



May 25, 2012

Dear Jamestown Community Member:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about the new relocatable classrooms at Jamestown Elementary School with the School Board. In anticipation of the community meeting with Arlington Public Schools (APS) staff on June 4 regarding the new relocatables, the Board wanted to take this opportunity to respond to the concerns that have been raised by a number of residents near Jamestown, as well as by the Jamestown PTA.

As you know, relocatables are being added to a number of schools to address the continued increase in enrollment. At the same time, APS has been actively engaged during the past year in a process to add permanent capacity to our school division. The placement of relocatables at our schools raises a number of issues, including the impact on green space and play space, the safety of students and staff, the time it takes to move from the relocatables to the school building, and the connections for water, sewer and electrical systems.

We regret that communication with the community on this topic did not begin sooner. We understand that APS staff had a productive meeting today with some members of the community to discuss concerns about the placement of the relocatables. Work to install the relocatables has been suspended while discussions continue.

The Board is confident that the staff will consider the community's input to determine the best location for the relocatables, which balances the needs of students, staff and the community.

Sincerely,

Abby Raphael