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# All About Algonkian



**Juli E. Briskman**  
Algonkian District Supervisor



## Algonkian High Schools Construction Updates

Supervisor Juli Briskman and School Board Member Atoosa Reaser are pleased to update the community on coordinated efforts to accomplish the weight room renovation at Dominion High School and other projects at Dominion, Potomac Falls and Heritage High Schools as originally scheduled in the Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) renovation plans for fiscal years 24-25.

As the community is aware, the projects for weight room expansions, tennis court lighting and press boxes were delayed in the new version of the LCPS Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as the result of cost overruns, labor shortages, and more pressing and expanded projects in the LCPS portfolio.

Subsequently, we learned that the DHS weight room had already undergone \$280,000 worth of work in design and construction drawings and was ready to "go to bid," putting the project much further along in the process than any of the others that were delayed. We believe this confirms this project's priority and we find it completely unacceptable that it might be put beyond the six-year time frame of the current CIP, which may mean new requirements in design and waste the \$280,000 already invested.

With the help of Vice Chair Koran Saines (Sterling), Supervisor Briskman effectuated an action during the Board's Finance Committee budget

work session on Feb. 28 to send all projects for PFHS and DHS to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) FY23 Fund Balance discussion in December. During this fund balance discussion, money left over from the previous fiscal year can be allocated almost immediately to projects proposed by supervisors. The motion to send the projects to the fund balance discussion passed the Finance Committee's CIP Work Session and subsequently the full BOS budget work session. However, during Monday's full BOS budget work session, Supervisor Briskman's motion to have \$1.6 million in county CIP contingency funds allocated to the DHS weight room project failed on a tie vote 4-4-1.

Meanwhile, School Board Member Reaser pursued a parallel path to solve the issue. Her board approved a measure last night to reinstate the press boxes for all three schools and the DHS weight room into the current CIP. The full BOS would need to approve this additional the additional \$3.3 million in its final budget vote on April 4.

School Board Member Reaser and Supervisor Briskman took a "belt and suspenders" approach to getting the DHS weight room renovation and the other Algonkian projects back on track. If the BOS does not approve the additions Reaser triggered yesterday, the projects (including the tennis court lighting) will remain in the "fund balance discussion" and Supervisor Briskman will advocate strongly for the monies to be allocated and the projects completed in FY24 – FY25.

We hope the community can take some comfort that if the initiative by Member Reaser to add the projects back into the CIP is not endorsed by the full BOS, the fund balance option still is on the table.

We will be sure to update the community after all of the budget votes are completed. We appreciate the community's advocacy and patience as we work through this issue in our respective lanes of authority.

Supervisor Briskman and School Board Member Reaser always enjoy working together for the community on issues such as this and welcome questions should they arise.

**[Supervisor Juli Briskman](#)**

**[School Board Member Atoosa Reaser](#)**

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