

4-4-05

#61- SHEDRICK

Concerned Parent Raises two concerns

(1) a crossing guard at the intersection of Seminary Road and Kenmore Avenue

(2) Geese vs. the Healthy School Environment

City Council Public Hearing

April 4, 2005

Mayor Eulle, Vice Mayor Pepper and City Council members, good evening. Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today.

My name is Aretha Shedrick and a proud parent of six young Alexandria City citizens. I feel it is my responsibility to stand before you today and speak on the safe passage right of the students of Francis C. Hammond who currently walk to school or go over to the Burke Public Library by **requesting a crossing guard at the intersection of Seminary Road and Kenmore Avenue, as well as signs indicating you are entering a school zone.**

There is a need for this crossing guard and I understand this concern has been brought to your attention via School Board Chairman Wilkoff and Superintendent Perry. I would like to thank them both for seeing the urgency of this matter and bringing it forward. These students are in harms way each and everyday. Students are faced with crossing an overpass, a right turn onto 295, right turns on red, right from the on ramp from 295, as well as, the Fire Department across the street. Then we mix in adolescence – this is an accident waiting to happen. On the other hand, a little more or less than a mile down the road is Douglas MacAruther Elementary which has flashing signage from both directions

speeders as well as not one, but two crossing guards. One of which has been placed at the bottom of the hill, which from my observation seems to be a side street which has steady traffic. You could pose the argument that this is an elementary – we have that safety at all elementary school. All elementary schools do not have such a setup. I show the example to illustrate that we need to think safety even if we need to add measure at different levels I, too want safety for all of our students even middle school students. Seminary Road is not a side street, but a road that has steady traffic. I'm not here trying to do a safety comparison. I'm just here to asking that you please consider a crossing guard.

I spend the evening discussing this matter, but this isn't the only dilemma Hammond students are facing. As the warmer weather approaches, I welcome outside sports in the physical education portion of our children's education with the alarming rate of obesity in today's youth. This outside experience, however, will and has been creating a health hazed. The wild geese population in the city is growing. They spend a large amount of time grazing on school fields. **Our children are playing on those very fields covered in geese fesses? Yes, geese poop!! This is happening at schools city-wide.** If school fields were moved indoors, the Department of Health would render these building inhabitable and closed. Our children need to be outside with the limitation of structured and free play, but my question to you is at what expense – their health?

In closing, I understand both of my concerns are beyond the borders of the school systems. I support the current proposed school board budget which offers an element of

enrichment for students who aren't participating in the modified calendar schools; embraces future students at the preschool and enhances each school's individual needs.

As a parent with students in three city schools for the 2005-2006 school year, I hope the budget is approved with no changes. If anything, I would ask that you add two line items to improve the city budget: (1) a crossing guard at the intersection of Seminary Road and Kenmore Avenue and (2) Geese vs. the Healthy School Environment. Thank you.

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