



Loudoun County, Virginia

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Office of the County Administrator

1 Harrison Street, S.E., 5th Floor, P.O. Box 7000, Leesburg, VA 20177-7000

Telephone (703) 777-0200 • Fax (703) 777-0325

At a business meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Loudoun County, Virginia, held in the County Government Center, Board of Supervisors' Meeting Room, 1 Harrison St., S.E., Leesburg, Virginia, on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

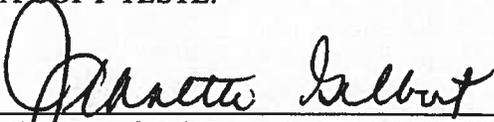
IN RE: BOARD MEMBER INITIATIVE: EXPEDITE THE STAFF REVIEW OF
MIDDLE SCHOOL 5 (MS-5)

Mr. Miller moved that the Board of Supervisors direct staff to expedite all land use applications (legislative and ministerial) from LCPS with MS-5 and HS-7 and take all steps to ensure that these applications are given priority and available for Planning Commission and Board review as soon as possible.

Seconded by Mrs. Burk.

Voting on the Motion: Supervisors Buckley, Burk, Burton, Delgaudio, Kurtz, McGimsey, Miller, Waters and York – Yes; None – No.

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DEPUTY CLERK FOR THE LOUDOUN
COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

(13-Board Member Initiative- Expedite the Staff Review of Middle School 5 - MS5.doc

Date of Meeting: 17 March 2009

**LOUDOUN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ACTION ITEM
BOARD MEMBER INITIATIVE**

Item # 13

**SUBJECT: EXPEDITING LCPS APPLICATIONS ASSOCIATED
WITH MS-5 AND HS-7**

INITIATED BY: Supervisor Stevens Miller

ELECTION DISTRICT: Dulles

RECOMMENDATION: Supervisor Miller is recommending that the Board direct staff to expedite all land use applications from LCPS concerning the schools known as MS-5 and HS-7.

BACKGROUND:

In November 2005 the voters of Loudoun County approved a bond referendum for the purchase and construction of a second middle school for the Dulles South area, known as MS-5. Since that time, parents and students have waited while an appropriate site was found. The application known as Braddock Village South included a potential school site, but was ultimately rejected by the Board of Supervisors in early 2008. LCPS subsequently sought to purchase land from Greenvest to build both MS-5 and HS-7, but the Planning Commission rejected the Commission Permit for the application. Public controversy over the Greenvest property, known as the Lenah Schools Site, centered on the site's price, distance from the communities to be served, and concerns over infrastructure costs. The Board of Supervisors upheld the Planning Commission's denial.

Contemporarily to the review of the Lenah application, the Joint Board of Supervisors / School Board Committee undertook a review of the process by which the County selects and purchases school sites. Following the Lenah application, both LCPS and County staff moved quickly to find a more suitable property and used the opportunity to "test-drive" parts of the proposed new process, including conferring with both the Board of Supervisors and the School Board prior to approving a contract. This process, while not entirely complete, has proven successful so far in that the new property is closer to the majority of students in Dulles South, costs far less than the Lenah property, and seems as though it will require less in the way of infrastructure improvements. Staff is currently reviewing sites for HS-7 and will hopefully be presenting those options soon.

While much progress has been made in the site selection process, the parents of Dulles South have waited far too long for the construction of these schools to begin. Mercer Middle School is overcrowded and the students have endured overflow busing and will soon cope with another boundary change involving Stone Hill Middle School.

DRAFT MOTION:

“I move that the Board of Supervisors direct staff to expedite all land use applications (legislative and ministerial) from LCPS associated with MS-5 and HS-7 and take all steps to ensure that these applications are given priority and available for Planning Commission and Board review as soon as possible.”

ATTACHMENTS: NONE

Staff Contact(s): Shaun Daniels, Staff Aide to Supervisor Stevens Miller