

June 5, 2009

Dr. Morton Sherman
Superintendent, ACPS
Members of Alexandria School Board
2000 N. Beauregard Street
Alexandria, VA 22311

Dear Dr. Sherman and Members of the Alexandria School Board:

We are writing to you today as neighbors of TC Williams and as representatives from the Community Construction Advisory Committee for the high school. We served on the Construction Advisory Committee for the 4 years of planning and construction. That experience was largely very positive and we felt Hensel Phelps and ACPS, especially Mark Burke, addressed our concerns in an efficient manner.

There are, unfortunately, several issues that were not resolved during the post construction phase of the project and these continue to adversely impact our neighborhood today. We have attempted on numerous occasions to work with the administration of TC Williams, but have not been able to reach a satisfactory conclusion. We are bringing these matters to your attention in the hope of advancing discussions. Our concerns center around 3 major issues.

The first issue is the sound system used at Parker Gray Stadium. As John Porter knows, this was a major source of complaints with the school in the years prior to the demolition of the old building. The sound from every athletic event spilled into our yards and our homes. Repeated calls to the school over a number of years brought no resolution, but we were assured that when the new school was constructed, a new sound system would be installed that would minimize this sound bleed into adjoining neighborhoods. It is important to note that in the Development Special Use Permit submitted with the Site Plan, the ACPS stated, "the public address system for outdoor sporting events will be adjusted to diminish the sound extending into the neighborhood."

At one of our last Construction Committee meetings, representatives from the sound system company were present and assured us that they were aware of our concerns and that the system would be set up in such a way to minimize the sound coming to us. We asked to be included in a trial of the new system so adjustments could be made before the system was actually put into service, but this never happened.

Beginning with last fall's football games, the sound coming from the new system varied wildly in volume levels. Some games are within a totally acceptable range where the sound is audible, but not intrusive. So we know it is possible to achieve this result. Other events have, however, projected a volume and clarity of sound into our neighborhood that far exceeds what the old system was capable of doing. Residents on

