



December 9, 2022

Dear Dr. Kay-Wyatt, Dr. Hart, Chair Alderton & Alexandria City School Board Members,

The Alexandria Parent Teacher Association Council (PTAC) would like to voice its support for the construction of a security vestibule at George Washington Middle School (GWMS). This project would advance a key priority detailed in PTAC's August 31, 2022 letter to ACPS and the School Board—keeping our children and staff safe.

As detailed by the GWMS PTA in the mid-November public hearing on the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget, GWMS is the only secondary school in ACPS without a second set of security doors to help staff confirm visitors before they are permitted into the building (and one of only two schools in ACPS without this security measure). Once visitors are buzzed into the building, they have free access. The over 600 mass shootings in the United States this year and the school-based tragedies in St. Louis and Uvalde, highlight the imperative of prioritizing this security vestibule project in the ACPS budget now. ACPS Facilities and Operations should also work with GWMS leadership to develop an interim plan to enhance security while the vestibule project is being planned and implemented.

PTAC stands with the GWMS PTA in imploring the School Board to prioritize funding and execution of this project to protect the school's 1500 students and 180 staff members. As the ACPS Director of Safety & Security acknowledged at the recent PTAC Safety Forum, all schools should have the same safety measures in place. PTAC views this as a matter of "equity for all" since school safety is critical all Alexandria City schools and neighborhoods.

PTAC appreciates your consideration of this project and your continued support for keeping our students and staff safe at GWMS and elsewhere in ACPS.

Thank you,

Alexandria PTA Council Executive Board 2022-2023

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