



MEDIA CONTACT:

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MEDIA ADVISORY

December 6, 2023

School Board Votes to Approve Proposal for new Maury High School Building

Norfolk, Va -- The School Board of the City of Norfolk voted unanimously to approve a proposal from Heartland Construction for a new Maury High School on Wednesday, December 6, 2023. This is the first step toward construction of a new, state-of-the-art school facility. The current Maury High School building will be renovated to become apartments.

Maury High School, the oldest section of which was built in 1911, has had significant additions in 1929, the 1950s, and the 1980s. Due to deteriorating masonry and water infiltration, Norfolk Public Schools has been studying educational and facilities improvements at Maury High School since at least 2018. In partnership with HBA Architects, those studies have included detailed analysis and inspection of the school, interviews with school administrators, staff and students, and community meetings. Information about the process, timelines, and the proposals are available on the website [Maury: Building or Renovation Options / Overview \(npsk12.com\)](https://www.npsk12.com/maury).

“Tonight, the Norfolk school board voted on a plan to build a new Maury High School while maintaining the historic portion of the existing school,” said Dr. Adale Martin, School Board chair. “This decision has been a long time coming, and one that was made after many thoughtful conversations with members of the community and very passionate alumni as well as current teachers, students, and parents. Importantly, the NPS School Board members are looking forward to providing a state-of-the-art school that will serve our students for the next 100 years.”

Through input from these community meetings, four options were presented to the School Board weighing modernization versus replacement feasibility studies. Before one of the recommendations was adopted, Heartland Construction submitted an unsolicited proposal to build a new Maury High School on the existing school grounds in November 2022. It was amended in 2023 to address concerns from a Norfolk Public Schools working group and consulting firm MBP. Additionally, Norfolk Public Schools’ administration solicited competing proposals over a three-month period. None was received.
(continued on page 2)

“We are grateful to all of the students, families, and community members who gave their time to the process of deciding next steps for Maury High School,” said Dr. Sharon I. Byrdsong, Superintendent of

Norfolk Public Schools (NPS) is on a mission to ensure that all students maximize their academic potential, develop skills for lifelong learning, and become successful contributors to a global society. We believe Norfolk Public Schools is the cornerstone of a proudly diverse community with highly qualified teachers and staff dedicated to providing diverse teaching and learning opportunities for all students.



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Norfolk Public Schools. “We look forward to what the opportunities this new facility will afford the future generations of young scholars in Norfolk Public Schools.”

The next step is interim contract negotiations with Heartland Construction, starting in January 2024, followed by a public comment period. If both interim and comprehensive contracts are approved by the School Board and Norfolk City Council, design for the new Maury High School could begin in November 2024, with a possible opening date of August 2029.

The project includes up to \$30 million in Capital Improvement Plan funds from the Virginia Department of Education’s (VDOE) School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP).

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