



December 9, 2016

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Dear Mayor Silberberg and Council Members:

As ACPS and the City tackle the infrastructure issues of the growing capacity in our schools, the School Board will be presenting more build projects in the coming weeks and months. Together, it is imperative that we are clearly communicating to the community about the processes, finances and policies that drive these high investment decisions.

This coming Tuesday, ACPS is requesting action from City Council to re-appropriate funds in order to acquire a new property for the school division. Your docket materials contain supporting information regarding the steps and actions needed in order to accomplish this together. It is essential that we are all functioning from the same set of facts and details.

Similarly, now that the Patrick Henry project has made it through the Planning Commission, ACPS will be in Chambers presenting the next steps in the project and seeking your approval. Again, it is critical that we recognize the process of community engagement and the School Board's role in ensuring those recommendations fit within our fiscal, design and policy goals.

As part of our standard operations with projects of this nature, the ACPS School Board is involved throughout the process. As the applicant to the City and the final decision-maker, the School Board is an integral part of the process and must be able to speak to every aspect of the project. Therefore, attached is a summary of the community engagement process and the School Board's actions to ensure the most optimal design, and to stay on schedule and within budget. This is another opportunity for you to share with the public our mutual process and goals to address the division's capacity issues.

Further, in response to questions asked by Council related to several ACPS projects at recent City/Schools meetings, the School Board has attached an overview of the school division's fiscal oversight improvements since 2013 and a quick reference guide to locating the School Board's online video and document repository, illustrating our sound business practices and transparency.

We look forward to continuing to work together with City Council to build excellence and equity for our school division.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen A. Graf', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Karen A. Graf, Chair
Alexandria City School Board