

**Statement of YCA Pres. David Haring to School Board  
Feb. 1, 2007**

The main question before you tonight is whether this project is ready to go? As president of the Yorktown Civic Association, I've attended many, many meetings on this project, and unfortunately, the answer is "no", this project is not quite where it needs to be. We are spending \$100 million on this building, and we have only shot – one shot -- to get it right.

As you know, the neighborhood's top concern is the site's inadequate parking.

While I wish I could say that the superintendent's request for a staff report is a step in the right direction, it is simply too little, too late.

The way the instructions are written, it is just another attempt to duck and run from this challenge. For example, it merely instructs the staff to "describe the basis for the number of parking spaces recommended." We already know the basis of the current number; it's simply the grand total that will fit after the building has been built. And we also know that that number is not enough.

The master plan was quite clear in requiring that the parking for Greenbrier Park would be provided on school property.

It is 5 years too late to rewrite that agreement with the county. You cannot go back and renegotiate where the parking will go because phase I has already been built, the new tennis courts have long been in use, and the new athletic fields will be open soon – they've been rebuilt edge-to-edge on every available inch of property in the park.

Thus, the premise for the proposed staff report is simply wrong. You cannot hand the parking back to the county unless you expect them to tear down pieces of the master plan that are already in place.

The only available option is to provide the site's parking as part of the Yorktown High design. The parking simply cannot be addressed separately, down the road, as some after-thought. It has to be done now in an integrated fashion with the building design.

And you have to begin with a full accounting of every element of projected parking at the site. It is time to stop playing games with the

numbers. Every component of school, park and pool parking must be counted – including students. You can't wish away the fact that many students will always drive to school. When you have a third of the juniors and seniors driving to school, that is a number that cannot be ignored. And you have to recognize that the new park facilities will be very popular; those new fields will be heavily used.

You also need to ask for detailed design options showing several different levels of parking to get a clear picture of what the impacts will be on the rest of the project.

And it is a non-starter to assign this to a working group that does not have fair representation from the neighborhood. We have been anxious to sit down with staff, and work through the issues and help get this project built.

In the meantime, without this additional effort, the risk in moving this design forward is simply too great. A vote tonight to approve the design is simply premature. What we all want is to have the best project possible, to spend this money wisely, and to build a facility that the community will be proud of for years to come.