

Stratford School Historic Designation Motion

I move that the School Board direct the Superintendent to set aside, for the purpose of designating the Stratford property as a local historic district, the 2004 Memorandum of Understanding regarding the designation of Arlington Public Schools (APS) properties as local historic districts.

I further move that the Superintendent collaborate with his counterpart in the County:

(i) to draft proposed designation language which recognizes, emphasizes, and honors the fact that on February 2, 1959 four black students—Michael G. Jones, Gloria Thompson, Ronald Deskins and Lance D. Newman—courageously walked through the doors of Stratford Junior High School and enrolled as 7th grade students, thus making Stratford Junior High School the first public school in the Commonwealth of Virginia to be racially integrated, and

(ii) to identify concise design guidelines that balance the importance of honoring the events of 1959 with the School Board's ongoing obligation to respond to the changing needs of its student population without delay and within available funding limits. The guidelines shall be based on criteria drawn from the existing state and federal historic designation. Upon adoption by the County Board, with School Board concurrence and the adoption of an appropriate Zoning Ordinance amendment, these design guidelines shall be used by the County Board to evaluate requests for Certificates of Appropriateness for additions to or exterior alterations of the Stratford building that require approval of a use permit by the County Board.

I further move that the School Board request that the County Board adopt an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance which would provide that any application for a Certificate of Appropriateness regarding the Stratford local historic district, if it is so designated, be granted or denied by the County Board, with input from the County's Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board, and that this amendment be considered by the County Board prior to or concurrently with its decision on the Stratford property as a local historic district.

After the Superintendent and County Manager have proposed designation language and design guidelines, the School Board will return to consider and take action on historic designation. The School Board's recommendation for historic designation may be conditioned on the County Board's adoption of the Zoning Ordinance amendment regarding issuance of certificates of appropriateness by the County Board in this matter.