

December 13, 2021

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille
President
City Council
City of Richmond
900 E. Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear President Newbille:

Please consider this note an endorsement of the proposed ordinance 2021-308 introduced by Mayor Levar Stoney and recommended for approval by Richmond City Council's Planning Commission. This ordinance would essentially transfer funds from one account dedicated to school construction to another. This formality would ensure the school district is able to maintain its stated schedule to construct a new George Wythe High School.

On August 31, 2021, Richmond Public Schools issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure design services for this new high school in Richmond's southside. Nine firms submitted proposals by the stated deadline of October 15, 2021. In approving a collaborative plan with the city on July 19, 2021, my four colleagues and I extended the offer to the city for participation in our evaluation panel. City staff accepted this offer and worked jointly with participants from Richmond Public Schools. The collective panel has reviewed all bids and will recommend for award a design contract once the transfer is approved and the funds have been received.

The plan for design development, community engagement, and construction has been outlined in the published 29 page RFP issued by the district. Regarding the scope and size of the project, the undersigned reiterate that it is our intent to build a school that is sized to the needs of the district. We have considered both the current enrollment and future plans to build a new career and technical high school. The new career and technical high school will be located in the former Altria facility located at 2325 Maury Street. Like the George Wythe project, this school has also been earmarked \$100 million for construction in the FY '24 budget set forth by the Mayor. By making smart use of the \$200 million in capital dollars, we see an opportunity to also address critical needs at Woodville Elementary School ahead of the 2029 timing identified in the Mayor's school modernization plan. Representative of the majority of the governing body of the school district, we see this as our fiduciary responsibility.

We thank you in advance for your support of this ordinance. We are committed to complete these three projects as soon as possible, as we all agree that our kids cannot wait.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Rizzi	Mariah White	Kenya Gibson	Jonathan Young	Shonda Harris-Muhammed
Member, 5 th District	Member, 2 nd District	Member, 3 rd District	Member, 4 th District	Member, 6 th District