

## **Feedback from an opinion survey in Alcova Heights through 11/5/14**

### **On additions at Barcroft and Randolph:**

**23 neighbors support (half strongly strongly); 18 against**

#### **Comments:**

My one concern is that I thought research shows that smaller schools are better able to meet children's needs, are more humane.

It doesn't make sense to go to all the work, expense, and inconvenience if it provides fewer student seats and more cramped schools. The other option allows for more seats, possibilities for further expansion when needed, and there is space there for it. Barcroft and Randolph don't have extra space as it is.

I think the biggest issue is the site infrastructure. Neither Randolph nor Barcroft is prepared to handle the additional students from an infrastructure point of view - more cars, more busses, more people waiting to pick up kids. The TJ site is located near 50, with two minor arterial roads (2nd St and Irving St) serving the site. Also, the blank slate of the TJ campus would allow the site to be designed to handle the additional traffic better than a cobbled-together retrofit of the Barcroft and Randolph sites.

Augmenting existing school structures makes sense. Arlington should follow the recent example in Fairfax, where a multi-story building was converted to a school. We are, after all, an urban community.

Barcroft and Randolph should not miss out on the school improvements. If a new school is built elsewhere, then these two schools will miss out on the improvements.

I would prefer this option of the two.

Barcroft is particularly unsuited for expansion, given the lack of adequate road access.

The additions seem like a better idea however Patrick Henry and LongBranch should be brought into the mix.

This option divides the traffic impact between two locations and preserves green space in Arlington.

This option is clearly worse, as it exceeds approved funding AND provides fewer seats. The school board exists to educate our children, so I think that "Concerns regarding current and future academic performance" is putting it quite mildly. The school board is not currently addressing the academic needs of

Barcroft students as compared to other schools in the county, as they consistently lag behind other county schools in test scores. These additions would only create a further disparity.

The solution is to build new school at TJ

New school at TJ site w increased capacity better. Also don't want to increase barcroft' size. And, likely additional seats would negatively Impact quality of education.

These schools are currently among those with the lowest seating capacity in south Arlington and it makes more sense to build onto their capacity than to build a whole new school requiring all new infrastructure and ongoing administrative and support costs.

I place a premium on preserving TJ amenities. Also, I would not like to have brand new school with no improvements to the existing schools. They deserve to benefit from this process.

Support building a new school

This is a great idea, but not instead of a school at TJ. We need more seats at less cost. It's only fair that schools share the burden of higher enrollment equally. It's only an addition and it brings terrific advantages in terms of upgrades that many overcrowded schools would love to have.

There is an unprecedented amount of vacant space in already constructed buildings. Students are going to have to use that space --- we can NOT build our way out of this situation.

The additions should be less expensive than new construction. Larger schools do not equate to poorer performance.

Both of these schools are already struggling. I don't understand how adding more students to these locations can help the issues at hand.

Given the cons listed above and the school capacity crisis, which is expected to continue, it seems to make much more sense to build a new school.

While these facilities may benefit from a moderate addition and renovation to accommodate the existing enrollment and some future enrollment growth, it is not a solution to the overcrowding issues the schools already face.

## **Feedback from an opinion survey in Alcova Heights through 11/5/14**

### **On a new elementary school at TJ:**

**24 neighbors support (17 strongly supporting); 19 against**

#### **Comments:**

Keep as much of the County park site as possible. We love TJ park.

We have to save TJ park! It's the only non commercial area where South Arlington can enjoy sports, walks, children playing, community gathering, Arlington county does not think about the impact on neighborhood, traffic and congestion that expanding this school will bring, instead of destroying one area where South Arlingtonians can enjoy nature and sports, consider building a school next time in the areas where apartment building are going up, also consider adding more grocery stores and banks to this area, where trip to one of those during peak becomes an impossible and frustrating task in already crowded area, parking is another issue, there is hardly any as we have seen it especially during annual Arlington fair or any major events and evening classes at TJ center already

Park land should not be used for construction of schools, public housing, etc. We vote for park bonds with the understanding that the funds will be used to acquire and maintain green space in Arlington. We need more green space, not less!

We should not eliminate the green space that many Arlington residents use - including students and residents with no students in the home. The TJ complex is a vital part of fit Arlington. Also we have many safety concerns with my children walking to Middle School at TJMS, adding to the business of that area will make getting to school safely much worse.

I do NOT support something that takes away 'green' space from our area -- the park removal is what I am most concerned about with this option.

A new elementary school in South Arlington is exciting - particularly if it is choice school, and focuses on IB or STEAM learning. We must accept that we live in an increasingly urbanized community, and that not every park can be preserved exactly as it is. The TJ site can be utilized, while preserving garden space, sports and green space. Underground parking should be a given.

The only way an elementary would work at TJ is to put building on the West side of TJ with ALL parking underground. Also if the schools do this TJ will mostly be out of use for 2-2 1/2 years.

I vehemently oppose the proposed plan to take away TJ Park and build a school.

The park is used by most of the surrounding developments and is the only real open space available in this part of Arlington. I use the park every day. It would greatly increase the congestion, not only at the intersection with route 50, but also the intersection of Glebe and 2nd Street South.

Traffic in the area is already overburdened in the morning. The only way to get to TJ is via Glebe Rd, which is also a main rush hour artery, I live in the neighborhood across Glebe and some mornings have trouble even exiting my neighborhood for the traffic backing up on Glebe and also on 2d Street. Even more importantly, TJ park and community center is a model of what Arlington stands for. The diversity you see on the fields and courts, the green space within the urban setting of Arlington, people coming together as a community for recreation and the county fair, that is what Arlington is all about.

This proposal puts a new elementary school within blocks of an established elementary school, Henry ES. Will that school be used for another purpose? This proposal does not include the cost for structured parking, which of course would be necessary. It takes away needed green space and would possibly require an elementary school and a middle school to share outdoor space.

New designs look like preserve the green space and will allow the garden program to continue. Will add amenities that could be shared by TJ.

Adding an elementary school on the TJ site makes sense on many levels. It will relieve overcrowding at existing schools as well as provide an opportunity to house a choice school which I believe is a very important consideration. I believe the site can be planned in such a way to preserve parkland as well as allow for a well-planned school facility. Building or enlarging schools will create increased traffic, etc. etc. in any location.

These cons seem rather benign to me as compared to the cons for the creation of Barcroft. I think a "pro" that was omitted as well is that no students would be displaced while building a new school, while all current Barcroft and Randolph students would be displaced during construction of additions. I am not very concerned about traffic or redistricting either.

If more capacity is needed in the county, then building on the TJ site is the better solution than expanding at Barcroft and at Randolph. If not, TJ, then Randolph would be better to expand than Barcroft and probably cheaper too.

Strongly support but the new elementary school must have its own outdoor playground. I recall seeing only one site with this option. Am concerned about kids crossing glebe road.

This site is already mixed use and is very crowded use. It is one of the few remaining green spaces. Adding congestion to this area to which kids are REQUIRED to walk to is undesirable. Having elementary school kids walk there

would be scary.

We desperately need the seats, and this is most cost effective. Let this be the neighborhood school and use Patrick Henry for a South Arlington Science Focus or STEM or the Montessori program.

Do NOT use green space to build schools.

Traffic is a big issue with a new school here. We prefer to retain the park as a park.

I don't know enough about the options under consideration for TJ or for Barcroft/Randolph to state a preference at this time. I do, however, have a very strong opinion about taking scarce parkland for new schools. We must not take what little parkland we have. Given the limited space in the County, it could never be replaced. We must find a way to build the extra capacity without reducing the parkland and recreation facilities at TJ. If they can't build the new school using the parking areas and building structured parking, then expansion of Barcroft and Randolph has to be considered.

Looking at the map of the existing elementary schools, this location fills a gap. Our growing school population requires adequate infrastructure and staffing to support education.

Seems to make more sense given the capacity needs.

A new elementary school in S. Arl is needed; however, this location is approximately one mile from 4 existing elementary schools. It is a difficult traffic area already and the addition of a 725 seat elem school and future addition of a few hundred or more middle school students will result in very significant traffic requirements. Despite APS' urgency to get some solution in place in the next few years; it is more important to address the problems thoughtfully and wisely. APS and the County need to develop a more overall plan before constructing pieces to figure out the best use of later. The County should explore more creative opportunities with empty office buildings and other possible facilities located more centrally within S Arl or closer to Crystal City where the existing schools are not in such close proximity to each other. While a new school at TJ may be a good option in the future, I do not believe it is the best option now and should not be the first step in addressing the issue. The traffic demand on the surrounding area will be difficult enough in and of itself, let alone in addition to increased traffic demand along the Columbia Pike corridor and especially with the future expansion of the Career Center and development of the Career Center/library/Patrick Henry site. Those improvements would benefit the area and be less of an overall traffic burden to the surrounding neighborhoods than a new school on the TJ site. Both is too much burden for one little section of the County to bear. Furthermore, the addition of 725 elementary students and more middle school children in the future will significantly impact the wear and

maintenance on shared facilities that are already shared by the community at large. There is no other recreational facility easily accessible by the residents in this part of the community and taking away any usage or any resource from this site will take away from the community. While sacrifices often need to be made, this is not necessarily the sacrifice that must be made at this time to address this problem effectively and efficiently. Stop rushing this through a community lacking the means to "fight back" like other parts of the County and do what is right for South Arlington.

My support for this option is if it is build on the parking area not on the "park area" along Irving.