

# Montgomery Advertiser

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A bell, originally placed in the Pike Road community by Georgia Washington in 1906, is displayed at Pike Road High School, located in the old Georgia Washington Middle School building in Pike Road on Aug. 14, 2018.

PHOTOS BY MICKEY WELSH/ADVERTISER

## Residents join forces in defense of Cottage Hill district

Alex Gladden

Montgomery Advertiser  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Community members have expressed alarm over a recent Montgomery City Council push to redefine the boundaries of a historic district and potentially allow more development nearby, despite the fact that the push ultimately failed.

Councilor Marche Johnson first proposed the ordinance to redefine the boundaries of Cottage Hill at the Sept. 19 meeting. The ordinance was not listed on the agenda, and the council voted on the measure during the last minutes of the meeting. A representative from Johnson's office said she declined to speak with the *Montgomery Advertiser*, stating that Johnson was too busy for an interview during the month of October.

The ordinance would have matched the city's historic district to the boundaries identified by the State of Alabama Historical Commission and the National Register of Historic Places.

The city did not alert the 12 property

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## New location

Pike Road says it will obtain 73-acre campus for high school

Hadley Hitson

Montgomery Advertiser  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Pike Road students may be moving into a new high school building soon.

On Friday afternoon, Pike Road Schools announced that its board of education has entered into a contract to purchase over 73 acres across from the town water tower and near the intersection of Wallahatchie Road and Pike Road.

"The closing of the land acquisition is projected to take place on October 31, paving the way for potential groundbreaking activities in early 2024," a statement from Pike Road Schools read. "The Pike Road Schools Board of Education is dedicated to the continuous improvement of educational facilities and opportunities for the students of Pike Road. They are excited to embark on this new chapter and will continue to keep the community

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A marker stands outside the current Pike Road High School building.

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# Campus

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updated on their progress.”

The school board already has a design team in place that is working to assemble comprehensive plans for the building, parking facilities and traffic.

Notably, this is a different location from the 100 acres that the school board previously announced it planned to buy in January 2022. It is unclear why the other plans did not come to fruition.

Nonetheless, this new development means that high school students will be leaving behind Pike Road High School's current Georgia Washington campus, which the district purchased from Montgomery Public Schools for \$9.85 million in 2018.

Georgia Washington was an emancipated slave who started her own school in 1893, and when she died, that school was renamed after her. It was also converted into an MPS middle school before Pike Road took ownership.

Pike Road has invested millions of dollars into the renovation of the Georgia Washington campus over the last five years. In that time, leadership has discussed the possibility of building a new high school and moving the junior



**The current Pike Road High School is in the old Georgia Washington Middle School building in Pike Road.**

MICKEY WELSH/ADVERTISER

high students to Georgia Washington. Still, the school board has not yet said what its current plans are for the campus.

In a news release, Pike Road Schools said it will reveal more details about the new building at Superintendent Keith Lankford's upcoming State of the Schools address. That event will take place at Saint James Church on Thursday at 6 p.m.

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