



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY BOARD

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HOPE HALLECK
CLERK TO THE
COUNTY BOARD

MEMBERS
MARY HYNES
CHAIR
J. WALTER TEJADA
VICE CHAIRMAN

March 12, 2015

JAY FISETTE
LIBBY GARVEY
JOHN E. VIHSTADT

Dear Mr. Lander,

On behalf of the County Board, I am acknowledging the School Board's request that we consider the feasibility of interim school uses, perhaps beginning September 2015, at five County facilities: Carver, Drew, Fairlington, Madison and Walter Reed community centers. We understand that you are particularly interested in sites near Oakridge - where seven kindergarten classes are projected for this fall - as well as the Madison Center - due to middle school crowding at Swanson and Williamsburg. We also note that the County services currently at the Fenwick Center on the Career Center parcel are permanently relocating to the Stambaugh Center this summer; we believe this building provides another option worth consideration.

As you know, our community is a busy place and most community buildings host numerous programs and activities over the course of the year. That being said, as we noted at our January Board meeting, the County Board recognizes the stress that student over-enrollment is placing on the planned capacity of your gyms, cafeterias, and outdoor play areas. Luckily, both Boards signed a joint Memorandum of Understanding in 2011 that created a path for facility-sharing and collaboration should the need arise.

The need has clearly arisen. We have directed the County Manager to evaluate these six County-held sites cooperatively with the Superintendent; to creatively seek ways that the County can provide classrooms and shared gym/cafeteria spaces for Arlington's students AND continue providing programming for seniors and neighbors at or near these locations. We agree with you that the shared arrangements would be for the next several years as a bridge to your longer-term solution to crowding across the County.

The balance of the sites in your longer list will not be considered at this time to meet APS interim needs. It's our belief that any future consideration of these County-held locations for permanent APS capacity should be based on the criteria and process that we've asked the Arlington County Facility Study Committee to develop and present next fall. Once both Boards have that information in hand - and your long-term plan has benefited from community discussion and review - both Boards can develop appropriate collaborative next steps that could lead to the selection of appropriate sites.

Yours for thoughtful, expeditious, community engagement and problem-solving,

Sincerely,

Mary Hynes
Chair, Arlington County Board