

Patrick Henry School Construction Project

Good evening members of the School Board, Mr. Superintendent and the Alexandria community. I am Kadysia Gibson the Patrick Henry PTA Secretary. Patrick Henry Elementary School and surrounding area was constructed in 1953. During the Cold War era when typically schools built at this time could be used as a shelter in the event of bombs being dropped. I am in support to build the new Patrick Henry Pre-K to 8 School which will hopefully take us another 60 years.

We must keep in mind during this process the students that are currently attending Patrick Henry. We can minimize the impact of the construction on the children's education if we go with the New Building Option 2. allowing the students to stay in the current building and continue their normal education process. Trailers are not a good option. Trailers may cause more of distraction, an interrupt children's instructional time by the amount of lost time going from place to place. We will have the safest school by starting new. The Jefferson Houston Project/Model seemed to work well with the new building being built around the existing building.

I would like to be sensitive to our neighbors within the Patrick Henry community. I have been a long time Alexandria resident I went Patrick Henry, Francis C. Hammond and graduated from T.C. Williams. There are currently about 13 single family homes that are across the street or adjacent to the PHES and all but one of them were built after the school was built. This neighborhood grew around this school and it was once the heart of that community. A new school would elevate this community to the level of greatness that our school community needs and deserves. We can make it the best school and recreational center and the heart of the community again. I am full support of option 2.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kadysia Gibson

Patrick Henry PTA Secretary