



Prince George's County Board of Education
14201 School Lane • Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772 • www.pgcps.org

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

BOARD OF EDUCATION
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Board Member

Edward Burroughs, III

Dr. Monica Goldson, Chief Executive Officer
Prince George's County Public School System
Sasscer Administration Building
14201 School Lane
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Dear Dr. Goldson,

I am writing to convey concerns that I have received from members of the community regarding the proposed site for the new Southern Area K-8 School. These members raised a variety of concerns in over an hour long exchange between constituents and some of their elected officials.

On October 21, 2020, the Board of Education approved the contract award for the Alternative Construction Financing Package, which included the construction of a new Southern Area K-8 School. I am appreciative that the southern portion of our county was included in the initial round of P3 school construction projects. I also know that many members of the community are supportive of the decision to build a new K-8 school in the southern area of the county. However, there are also significant objections from members of the community regarding the specific site location that was chosen for the construction of this new school.

On Sunday, March 14, 2021, Board Vice Chair Sonya Williams and I attended a community meeting organized by The Alliance for Greater County Transparency where members of the community voiced their concerns regarding the Fort Washington site for the new Southern Area K-8 School. In particular, members of the local community expressed concern regarding pre-existing flooding and traffic issues in the area that could be exacerbated by the new school construction.

During this meeting, Board Vice Chair Williams suggested to the attendees that there were other options for the location of the Southern Area K-8 School that PGCPS could explore, including "existing land that Park and Planning owns that's next to the Potomac Landing." The Board Vice Chair also committed to convening a meeting with all relevant stakeholders within the next two weeks to further discuss these options and the future of the project.

Prince George's County Councilwoman Monique Anderson Walker also agreed with the Board Vice Chair's suggestions and requested an immediate pause of the development of this project.

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a great education that empowers all students and contributes to thriving communities.

Prince George's County Public Schools

Members of the community have expressed a strong desire to temporarily suspend construction activity surrounding the Southern Area K-8 School in order to allow the Board Chair to convene the proposed stakeholder meeting and discuss alternative locations for the school. I support the community in their request and I hope that the request for a pause in the development of this site can be granted. I look forward to continuing to work with you to successfully build a new Southern Area K-8 middle school while also addressing the flooding and traffic concerns raised by members of the community.

Respectfully,

Edward Burroughs, III, District 8

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