

COUNTY COUNCIL HEARING AND COMMUNITY MEETING

RE: BLAIR G. EWING (FORMERLY MARK TWAIN SCHOOL) DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION TO ENGLISH MANOR

The County Council is holding a public hearing regarding this issue. Please attend to show your opposition to this amendment.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 13TH AT 1:30 PM
STELLA WERNER COUNCIL OFFICE BLDG
100 MARYLAND AVENUE, ROCKVILLE, MD 20850**

Your neighbors in Aspen Hill have also rescheduled the community meeting to discuss this issue further.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 15TH AT 7:00 PM
MELVIN J. BERMAN HEBREW ACADEMY
13300 ARCTIC AVENUE, ROCKVILLE, MD 20853**

THE ISSUE: The Montgomery County Board of Education APPROVED an amendment to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to demolish the Blair G. Ewing Center - formerly the Mark Twain School (on Avery Road in Rockville) and redevelop the site to accommodate the Shady Grove Transportation Depot and its 400 buses. The Alternative Education Program (AEP) students would be relocated to the former English Manor Elementary School, located at 4511 Bestor Drive in Aspen Hill. This is a bad plan for these reasons:

1) SCHOOL OVERCROWDING – Why demolish a school building when classroom space is so desperately needed?
2) NO SITE SELECTION PROCESS - For either the Ewing Center relocation or the bus depot.
3) NO COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - Only after the fact.
4) NO REAL FEASIBILITY STUDIES - Just a rushed, pro forma process, with no other options even on the table.
5) LOCATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE - English Manor was never designed to handle countywide bus traffic. The Blair G. Ewing location and surrounding roads are too small to locate a 35-acre bus depot of 400 buses.
6) BUILDING CONSIDERATIONS – The Ewing Center is more than a decade *YOUNGER* than English Manor.
7) ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS - Impacts from locating a bus depot next to Rock Creek Park, only 500' from the water.

8) NEEDS OF THE AEP STUDENTS - English Manor was an elementary school, not sited or designed to support the needs of older students.
9) FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS – The school board is trying to take an already approved \$100k from the AEP students to conduct the bus depot feasibility study.
10) SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS - Superintendent Starr describes AEP students as having “*behavior and/or attendance problems, as well as students who have been involved in a serious disciplinary action that warrants a recommendation for expulsion...*” and students who have had involvement “*with controlled substances, serious bodily injury, and/or weapons.*”
11) COMMUNITY NEEDS – How about reopening English Manor to alleviate overcrowding here, instead of keeping Aspen Hill kids in schools that are at double capacity?

Read more here - www.SaveEnglishManor.org/the-issue.html

THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!

www.SaveEnglishManor.org