

# Penrose Neighborhood Association



Arlington County Board  
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22201

April 26, 2018

Arlington School Board  
1426 N. Quincy Street  
Arlington, VA 22207

Dear Members of the County and School Boards:

I am writing to you as President of the Penrose Neighborhood Association and Penrose representative to the Career Center Working Group. Substantial outreach was made to our neighbors in Penrose during March and April 2018 using a survey. The survey results were reviewed at our April 24, 2018 meeting, and sending this information to you was unanimously approved at that meeting.

Based on our neighborhood survey, our top priorities are:

1. By a 2:1 ratio Penrose residents support building a comprehensive neighborhood high school on the Career Center site vs a choice or other focused high school.
2. Nearly all respondents (82%) would like to see transportation studies for the site.
3. Almost all (96%) want the Columbia Pike Library to stay within the neighborhood, with residents open to moving it to Highland Street and Columbia Pike.
4. Three-quarters would like Arlington County and APS to investigate options to purchase land to expand the site to Columbia Pike.
5. Most (59%) would like to see the entire site used for a high school.

A summary of all results from the survey are below.

- By a 2:1 ratio, Penrose residents support building a comprehensive neighborhood high school on the Career Center site vs. a choice or other focused high school (59% vs. 29%, with 11% undecided).
- Most (59%) respondents would like to see the entire site used for a high school. Likewise, over three-quarters would like Arlington County and APS to investigate options to purchase land to expand the site.
- Almost all respondents (82%) would like to see transportation studies for the site.
- Residents were strongly in favor (76%) of creating underground parking on the site to reduce the overflow parking burden on the surrounding neighborhoods.
- Residents indicated their support for various amenities on the site including a school library, auditorium, full size gymnasium, outdoor track, indoor swimming pool, and theater.
- Most (55%) would like to see dark sky lighting used to reduce light pollution, and there was also strong support (75%) for special landscaping to reduce noise.
- Almost all (96%) want the Columbia Pike Library to stay within the neighborhood, though residents are open to the library moving to Columbia Pike.
- Finally, on a related matter, almost all respondents (80%) were in favor of keeping all current planning units for Patrick Henry reassigned to the Fleet Elementary School, which will open in September 2019.

I strongly urge the county to consider the preferences of the Penrose neighborhood as the county determines what to do with the site. Our neighborhood will continue to offer input as the process progresses.

If you are interested in discussing this with us directly, we would be pleased to invite you to attend an upcoming Penrose Neighborhood Association meeting. Please feel free to contact me for more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete Durgan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maria "Pete" Durgan  
Co-President  
Penrose Neighborhood Association  
[penrosepres@yahoo.com](mailto:penrosepres@yahoo.com)