



July 1, 2025

Alumni-led Pamlico Middle School Strategic Planning Group Announces Major Progress with Stonewall Site Preservation



SPG Committee Members (L to R):
Historian/Narrator Elizabeth Harwick,
with PCT/CS alumni Project Manager
Albert Bond and Project Leader
Douglas Pearsall



SPG Committee Members (L to R):
Project Lead Doug Pearsall and Senior
Advisor Steve Dudley Pearsall, both
alumni of PTC/CS.

At the May 19, 2025 Pamlico County Board of Commissioners meeting, Imagine Pamlico's committee, *Pamlico County Training/Central School - Strategic Planning Group (SPG)*, presented a proposal for preserving and repurposing the current Pamlico County Middle School (PCMS) after its anticipated decommissioning in Fall 2026. Since then, two major milestones have been surpassed. First, the SPG succeeded in obtaining a letter of support from the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners. Then, on June 12, 2025, after nearly 14 months and over 1,000 volunteer hours of effort shared between fellow alumni, the SPG received confirmation from NC Historic Preservation Specialist Lauren Poole that the National Registry Advisory Committee (NRAC) voted to recommend the formal nomination of the Pamlico County Middle School be added to the NC State's Historic Study List. This meeting was recorded and available on Youtube:

[North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee - June 2025](#), starting at 5:43:08.

SPG Project Leader Douglas Pearsall, who transferred from the Community School in 1956 to Pamlico County Training/Central School (PCT/CS), attended from 2nd-12 grade, and graduated from PCT/CS in 1966, recalls the enormous community support that has continuously motivated him, "At the inception of our efforts, we sent out a community survey and received nearly 300 signatures of community support within just a few weeks and have received even more since then." Pearsall commented on what has since followed those initial days, "I have been amazed at the overall support and coordination needed for internal and external communications required by project affairs and the extensive effort needed for supporting all aspects of the project."

Steve Dudley, SPG Senior Advisor, enrolled in PCT/CS for grades 1-11 (1958-1969) before transferring to Pamlico County High School, described the amount of information required to assemble the application, "In order to substantiate our claims of the historical significance of the site, we had to go so far as to reach out to the National Archives at Atlanta. In the end, we knew the 70-page application provided the integrity and credibility needed for serious consideration."

SPG Project Manager Albert Bond spent 1st-6th grade (1961-1965) at PCT/CS, transferred to Arapahoe Middle School, and then returned to PCT/CS for 9th grade before transferring to Pamlico County High School. With his decades of professional project management experience, Bond realized that the process, "required significant effort in organizing meeting and workshops, in reviewing and supporting the development of the documentation and providing general project support."

SPG Historian Elizabeth Harwick, who attended PCMS from 5th-8th grade (August 1983-June 1987), was instrumental in gathering and organizing the necessary historical documents and photos required for the application. She was also the main author of the application and recalls, "The application process was a labor of love—serious, significant, and deeply personal. Many of the people who shaped my life, inspired me, and made me who I am walked the halls of this school. Though I didn't attend it myself, I've long understood the school's importance as a place of strength, learning, and community—especially during a time of segregation, when opportunity was not equally offered. This application is about honoring the teachers who poured into their students, the young people who rose to meet that challenge, and the community that built something lasting in the face of injustice. We wanted to ensure the school's story was told with the care, respect, and truth it deserves."

of the May 19th report to the county commissioners, Imagine Pamlico reported it had received funding to execute a site feasibility study. The SPG has subsequently initiated a professional feasibility study of the Stonewall site, and this study is anticipated to conclude by the end of July.

While looking forward to the potential use of the site as a community center serving all residents of Pamlico County, Pearsall notes that one of the major goals has been achieved – preserving the legacy and history of the site in an official capacity. “With the state application process fully behind us, we hope to successfully achieve historic recognition of the property at the federal or national level; we hope this historic achievement is celebrated by the entirety of the alumni and Pamlico County community.”

For more information about Imagine Pamlico (including donations), visit www.ImaginePamlico.org, their [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages under Imagine Pamlico.

For more information about the PCMS project, email Doug Pearsall at pearsalldp@gmail.com.