

April 8, 2018

To the Arlington County Board and School Board:

Arlington County is known nationally for its quality school system, and our Civic Associations are dedicated to having the best educational system in the Country.

In response to Arlington's struggle to continue to deliver excellent educational opportunities in light of a burgeoning school population, our communities have welcomed the building of a comprehensive neighborhood high school at the "Career Center" site. While our willingness to host this infrastructure has been praised, we are now confronting reluctance to commit to the construction of a high school that has the same quality of facilities as Arlington's three existing comprehensive high schools.

Although our current financial constraints are daunting, we are concerned that decisions made solely under that pressure will not only undermine our standards of quality education, but also will establish a double standard between higher-income neighborhoods and lower-income neighborhoods within the County.

For example, we are extremely concerned that the Career Center site will house our first comprehensive high school with few to no sports fields, no aquatics facility, sub-quality building structure as compared to other high schools, serious constraints on parking for parents and teachers, and fundamentally less extracurricular options for students zoned to the school.

It is clear that such a "lesser" high school would never be tolerated in the more affluent neighborhoods in Arlington. The County Board and APS must keep the existing effort from being on auto-pilot, and establish a more transparent dialogue with the surrounding neighborhoods to make sure ALL Arlingtonians are treated equitably—thus meeting Arlington's quality and pronounced goals not only in education, but also in open spaces and tree canopy, energy efficiency and emissions reductions, water catchment, smart growth, and economic equity.

Thank you for your serious consideration.

Sincerely,

*Scott Sklar*

President, Ashton Heights Civic Association  
solarsklar@aol.com

*Dr. Kristi Rupert Sawert*

President, Arlington Heights Civic Association  
ahca.ksawert@gmail.com