**TAKE ACTION**

**Preserve Banneker Elementary School**

As you may or may not be aware, the topic has come up from Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) for a possible addition/renovation or replacement of Banneker Elementary School.

**Community action needed!**
The LCPS School Board and staff need to hear from the community on what you want for the future of the school. Here is a list of meetings and times for your voice and stories to be heard either in-person or through email:

**Between now and November 15:** Attend a School Board meeting and share your thoughts about Banneker.

The School Board meets on September 27, October 11 and October 25 prior to the November 15 meeting when LCPS staff will give the school board their recommendations. [Here's how to sign up to speak.](https://www.lcps.org/Page/2#calendar69227/20220917/event/1741385)

Whether or not you attend and speak in advance, (speakers get very limited time), please [use this link](https://webinter.lcps.org/contactschoolboard/) to fill out the online input form and more fully express your thoughts. Address your email to Ian Serotkin and copy all of the other School Board members in your email. ***Suggestion: Do it now and it's done!***

Also contact Kevin Lewis, LCPS Chief Operating Officer, and share your thoughts with him as well. His email is Kevin.Lewis@lcps.org.

**November 15:** This meeting is very important to attend because you will hear what LCPS staff recommends for Banneker's future. You can also sign up to speak at this meeting, but whether you speak or not, your presence is most important and helpful.

**November 28 and December 5:** It is **critical** for the future of Banneker, for people to attend and speak at these two public hearings prior to the decision date on the budget (which will be for renovation/addition or replacement of the school).

**December 13:** School Board makes their final decision.

**Background:**
Banneker was built for the African American community, later integrated, and is the last of its kind still in existence for its original purpose as a school. This coming school year Banneker will be celebrating its 75th anniversary. LCPS has invested a lot of money in the upkeep of Banneker in the last five years with a brand new HVAC system, new doors, windows, ceiling panels, roof, gutters, lighting and more. The School Board should build on those investments by preserving and protecting the integrity of Banneker Elementary School as originally intended with a renovation/addition, NOT with replacement or changing the purpose of the school to a community center.

That is why it's essential to share your own story of the importance of the school to you and the historically African American St. Louis community.

Please put these dates on your calendar, and take action now!

Feel free to reach out to Gem Bingol (gbingol@pecva.org) or Tootie Warner lt418warner@gmail.com) if you have any questions.