

Stratford School Historic Designation Motion

I move that the County Board direct the Acting County Manager 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 Acting County Manager 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 County Manager prepare for County Board consideration of adoption prior to or concurrently with its consideration of the Use Permit for the new addition such amendments to the County's Zoning Ordinance as are necessary to establish the authority and processes for local historic designation of school properties exclusively by the County Board and for consideration exclusively by the County Board, with advice from the HALRB, of requests for certificates of appropriateness for additions or other exterior alterations to those properties.

*The following statements, drawn from the existing state and federal historic designations, shall form the basis for the design guidelines:

1. *A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.*
2. *The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.*
3. *Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.*
4. *Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.*
5. *Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.*
6. *Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design,*

color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.

7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.

8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.