



SARASOTA
County Schools

Scott Lempe, Deputy Superintendent
David Jones, Principal, Sarasota High School
Sarasota County Schools
1960 Landings Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34231
941-927-4009 (Communications Dept.)

March 20, 2017

Gerald (Buster) Chapin
Senior Zoning Analyst
City of Sarasota
1565 First Street
Sarasota, FL 34236

Dear Mr. Chapin,

Sarasota County Schools Communications Specialist Scott Ferguson recently sent you an email regarding the possibility of changing the street address of Sarasota High School. You suggested that we send a letter from the school district. Please consider this our official request.

As Mr. Ferguson mentioned in his message, the school's entrance was recently reconfigured to Bahia Vista Street. The current address of the school, 1000 S. School Avenue, is now confusing to people trying to find the school by using that address.

The "tent" building that houses the Circus Arts Conservatory/Sailor Circus uses an address of 2075 Bahia Vista. The street numbers to the east of the school on the same (north) side as SHS are odd numbers in the 2200s. We believe that the address that would make the most sense for Sarasota High would be **2155 Bahia Vista Street**.

This change of address would be beneficial for the school, the city and the county, because the entrance and the Paul Rudolph-designed mid-century modern building that faces Bahia Vista Street has once again become a showcase for the community.

The old address, **1000 S. School Avenue**, made sense when there was a spur/access road off School Avenue that led to the old administration building, which was just north of the spur. That spur/access road no longer exists. If visitors, including emergency vehicles, use 1000 S. School Avenue to locate the entrance and main office of the school it may take them a while to realize this is not the current entrance. This has happened with state officials, including the lieutenant governor of Florida, and other visitors.

(MORE)

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Regarding any concerns from first responders about changing a street address, in this case we believe an address that is a more accurate reflection of where emergency vehicles would go — the main entrance to Sarasota High on Bahia Vista Street, rather than the current address on School Avenue — would be beneficial to the school and the community and may actually improve safety. Superintendent of Schools Todd Bowden and Director of School Safety, Security and Emergency Management Michael Andreas concur. The Sarasota High School Advisory Council, which consists of parents, students and staff members, supports the change as well.

We have attached an aerial view of the entrance to the building, with notations about the new entrance and the old School Avenue address.

Thank you for considering this request. Please contact Mr. Ferguson via phone or email with your response, including any additional steps we may need to take with the City and/or with Sarasota County Government. His contact information is below.

Sincerely,



Scott Lempe
Deputy Superintendent
Sarasota County Schools
scott.lempe@sarasotacountyschools.net



David Jones
Principal
Sarasota High School
david.p.jones@sarasotacountyschools.net

cc: Scott Ferguson
Communications Specialist
Sarasota County Schools
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office: 941-927-4009, cell: 941-539-6938

enclosed: aerial photo with notes (one page)



SARASOTA HIGH SCHOOL:

1. This is the new entrance to Sarasota High from Bahia Vista Street, marked by the main sign for the school. This driveway entrance leads into the parking lot and to...
2. ...the front steps of the renovated Paul Rudolph-designed building that now houses the main school administration office and science classrooms. We would like to request that **2155 Bahia Vista Street** be the new address of the school. Sailor Circus/Circus Arts Conservatory, at the lower right in the photo, has a 2075 Bahia Vista Street address. The next street numbers to the east of the school on the same side as SHS are odd numbers in the 2200s.
3. The old address, **1000 S. School Avenue**, made sense when there was a spur/access road off School Avenue that led to the old administration building, which was just north of the spur. That spur/access road no longer exists. If visitors, including emergency vehicles, use 1000 S. School Avenue to locate the entrance and main office of the school it may take them a while to realize this is not the current entrance. This has happened with state officials, including the lieutenant governor of Florida, and other visitors.