to three years beginning January 1, 1977. If this alternative is acceptable to the School Board, the City Council shall:

- (A) agree to and support said decision;
- (B) make available such funds as are budgeted, as needed, to plan for implementing said decision with the least possible disruption to ongoing educational programs; and

(C) use its best efforts in cooperation with the Board to develop and implement a consolidated ninth and tenth grade facility as part of a comprehensive physical facilities plan for all levels of the public school system that will reflect the present and projected school population, the varying and distinct needs of the student body and the financial resources of the community.

3. This Resolution is intended to express no commitment by the Council to approve or disapprove funds for any other possible alternative which could be selected by the Board except as stated herein, but rather is intended to express which possible alternative could immediately proceed to implementation if the Board is so inclined.

Adopted December 14, 1976

---

Helen Holleman

Clerk