



**CITY OF MANASSAS ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
RESOLUTION**

MOTION: PORTER
SECOND: SERSPINSKI

**April 21, 2026
Regular Meeting**

**RE: A Resolution Requesting Interjurisdictional Cooperation for the Stabilization,
Preservation and Renovation of the Historic Bennett School**

WHEREAS, the Manassas Architectural Review Board (the "ARB") is established under City Ordinance to advise the City Council on matters relating to the preservation of structures and sites that represent the unique architectural and cultural heritage of the City of Manassas; and

WHEREAS, the Bennett School, constructed in 1908-1909, stands as a premier example of early 20th-century educational architecture and remains one of the most significant landmarks within the City's geographic boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the Bennett School is among a remarkably small number of historic civic structures remaining extant in Prince William County, holding a level of cultural and civic significance equal to that of the historic county courthouses in Manassas and Brentsville, and serving as a vital physical link to the evolution of public service in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Bennett School, along with the nearby 1894 Prince William County Courthouse, are the sole surviving features that define the historic civic core of the county seat in Manassas and distinguish it from the sterile, generic, and purely utilitarian suburban office parks that often serve municipal government functions today; and

WHEREAS, these historic buildings make the county seat a "real place" that invites human interest and activity, enlivens the community, and provides a sense of continuity that modern infrastructure alone cannot replicate; and

WHEREAS, Prince William County's own Judicial Center Master Plans, spanning more than two decades from at least 2003 through as recently as October 2024, have consistently contemplated constructing courthouse additions or annexes adjacent to the existing facilities while specifically maintaining the Bennett School in its current location for stabilization and adaptive reuse; and

WHEREAS, the City of Manassas and Prince William County have a documented history of working cooperatively and successfully with respect to the planning and development of the Courthouse Complex, whereby the County has formally agreed to allow the City to provide input into the Courthouse Complex Master Plan and specifically into the architectural and landscape features of planned buildings; and