

Statement to School Board Regarding School Facilities, March 18, 1971 - William Kay

On behalf of the Arlington Education Association I would like to make a preliminary report to the Board regarding the proposed uses of the six elementary facilities. At this point the Association has no proposal for specific uses of the individual facilities. However, we would like to place priorities on the uses that have been mentioned previously; and, in addition, we would like to propose other uses for your consideration.

From the uses which have been mentioned by the staff and other organizations, we would suggest establishing the following priorities:

-- first, an expanded center for the adult education day program which would include manpower training, English as a second language, high school completion classes, and vocational and industrial education;

-- second, a center for curtailment of drug abuse;

-- third, a center for pre-kindergarten and day care education;

-- fourth, a center for Arlington's retired citizens; and

-- fifth, a community center and headquarters for the Arlington Community Action Program.

To this list of priorities we would like to suggest two other uses which have not been widely discussed. First, we would like to see one of the facilities used as an experimental secondary school. Such a school would be an open attendance center. The teachers for such a school would be selected on their abilities and desires to expand the accepted concept of what is now the standard secondary educational program. Such concepts as the "Parkway Plan" might be tried by the staff and the students in this school. We believe if one of the vacated facilities was designated for such an experimental purpose, that this would provide an incentive for change in our instructional program throughout the county.

In addition, we would also like to suggest that a portion of the facilities be set aside for a program geared to what has been termed the "disruptive pupil". We would

envision that such a program would be integrated into the adult education day program. However, pupils who are currently excluded from the adult education day program because of age would be allowed. At the present time there are no facilities available for such young people under the age of 16. Arlington needs to develop an alternative means of handling severe "disruptive pupil" problems. A center for "disruptive pupils" was recommended to the School Board in 1968 in a comprehensive report submitted by teachers and citizens.

I hope in the near future the Association will provide the Board with a more detailed analysis of our proposals regarding the experimental secondary school and a center for "disruptive pupils". In the meantime we trust the Board will consider these programs, especially in light of the soon to be vacated facilities.

As a final note, we would urge the Board not to sell these valuable parcels of land. Despite the fact that some of the property could be rezoned as commercial, we suggest that the Board use the alternative of long-term lease, in place of the outright sale. The long-term lease would provide more income for the county, while at the same time, the county would retain a hold on these most valuable parcels of land.