



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 6E
PO Box 93020, Brentwood Station, Washington DC, 20090

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE USE OF THE FORMER SHAW JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL SITE

Whereas, Shaw Junior High School moved into the former McKinley Technical High School building at the southeast corner of Seventh Street and Rhode Island Avenue, NW in 1928; and

Whereas, Shaw Junior High School gave the Shaw neighborhood its name when the school's attendance boundaries were used to define an urban renewal area in 1968; and

Whereas, the school moved to a new building at 925 Rhode Island Avenue, NW in 1979; and

Whereas, Shaw Junior High School gained national visibility for its music program, which earned its director a Mr. Holland's Opus award, and for its longtime principal Dr. Percy L. Ellis' approach to school safety and discipline; and

Whereas, Shaw Junior High School became a middle school, the 1979 building was closed, and the school was moved to the former Garnet Patterson building in 2008 in anticipation of the construction of a new \$54 Million Shaw Middle School building on the site of the 1979 school; and

Whereas, the 2014 DC Public Schools (DCPS) Boundary Realignment Plan called for a new Center City Middle School to be built on the site of the former Shaw Junior High School, which would serve as an in-boundary school fed by elementary schools in adjacent areas of Wards 1, 2, 5 and 6; and

Whereas, the elementary schools in the Shaw feeder pattern, including Cleveland, Garrison, Seaton, and Thompson, have all been renovated and are growing in enrollment; and

Whereas, the former Shaw Junior High School site is located in ANC 6E; and

Whereas, middle school students living in central Shaw and adjacent areas are currently forced to travel to distant education campuses such as Cardozo and Francis-Stevens, which parents feel is too far for children that age to have to travel; and

Whereas, since Fall 2017, DCPS has been studying the feasibility of renovating the existing Banneker High School or constructing a new Banneker High School at the site of the former Shaw Junior High School; and

Whereas, DCPS has not actively engaged the Shaw community and parents at the feeder schools for the proposed Center City Middle School about the potential use of the Shaw Junior High School site for a new Banneker High School; and

Whereas, building a new Banneker High School at the former Shaw Junior High School site could preclude the construction of a middle school on the site, if co-location is not an option; and

Whereas, parents and the community are concerned that no in-boundary neighborhood middle school will be built in or near Shaw if the Shaw Junior High School site is used exclusively to build a new Banneker High School; and

Whereas, a high school is not a priority for the Shaw community, but the lack of a middle school represents a significant challenge to retaining young families in the neighborhood; and

Whereas, DCPS is expected to announce a decision regarding the future of Banneker High School this fall;

It is therefore RESOLVED that

- 1) Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E (ANC 6E) considers the construction of a new middle school on the site of the former Shaw Junior High School to be the best and highest use of the site;
- 2) ANC 6E urges DCPS to renovate the existing Banneker High School and reserve the Shaw Junior High School site for construction of the new Center City Middle School, as promised to the community in the 2014 Boundary Realignment Plan;
- 3) If DCPS wishes to build a new Banneker High School on the site of the old Shaw Junior High School, ANC 6E requests that an education campus be constructed that includes a new in-boundary neighborhood middle school, per the boundary realignment plan, to serve the feeder elementary schools in the neighborhood;
- 4) In the event that DCPS refuses to include a middle school as part of the redevelopment of the former Shaw Junior High School site, ANC 6E opposes the construction of a new Banneker High School at said location.

- 5) ANC 6E urges DCPS to engage in a vigorous, extensive and sustained outreach efforts to communicate with all stakeholders and obtain feedback on proposals regarding the use and disposition of DCPS facilities in the neighborhoods in which they are located, as current efforts are inadequate and ineffective.

Approved unanimously by Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E at a public meeting held on September 4, 2018 at the Watha T. Daniel/Shaw Library, 1630 7th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001 by a vote of seven in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexander T. Marriott", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alexander T. Marriott
Chair, ANC 6E