



MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 31, 2020

TO: HONORABLE CHAIR AND MEMBERS, ALEXANDRIA SCHOOL BOARD
HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS, ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL

FROM: GREGORY C. HUTCHINGS, JR., Ed.D., SUPERINTENDENT, ACPS *GH*
MARK B. JINKS, CITY MANAGER *MJ*

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF CO-LOCATION OPTIONS AT THE PROPOSED
NEW DOUGLAS MACARTHUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

After much discussion between the City government and ACPS at many levels, we have jointly decided to direct our staff and consultants not to proceed further with analyzing affordable and workforce housing co-location options at the proposed new MacArthur Elementary School. Other smaller scale co-location options such as recreational programming/facilities will continue to be explored for the new MacArthur building.

While the concept of affordable/workforce housing for ACPS employees is one worth considering for other ACPS school sites where there is far more time to plan, the need to keep the MacArthur project on its unique, and extremely tight planning, design and construction schedule made the introduction of the housing concept in ACPS's view a risk to the MacArthur timetable. A contributing factor was the need to develop more details about how housing co-location for ACPS employees might work. We recognize that building housing on school sites is out-of-the-box thinking that could help address to a small degree both the City's affordable/workforce housing production shortage, as well as ACPS employee recruitment and retention. However, more detailed non site-specific concepts need to be developed with more community education and dialogue occurring before even getting to the stage of developing any site-specific brick and mortar plans.

While our direction to staff takes affordable/workforce housing off the table for the MacArthur site, the Monday, February 3rd 6:00 p.m. meeting at the MacArthur School will still be held to answer questions, as well as to provide information on regional and city housing needs, housing tools that the City has available, as well as information from other jurisdictions about how schools and housing have been co-located.