

Nov 30 2016

Date

Dear Mr. Yaya Diatta

We need a gym and
a lunchroom because
we need more
gym time
and a place
to play inside
when it is cold.

Sincerely,

Hannah

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

FILE
16-06-7184

From: Diatta, YaYa (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2016 7:44 AM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Subject: FW: letters from first graders about Linwood Monroe Expansion
Attachments: first grade letters for Mr. Diatta.pdf

From: ANN.GRIFFIN@spps.org [mailto:ANN.GRIFFIN@spps.org]
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 9:09 AM
To: Diatta, YaYa (CI-StPaul)
Subject: letters from first graders about Linwood Monroe Expansion

Dear Mr. Diatta,

I am a first grade teacher at Linwood Monroe Lower Campus on Osceola Street. Each year our first graders learn to write opinion letters. We learn to express our opinions in order to make a change in our world. This year, students wrote to express their opinions about the expansion project at our school.

This expansion project will improve our school and make it equitable for all learners. Thank your for reading the letters and considering supporting our students.

Sincerely,

Ann Griffin
Linwood Monroe Lower

FILE
16-067184

Diatta, YaYa (CI-StPaul)

From: Ryan Willemsen <rywillemsen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2016 7:53 PM
To: Diatta, YaYa (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Support for Linwood school

Hello Mr. Diatta,

I'm writing to express my support for the Linwood/Monroe expansion. We have [2 children who attend St. Paul](#) public schools (they've been at Randolph Heights), are Summit Hill residents and our children frequently go to the Linwood park. The expansion plans, after much discussion and neighborhood input, are well balanced and create a much improved environment for learning for our children. I hope you support the amended plan to move forward with the expansion.

Ryan Willemsen

Sent from my iPad

FILE
16-067184

Diatta, YaYa (CI-StPaul)

From: Jason Johnson <jsn.johnson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2016 11:26 AM
To: Diatta, YaYa (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Comment on Variance Requests

Hello,

I am interested in offering comment in person to the BZA at the September 12, 2016 hearing, in support of the variance requests for 1023 Osceola Ave (Linwood Monroe Arts Plus School). Is there a procedure or process to request time to speak? Or is it just a matter of showing up to the meeting?

Thank you in advance,

Jason Johnson
jsn.johnson@gmail.com
651-331-1645

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

FILE

16-067184

From: Ellen Olsen <advocatesforlmap@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2016 12:09 PM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Letter of Support for LMAP Variance

From: Ellen Olsen

Email Address: olsen.ellenm@gmail.com

Address:

Relationship to LMAP: a supporter of public education in St. Paul, union leader

I strongly support the two variances requested by Linwood Monroe Arts Plus to bring buildings on both of its campuses into the 21st century. As a supporter of public education in St. Paul, I encourage you to as well.

Sincerely,

Ellen Olsen

Diatta, YaYa (CI-StPaul)

From: kim.kroetsch@spps.org
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2016 12:50 PM
To: Diatta, YaYa (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Letter of Support for Linwood Monroe Arts Plus

FILE
16-067184

Dear Yaya Diatta,

I am writing in regards to the two variances being considered for the Linwood Campus of Linwood Monroe Arts Plus (1023 Osceola). I fully support the proposed upgrades to Linwood Monroe Arts Plus facilities on both campuses and hope that you will, too.

I am a 20 year veteran teacher at the school teaching across both campuses. My husband and I also send our two children to Linwood Monroe Arts Plus. We have one child at each campus. Due to my unique role as a teacher and parent in the school, I fully understand the needs of the community.

We are an arts infused program supporting supporting all students. Our population includes a Language Academy Program for new arrivals to our country, as well as a large Developmental and Cognitive Delay Program. With unique programming comes unique need. As a privileged parent in this community, I need to speak up for members of my community who do not have a voice: Those learning English and those with developmental delays. Linwood Monroe Arts Plus students deserve a 21st century facility. The school community needs:

- Right size classrooms to meet the standards of MDE guidelines.
- Breakout rooms to meet the needs of our many special learners.
- Separate cafeteria so that student work in and through the arts can be shared and students have available physical education space in a separate gym/auditorium.
- Updated HVAC: students currently suffer from extreme heat and cold due to insufficient mechanicals in the buildings.
- Developmentally appropriate separation of students by grade level: Ideally Linwood Campus would be PreK-5 and Monroe Campus 6-8. I understand that compromise is needed due to space constraints, so I am willing to accept PreK-4 together at Linwood even though I do not believe this is best for elementary students in grade 5.
- Updated use of existing footprint at Monroe Campus: A centrally located elevator will increase accessibility for our community.
- Handicap accessible bathrooms, gym and performance spaces. It is negligible that these are not already in place.
- Increased and improved play space: Indoor recess in a gym during lunchtimes is a necessity during inclement and extreme weather in Minnesota. The larger community will also benefit from improved outdoor play space.

It is beyond comprehension that anyone could argue against the needed renovation. I happily invite you to our school to see for yourself how the renovations are needed. I reiterate my support for the renovation across both campuses of Linwood Monroe Arts Plus.

Thank you in advance for your support of the children of Saint Paul Public Schools and Linwood Monroe Arts Plus!

Kim Kroetsch

Vocal Music Specialist K-8

Parent of students in grades 1 & 4

FILE
16-067184

10/13/16

To whom it may concern:

My name is Zach Floyd. I am the parent of a 1st grader at the Linwood lower campus and I teach 4th grade at the Monroe upper campus. I am a member of the Linwood Monroe community as both a parent and teacher. This letter is being written in full support of the proposed upgrades to Linwood Monroe Arts Plus facilities on both campuses.

Linwood Monroe Arts Plus is a school where all students learn in and through the arts. We support arts residencies in every grade K - 8. We have a language academy program for students new to the country, and a large Developmental and Cognitive Delay program. Our school population and programs present unique and varied needs.

There are many needs around the proposed expansion at Linwood Monroe Arts Plus:

- Increased size of classrooms that are large enough to meet MN Dept. of Education standards
- The addition of breakout rooms for small group and one-on-one instruction, as well as additional nurse areas to help meet all of our students' needs
- a separate cafeteria, performance and gym space that would allow for indoor recess (the current Linwood facility has a gym that also serves as a cafeteria and performance space)
- up to date handicap accessibility for bathrooms, the gym, and performance spaces
- developmentally appropriate separation of students by grade level

This renovation will allow for an outdoor area with playground equipment, a standard sized soccer field, and a functional basketball court at the lower campus. This will be in addition to the new playground built in the front of the building in June. These changes will actually increase the amount of dedicated play space at the lower campus.

Having a vibrant, fully updated arts school can only be seen as a positive for the neighborhood and Saint Paul as a whole. These proposed updates can and will have an impact on literally thousands of Saint Paul children in the years to come. I am incredibly proud to be a member of this amazing school community, and I thank you for your support of Linwood Monroe Arts Plus and Saint Paul Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Zach Floyd

FILE
16-067184

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

From: Sean & Carolyn <kavaneycarlson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2016 9:22 AM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Linwood Monroe Arts Plus Zoning Variances

Dear Mr. Westenhofer:

I'm writing to ask for your support of the Linwood Monroe Arts Plus improvement plans. As a parent of children at LMAP and a resident of St. Paul's Eastside, I know this is an important project for St. Paul students. Accessibility for all students, improved teaching and learning, and getting the minimum physical environments that all students deserve are at stake.

In order to get these improvements done, please support the city's approval of the variances requested. Please also note these variances are similar to prior approved variances requested by other schools in St. Paul. The architects of the plans and LMAP administration have done a great job of responding to objections made, revised the plans, and come up with a wonderful final plan that will address what kids need for a great learning environment and be an asset to the community.

Thank you for your time!

Respectfully,
Carolyn Carlson

FILE
16-067184

Dear Mr. Westenhofer,

My son Henry and I are writing letters together because we agree the expansion for Linwood Monroe Arts Plus (LMAP) is important to our family and to all of the children to attend our school.

The children deserve to have dedicated gym, cafeteria, and stage space. This is critical for a school with an arts infused education. Sharing one space becomes difficult, particularly when the kids are rehearsing for a special performance during an arts residency such as the third graders' Taiko drumming residency. The coordination of lunch times is such that some children eat really early or late, making it difficult for hungry children to pay attention. This situation is unacceptable in any school, but particularly so in a Title I school. Last but not least, the children do not have a place to play at recess during inclement weather, which is of course the overwhelming majority of the time in Minnesota.

Ideally, the lower campus would house ECFE, pre-K, K-5, and the upper school would house 6-8 grades. The planned compromise is that pre-K and K-4 will be at Linwood and ECFE and 5th grade remain at Monroe. This plan provides more continuity for pre-K-4 and thus more stability. This improvement in stability is an equity issue. As LMAP is a Title I school, this initiative addresses the educational gap across races and ethnicities, which is obviously a tragic embarrassment for the capital city in a state that has such diversity and a reputation for inclusion and opportunity for all.

Numerous aspects of the FMP plans for both schools will render them more accessible, including the performance space. This improvement is doubly critical for the only school in area F1 with DCD M/M/S/P programming that is dedicated to an arts infused education.

Teachers and staff have contributed to the plans for LMAP so that the changes will improve conditions for all teachers and students: the classrooms will no longer be uncomfortably hot or cold. Furthermore, the teaching space will be up to modern standards. Several changes and compromises have been made to these plans in order to appease the critics. Many of these changes have been improvements through constructive interaction. Nevertheless, some critics continue to oppose the plan in its current form. These critics demand that the school offerings be broken up or compromised—move title I somewhere else, move DCD M/M/S/P somewhere else, move ECFE and pre-K somewhere else. They don't seem to understand that the preservation of these programs under one school is an equity issue—the disruption for these children is unnecessary and harmful to their learning and development.

I want to bring up a final point: the combination of programming at LMAP is what makes the school so special. As a transracial family, we chose LMAP for its diversity. Since our son has attended LMAP, we have been amazed at the degree of diversity and inclusion, across so many domains: race, ethnicity, religion, family structure, sexual identity, country of origin, primary language spoken at home, physical abilities, and cognitive abilities. This "melting pot" school, with its combination of responsive classroom, language academy, title I, DCD M/M/S/P, arts infused education, is an amazing place for our son and all children to learn, play, learn how to get along with all sorts of people, work collaboratively, and express themselves through the arts. I ask you to please support the FMP changes for LMAP. Our children, teachers, and staff deserve the improvements outlined in this plan.

Respectfully,

Amy J. Brisben, Ph.D.

375

FILE
16-067184

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

From: Laura Nichols-Endres <lnicholsendres@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 29, 2016 12:15 PM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Support for Linwood Monroe renovation plans

Dear Sean,

I am writing in support of the school district's plans to renovate both Linwood and Monroe schools. I am a parent of two children in the Linwood Monroe Arts Plus program: a Kindergartener & a 6th grader who has been part of the program since Kindergarten.

I attended the community meeting in April and heard the neighbors' concerns about the Linwood project in particular. I feel that many of these have been addressed in revised plans, which have improved the project overall. I want to express my support of moving these projects ahead.

A few notes on our particular perspective:

- This is a wonderful, thriving public school program. We chose Linwood Monroe through open enrollment when we were living in West Saint Paul. We moved to the Merriam Park neighborhood 18 months ago specifically to stay within the Linwood/Monroe busing area. The teachers and school leadership are dedicated, creative and care deeply about our children. The student body is highly diverse, which has been a strong positive for our family. My children are challenged, cared for and are thriving.
- The only difficult year we have had in this program has been 4th grade. My 4th grader was ready academically but not socially for the reality of essentially being in a middle school. We went from 'crossing under the rainbow' -- an annual ceremony to celebrate the end of 3rd grade to a middle school sports pep fest to start the 4th grade year. Now that she is in 6th grade, I love this middle school energy. It was just not the right fit for her as a 4th grader. I strongly support the parents and teachers who are citing research and best practice to move both Pre-K and 4th grade to the Linwood location.
- The changes to the Linwood plan would significantly increase the amount of space -- both indoors and out -- for active play. This is incredibly important for young children, and the current facility does not support the kind of outdoor or indoor activity that the renovation would.

We are proud members of the Saint Paul and the Linwood / Monroe community. These renovations would bring these schools into the modern era, ensuring they will continue to be strong, thriving programs for ALL of our community's kids for years to come.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at 651-554-7794 or lnicholsendres@gmail.com.

Many thanks for your consideration,

FILE
16-067184

Diatta, YaYa (CI-StPaul)

From: Karyn Wrenshall <karynwren@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2016 5:30 PM
To: Diatta, YaYa (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Linwood Monroe

Dr. Mr. Diatta, I am writing to express my support of the Linwood-Monroe expansion. I am a resident of the Summit Hill neighborhood. Sincerely, Karyn Wrenshall. 1201 Lincoln avenue St. Paul, MN

Sent from my iPhone

FILE
16-067184

Diatta, YaYa (CI-StPaul)

From: Gina McCabe <grmccabe@mmm.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2016 8:05 AM
To: Diatta, YaYa (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Neighbor in support of Linwood expansion

Dear Mr. Diatta,

I'm writing to express my support for the Linwood/Monroe expansion. When this expansion plan was rolled out, neighbors reacted quickly and loudly in opposition. While I have been sympathetic with some of their concerns, my view is that the amended plans more than adequately address said concerns and these revisions represent a significant compromise and improvement. I am concerned by the increasingly bitter debate in which the voices of the school community and those neighbors who are in support of this expansion are being drowned out by the loudest, more organized voices. It's time to move forward, and I encourage you to do so in support of these plans. In doing so, you will do well for the entire neighborhood, the students, families and wider school community, and St. Paul itself.

I hope you consider my voice - in support of this amended plan, in support of improving Linwood/Monroe and St. Paul kids.


Thank you.

Regards,
Gina McCabe
(1186 Lincoln Ave)

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Gina McCabe | Global Brand & Communications Manager
Personal Safety Division
3M Center, 235-2F-06 | St Paul, MN 55144-1000 | United States
Office: +1 651 736 9401 | Mobile: +1 612 616 7707
grmccabe@mmm.com | www.3M.com/ppeSafety



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FILE
16-067184

Diatta, YaYa (CI-StPaul)

From: Elysia Gallo <elysiagallos@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 05, 2016 1:13 PM
To: Diatta, YaYa (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Comments for public hearing, Linwood variance

Dear Mr. Diatta and the City of St. Paul,

I will be out of town when you hold the public hearing on the Linwood Elementary variance on September 12, so I would like to submit my thoughts in writing.

I live across the street from Linwood Elementary so I will be directly impacted by any changes made. My husband and I have lived in this apartment for 8 years, and the one next door for 3 years. In other words, I am a long-term resident who cares about this community and, more directly, about this neighborhood. I am also a graduate of St. Paul Public Schools, so I want the best for the kids that are being educated by them today as well.

I am in favor of upgrading the facilities so that they are comfortable, modern, and accessible. I am NOT in favor of SPPS's current plan, however, which is to drastically expand the student population (by some 50%) and then magically "right-size" the building on SPPS's smallest property. I am sure other attendees of the meeting will have facts and statistics showing the amount of children and playspace per square foot so I won't get into that in this letter. Suffice it to say, while they are pretending this will be good for the students, in fact it will not. If they really wanted what was best for the students, they would find a facility large enough to accommodate them as well as offering large outdoor spaces, which are vital to kids' development – yes, even here in Minnesota where supporters of this plan say "the kids don't play that much outside anyway, it's too cold." (That is simply ridiculous. Kids play outside every single day except the few each year when it's dangerously cold.)

I am sure that the proponents of the plan will tell you how much they have already "negotiated," "sacrificed," "listened," and "accommodated" the neighbors' needs. This is a lie. I have been to several meetings and seen several iterations of the plans, and while they have changed a few details, they have refused to back down on the main problems the plan poses: the enlarged school population, the towering addition (in the back of the lot it will feel much taller than 47 feet because of the grade – from soil to top at the back of the school it will be more like 60 feet), the fact that the west side of the building will be practically on top of the sidewalk, and so on. They have moved some classrooms around and tried to preserve more of the back play lot, but these differences are insignificant in the big picture. Nor have they ever explained satisfactorily why they don't move the entire school to a different building that would give the kids the space they need.

The truth is, throughout this process SPPS has been unconcerned with the character of the neighborhood. They have shown their disrespect to the neighbors repeatedly. As I type this, I can hear a bell ringing over and over again. In the midst of a tense situation, the school allowed a playground to be built (by Ka-Boom, Toro, MN Vikings) in early June that includes a loud bell as part of its "play" equipment. The playground is meant for toddlers and pre-K children, and believe me, once they figure out how to ring that bell, they ring it incessantly. We have been woken up by that bell as early as 7:30am and as late as 1am; there are no signs posted with playground hours or a reminder to be considerate of neighbors. The school simply doesn't care to acknowledge that it's not a suburban school, but a school that is shoulder-to-shoulder with people who actually live and work in the city. (Note: I have sent a complaint to the city about the bell via its web form, but I have not yet received any response. My husband and I often work from our home offices.)

In addition, their "no parking during school" signs are always out of date. I have had teachers yell at me for parking on their side of the street even though, per the hours posted on the signs, I was clearly within my rights to do so. If they have the busses coming later than what is currently posted on the signs, it is their responsibility to request new signs showing accurate hours. I have also had parents blocking our driveway, and parking on our side of the street before it's been plowed during snow emergencies, leading to our only parking spaces being lumpy and icy all winter, the street narrower, etc. I could go on, but my point is simply that the school has never accommodated its neighbors, nor shown us the least bit of respect.

The way I see it, Linwood-Monroe has become a very successful school, thanks to the dedication of the wonderful staff and the involvement of parents. If they are so successful, they should be allowed to expand and take on greater numbers of students. But a wildly successful, popular, and sought-after school should not be housed on the smallest school site in the city. The school tells us they are making our community better. That would be true if it were a good neighborhood school, but it's a magnet school, so actually very few of the people living here are able to get the benefits of enrolling their children there.

In closing, I would say I'm lucky. I'm lucky that my husband and I rent our home here because we will be able to move without taking a loss on selling a house if and when the school impacts the immediate neighborhood negatively, drastically, and permanently. Because if they are granted this variance, that will mean more traffic (both busses and parents bring their children to this school), no available parking on the days they hold events (already quite frequent), less sunlight and open space, *another* playground out front directly across from my bedroom window, and of course more bad blood between the school and the residents who live here. I am not up for that, and will be happy enough to leave, although sad to leave behind my great neighbors and what has been, up to this June, a wonderful place to live.

Thank you,
Elysia Gallo
1022 Osceola Ave.

Diatta, YaYa (CI-StPaul)

FILE
16-06284

From: joshperickson@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2016 7:06 PM
To: info@summithillassociation.org; Diatta, YaYa (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Linwood School Zoning Decision

We're writing this email as a Summit Hill resident who lives directly across the street (on Fairmount) from the Linwood Elementary field/playground that has been a part of so much debate over the last few months. We're also writing as parents to elementary age children who use both the field and playground many times each week and who attend St. Paul public schools (although not Linwood).

We would like you to know that we support the last plan presented by the school system. While we would love to see the space preserved as it is for our children to use we also appreciate the compromises made by the school from the original plan. We also recognize that it's much more important for the students who attend Linwood to have a good learning environment than for our kids to have a slightly larger evening/weekend play area and that the parents and teachers of Linwood are much better suited to make the decision on balance than we are.

Josh and Debbie Erickson
1017 Fairmount

EL
16-067184

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

From: Diatta, YaYa (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 7:32 AM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Subject: FW: Comment about expansion at Linwood Elementary School

From: Gwen Pappas [mailto:gwendolynpappas@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2016 10:26 AM
To: Diatta, YaYa (CI-StPaul) <yaya.diatta@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Comment about expansion at Linwood Elementary School

Dear Yaya Diatta,

It is time to make the expansion at Linwood Elementary School happen! I hope the BZA will approve the two variances needed to construct an addition onto the Linwood Elementary School building.

As the parents of a new sixth grader at Linwood Monroe Arts Plus, my husband and I have studied the proposed expansion plans at both Linwood and Monroe—and followed the dissent among some Linwood neighbors. We've been impressed by how responsive, respectful and proactive SPPS has been in addressing neighbor concerns and developing a compromise plan.

Now it is time to end the back and forth and move forward with this significant project! These kids deserve updated, accessible facilities that bring the school into the 21st century.

I hope the BZA will approve the two needed variances to make the school expansion possible. Doing so will improve the educational experience for thousands of kids.

Thank you for considering this letter,

Gwen Pappas

1692 Ashland Avenue

St. Paul, 55104

December, 2016

FILE
16-067184

Dear Yaya Diatta,

My name is Amy Moeller and my husband and I strongly support the proposed upgrades to Linwood Monroe Arts Plus facilities on both campuses and hope that you will too!

We have a son in 5th grade at the Monroe Campus and feel very strongly that this amazing school needs the facilities to support all they do for students of Saint Paul. I am sure you are familiar with all the ways in which these upgrades are important to create not only a 21st century learning environment but also to improve the handicap accessibility in the buildings.

We are saddened that a small group of people living around the Linwood Campus have made efforts to block these important improvements. We live approximately 12 blocks from the Linwood Campus, but I understand that since our zip code is not 55105 and because we have a child in the school, our opinions on the Linwood changes are not valued by those who live closer to the building. I guess they feel we are biased and can't understand the impact this would have to a neighbor. To that, I have a story to share.

Within the past year, we have been faced with the very same issues- all within blocks of our house. We live just 2 blocks from new construction for the Immersion Academy, Jardin, on Victoria and Hague Avenues. It should be opening its doors to students very soon now. But, in the months before this project began, we had conversations with each other and with neighbors about it. It was clear that we were sad and frustrated with elements of this project. For example, we were upset to see the historic building would be torn down only to be replaced with a very modern building that does not fit the historic integrity of other buildings in the neighborhood. We were also worried about the traffic and parking issues that were likely to be created with this new business. Finally, we were sad to review the plans for the building as we felt there would be a loss of open space around the building. All these arguments sound very familiar to the arguments presented by those opposing the Linwood improvements. The difference is that my husband and I fully supported this development. We did this because we acknowledged and appreciated the value that this immersion academy would bring to both our neighborhood and to the larger community of Saint Paul. Yes, we looked past the loss of the historic building and the perceived loss of open space to fully support and welcome this change so close to our back door. It was the right thing to do for Jardin and it is the right thing to do for Linwood Monroe Arts Plus.

Change can be difficult, but it is necessary for progress. Please support this effort and don't let the fear of change from a small number of very vocal people keep the important progress at Linwood Monroe Arts Plus from happening! Please be strong enough to support what is best for the community.

Amy and Mark Moeller
823 Holly Avenue 55104
651-699-0434

Amy Moeller + Mark Moeller

FILE
16-067184

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

From: Theresa del Rosario <advocatesforlmap@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2016 10:47 AM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Letter of Support for LMAP Variance

From: Theresa del Rosario

Email Address: tdr63@hotmail.com

Address: 881 Otto Avenue

Relationship to LMAP: a supporter of public education in St. Paul, My son attended LMAP for 3 years

I strongly support the two variances requested by Linwood Monroe Arts Plus to bring buildings on both of its campuses into the 21st century. As a supporter of public education in St. Paul, I encourage you to as well.

Theresa del Rosario

Sincerely,

Theresa del Rosario

FILE
16-067184

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

From: Imogen Davis <advocatesforlmap@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 1:42 PM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Letter of Support for LMAP Variance

From: Imogen Davis

Email Address: imogenadavis@gmail.com

Address: 287 Baker Street East, Saint Paul, 55107

Relationship to LMAP: a supporter of public education in St. Paul

I would like to thank you for your service, and am grateful for the work that you do. I am writing to express my support for the proposed upgrades to Linwood Monroe Arts Plus facilities on both campuses. The addition to the Lower campus (Linwood) building will allow the school to make a number of essential updates, such as making both buildings accessible for students with limited mobility, bringing undersized classrooms on both campuses up to size standards, and moving four-year-old pre-K students and nine-year-old fourth graders out of the middle school environment into the more appropriate environment of the elementary school. The addition will also increase the amount of available dedicated play space by over 1,000 sf and give students the dedicated place they currently do not have to play inside on bad weather days. At the Upper school (Monroe), where some classrooms are only half the size that SPPS standards call for, all classrooms will be brought up to adequate sizes. I strongly support the two zoning variances that Linwood Monroe needs in order to be able to bring both of its buildings into the twenty-first century, and appreciate the willingness of SPPS to adjust its plans by making two major revisions based on community input. As someone who believes in the importance of a vibrant public education system, I hope that you will support them, too.

Sincerely,

Imogen Davis

FILE
16-067184

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

From: Denise Wickiser <advocatesforlmap@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2016 1:46 PM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Letter of Support for LMAP Variance

From: Denise Wickiser

Email Address: denisewickiser@comcast.net

Address: 354 Duke Street, St. Paul, MN 55102

Relationship to LMAP: an LMAP parent, a supporter of public education in St. Paul

I am writing to express my strong support for the two zoning variances that Linwood Monroe Arts Plus needs in order to be able to bring both of its buildings into the twenty-first century. The two major revisions to the plans that SPPS has made based on community input since the initial plan was announced in March have made it dramatically better, and the new plan will create a much better learning environment for the school's students and teachers. As someone who believes in the importance of a vibrant public education system, I hope that you will support the requested variances, too.

Our kids are seventh graders at Linwood Monroe, and I am truly grateful for the amazing educational experience they have received there since Kindergarten. The expansion is a great plan, and the variances needed are completely reasonable for an urban setting, and other private/public schools have been granted similar variances. The kids need this--please support the expansion and the variances necessary. As Wellstone said, "We all do better when we all do better." Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Denise Wickiser

September 26, 2016

FILE
16-067184

Yaya Diatta
Department of Safety and Inspections
375 Jackson St. Suite 220
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Dear Yaya Diatta,

I am writing this letter to strongly encourage the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) to approve the two variances (1023 Osceola) in order to construct an addition onto the Lower Campus of Linwood Monroe Arts Plus school.

The list of benefits to the Lower Campus (Linwood) and Upper Campus (Monroe) are important to me. Without the variances being approved no improvements can be done at either building (the projects are inter-related).

So many improvements to both Linwood + Monroe upper + lower campuses are vital to keep both schools up to date and accesible to all children.

The improvements will be a huge upgrade for the students, teachers and the neighborhoods that both campuses reside in!

Sincerely,

Julie + Ken Kendle, children Olivia + Daniel

LMAP Community Member, Resident of Ward 3

Ken & Julie Kendle
1219 Hartford Ave
St Paul, MN 55116-1622

Cc: City Council, SPPS Board of Directors and SPPS Interim Superintendent

FILE
16-067184

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

From: Scott Ickes <advocatesforlmap@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:06 PM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Letter of Support for LMAP Variance

From: Scott Ickes

Email Address: scott.ickes@gmail.com

Address: 1656 Juliet Avenue

Relationship to LMAP: a supporter of public education in St. Paul, I have visiting LMAP when choosing a school for a 6th grader.

I am writing to express my strong support for the two zoning variances that Linwood Monroe Arts Plus needs in order to be able to bring both of its buildings into the twenty-first century. The two major revisions to the plans that SPPS has made based on community input since the initial plan was announced in March have made it dramatically better, and the new plan will create a much better learning environment for the school's students and teachers. As someone who believes in the importance of a vibrant public education system, I hope that you will support the requested variances, too.

I'm a huge fan of the great work they do at LMAP, especially with children new to the city and country. Healthier, happier kids means a healthier, happier future for all of us here in St. Paul. We have to invest locally in that future more than ever nowadays.

Sincerely,

Scott Ickes

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

From: Ailie Deloia <advocatesforlmap@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 11:41 PM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Letter of Support for LMAP Variance

From: Ailie Deloia

Email Address: Ailiej@msn.com

Address: 61 W Sandra Lee Dr

Relationship to LMAP: an LMAP parent, a supporter of public education in St. Paul

I would like to thank you for your service, and am grateful for the work that you do. I am writing to express my support for the proposed upgrades to Linwood Monroe Arts Plus facilities on both campuses. The addition to the Lower campus (Linwood) building will allow the school to make a number of essential updates, such as making both buildings accessible for students with limited mobility, bringing undersized classrooms on both campuses up to size standards, and moving four-year-old pre-K students and nine-year-old fourth graders out of the middle school environment into the more appropriate environment of the elementary school. The addition will also increase the amount of available dedicated play space by over 1,000 sf and give students the dedicated place they currently do not have to play inside on bad weather days. At the Upper school (Monroe), where some classrooms are only half the size that SPPS standards call for, all classrooms will be brought up to adequate sizes. I strongly support the two zoning variances that Linwood Monroe needs in order to be able to bring both of its buildings into the twenty-first century, and appreciate the willingness of SPPS to adjust its plans by making two major revisions based on community input. As someone who believes in the importance of a vibrant public education system, I hope that you will support them, too.

Sincerely,

Ailie Deloia

FILE
16-067184

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

From: Mary Szondy <advocatesforlmap@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 8:25 AM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Letter of Support for LMAP Variance

From: Mary Szondy

Email Address: mszondy@pro-ns.net

Address: 1368 Grand Avenue

Relationship to LMAP: an LMAP parent

I am writing to express my strong support for the two zoning variances that Linwood Monroe Arts Plus needs in order to be able to bring both of its buildings into the twenty-first century. The two major revisions to the plans that SPPS has made based on community input since the initial plan was announced in March have made it dramatically better, and the new plan will create a much better learning environment for the school's students and teachers. As someone who believes in the importance of a vibrant public education system, I hope that you will support the requested variances, too.

Sincerely,

Mary Szondy

FILE
16-067184

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

From: FELIX JONES <advocatesforlmap@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 11:15 AM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Letter of Support for LMAP Variance

From: FELIX JONES

Email Address: FELIXBJ@GMAIL.COM

Address:

Relationship to LMAP: an LMAP parent, a supporter of public education in St. Paul

I would like to thank you for your service, and am grateful for the work that you do. I am writing to express my support for the proposed upgrades to Linwood Monroe Arts Plus facilities on both campuses. The addition to the Lower campus (Linwood) building will allow the school to make a number of essential updates, such as making both buildings accessible for students with limited mobility, bringing undersized classrooms on both campuses up to size standards, and moving four-year-old pre-K students and nine-year-old fourth graders out of the middle school environment into the more appropriate environment of the elementary school. The addition will also increase the amount of available dedicated play space by over 1,000 sf and give students the dedicated place they currently do not have to play inside on bad weather days. At the Upper school (Monroe), where some classrooms are only half the size that SPPS standards call for, all classrooms will be brought up to adequate sizes. I strongly support the two zoning variances that Linwood Monroe needs in order to be able to bring both of its buildings into the twenty-first century, and appreciate the willingness of SPPS to adjust its plans by making two major revisions based on community input. As someone who believes in the importance of a vibrant public education system, I hope that you will support them, too.

Sincerely,

FELIX JONES

FILE
16-067184

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

From: kleej361@gmail.com <advocatesforlmap@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 12:03 PM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Letter of Support for LMAP Variance

From: kleej361@gmail.com

Email Address: kleej361@gmail.com

Address: 361 daly st st. paul.mn 55102

Relationship to LMAP: an LMAP parent, a supporter of public education in St. Paul

I strongly support the two variances requested by Linwood Monroe Arts Plus to bring buildings on both of its campuses into the 21st century. As a supporter of public education in St. Paul, I encourage you to as well.

Sincerely,

kleej361@gmail.com

FILE
16-067184

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

From: Ailie Deloia <advocatesforlmap@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 11:58 AM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Letter of Support for LMAP Variance

From: Ailie Deloia

Email Address: Ailiej@msn.com

Address: 61 W Sandra Lee Dr

Relationship to LMAP: an LMAP parent, a supporter of public education in St. Paul

I would like to thank you for your service, and am grateful for the work that you do. I am writing to express my support for the proposed upgrades to Linwood Monroe Arts Plus facilities on both campuses. The addition to the Lower campus (Linwood) building will allow the school to make a number of essential updates, such as making both buildings accessible for students with limited mobility, bringing undersized classrooms on both campuses up to size standards, and moving four-year-old pre-K students and nine-year-old fourth graders out of the middle school environment into the more appropriate environment of the elementary school. The addition will also increase the amount of available dedicated play space by over 1,000 sf and give students the dedicated place they currently do not have to play inside on bad weather days. At the Upper school (Monroe), where some classrooms are only half the size that SPPS standards call for, all classrooms will be brought up to adequate sizes. I strongly support the two zoning variances that Linwood Monroe needs in order to be able to bring both of its buildings into the twenty-first century, and appreciate the willingness of SPPS to adjust its plans by making two major revisions based on community input. As someone who believes in the importance of a vibrant public education system, I hope that you will support them, too.

Sincerely,

Ailie Deloia

FILE
16-067184

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

From: Jame Mackson <jame.mackson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 11:57 AM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Cc: #CI-StPaul_Ward3
Subject: Linwood Monroe Arts Plus (LMAP) Variance requests

Hello Mr. Westenhofer and the other members of the board,

My name is James Mackson. I am a lifelong member of the St Paul community, parent of a kindergartener at LMAP and a 1996 SPPS graduate.

I would like to thank you for your service, and am grateful for the work that you do. I am writing to express my support for the proposed upgrades to Linwood Monroe Arts Plus facilities on both campuses.

I have reviewed the details of the plans for LMAP and I believe it is a really good plan. Given more time, money and revisions, sure - it could be even better. And to be honest, I feel like the last round of changes were actually a step backwards but I firmly believe that this project will undoubtedly be a great improvement for the school as a whole and especially for the current and future students of LMAP.

While I feel for the neighbors who still oppose this plan, I just can't understand the depth of their vehement opposition to it; outside of outright nimbyism that is. At this point they have had a minimum of 10 months of involvement in steering the project which lead to 2+ major revisions to the plan based on their feedback and concerns. And it seems clear to me that they will continue to move the target that they expect to be hit before they will support the plan. They had to, at some level, understand that they were moving in next door to a school and that change is inevitable.

I just ask that you will side with what is best for the diverse student population of Linwood Monroe and not outweigh that by the voices of a handful of wealthy privileged neighbors who don't even send their kids to the model school across their street.

I sincerely thank you for your consideration on these very important variances for this school that is thriving despite the many shortcomings of their current facility.

James Mackson
55105

CC: Chris Tolbert - Ward 3 City Council representative

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FILE
16-067184

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

From: Stacey Reid <advocatesforlmap@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 11:40 AM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Letter of Support for LMAP Variance

From: Stacey Reid

Email Address: stacey.reid@gmail.com

Address: 2619 W 7th St.

Relationship to LMAP: an LMAP parent

I would like to thank you for your service, and am grateful for the work that you do. I am writing to express my support for the proposed upgrades to Linwood Monroe Arts Plus facilities on both campuses. The addition to the Lower campus (Linwood) building will allow the school to make a number of essential updates, such as making both buildings accessible for students with limited mobility, bringing undersized classrooms on both campuses up to size standards, and moving four-year-old pre-K students and nine-year-old fourth graders out of the middle school environment into the more appropriate environment of the elementary school. The addition will also increase the amount of available dedicated play space by over 1,000 sf and give students the dedicated place they currently do not have to play inside on bad weather days. At the Upper school (Monroe), where some classrooms are only half the size that SPPS standards call for, all classrooms will be brought up to adequate sizes. I strongly support the two zoning variances that Linwood Monroe needs in order to be able to bring both of its buildings into the twenty-first century, and appreciate the willingness of SPPS to adjust its plans by making two major revisions based on community input. As someone who believes in the importance of a vibrant public education system, I hope that you will support them, too.

Sincerely,

Stacey Reid

FILE
16-067184

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

From: Sarah Stocco <advocatesforlmap@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 10:07 AM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Letter of Support for LMAP Variance

From: Sarah Stocco

Email Address: yellow.cabin@gmail.com

Address: 1611 Berkeley Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105

Relationship to LMAP: a supporter of public education in St. Paul, LM ECFE parent

I strongly support the two variances requested by Linwood Monroe Arts Plus to bring buildings on both of its campuses into the 21st century. As a supporter of public education in St. Paul, I encourage you to as well.

I am a parent at ECFE at the Monroe site, and I have been following this issue closely from the beginning. I believe deeply in public education, and I feel the school district, teachers, parents, and even students, have shown great willingness to compromise in this project, and have done so throughout. I was involved in the original rounds of the Facilities Master Plan process, and know that community members were reached out to through many different avenues. I know that the school district was committed to hearing all voices who contributed to the process, and it is apparent that the district, parents, and staff have listened to the opposition, have thoughtfully responded, and have compromised on the plan several times (and, in fact, I am sure they would argue that the compromises have improved the plan!). Overall, at this point, it is clear to me that the small opposition to this project are entrenched in their beliefs and are committed to seeing this project fail, no matter how much the district, parents, and staff compromise. It's time to get this project going, clear up the obstruction and stop giving the "alternative facts" credence in this process. It has been an enormous waste of resources to let it go this long, especially from the people most affected by this improvement: the families and staff of LMAP. Please approve this project and continue the work of SPPS in making all of our schools equal for all students in St. Paul.

Sincerely,

Sarah Stocco

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FILE
16-067184

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

From: Amy Moeller <amymarkmoeller@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 10:30 AM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Board of Zoning Appeals- support Linwood Monroe

Board of Zoning Appeals,

My name is Amy Moeller and my husband, Mark, and I strongly encourage you to support the variance requests for Linwood Monroe Arts Plus.

While we have a child who attends the Monroe Campus, we have also carefully educated ourselves on both sides of this topic and feel strongly that these variances should be approved. Please do what is right for our community and support the progress necessary for this amazing school.

Thank you so much!
Amy & Mark Moeller
823 Holly Ave 55104

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE smartphone

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

From: Mark Blegen <advocatesforlmap@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 10:09 AM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Letter of Support for LMAP Variance

From: Mark Blegen

Email Address: Blegenmark@gmail.com

Address: 1459 Sargent Avenue St. Paul

Relationship to LMAP: a supporter of public education in St. Paul

I would like to thank you for your service, and am grateful for the work that you do. I am writing to express my support for the proposed upgrades to Linwood Monroe Arts Plus facilities on both campuses. The addition to the Lower campus (Linwood) building will allow the school to make a number of essential updates, such as making both buildings accessible for students with limited mobility, bringing undersized classrooms on both campuses up to size standards, and moving four-year-old pre-K students and nine-year-old fourth graders out of the middle school environment into the more appropriate environment of the elementary school. The addition will also increase the amount of available dedicated play space by over 1,000 sf and give students the dedicated place they currently do not have to play inside on bad weather days. At the Upper school (Monroe), where some classrooms are only half the size that SPPS standards call for, all classrooms will be brought up to adequate sizes. I strongly support the two zoning variances that Linwood Monroe needs in order to be able to bring both of its buildings into the twenty-first century, and appreciate the willingness of SPPS to adjust its plans by making two major revisions based on community input. As someone who believes in the importance of a vibrant public education system, I hope that you will support them, too.

Sincerely,

Mark Blegen

FILE
16-067184

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

From: Kristin Schroeder <schroederkc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 10:59 AM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Vote for Linwood Expansion

Dear Board of Zoning Appeal,

I am writing to you with regard to the board vote this afternoon on the variances for Linwood school in the Summit Hill neighborhood.

I live in the community and I have children in SPPS who will hopefully attend Linwood and Monroe next year. I support the expansion as proposed. We need to put children and their education first, our children matter. The conditions that the children are currently have to learn in are outrageous given the wealth of this community. Just because none of the adjacent neighbors have chosen to send their children to this school, rather the private school down the street, doesn't mean these children don't deserve a positive learning environment. People have worked tirelessly to try to please the SHA board to meet their requests, but nothing seems to please them. The time is now to make a difference for these children! I want a better future for all students at Linwood so please vote to approve the expansion!

Thank you,

Kristin Schroeder

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

From: Kim Kroetsch <kimsings1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 8:56 AM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Letter in Support of Expansion at Linwood Monroe Arts Pls

Dear Mr. Westenhofer,

I am writing in regards to the two variances being considered for the Linwood Campus of Linwood Monroe Arts Plus (1023 Osceola). I fully support the proposed upgrades to Linwood Monroe Arts Plus facilities on both campuses and hope that you will, too.

I am a 20 year veteran teacher at the school teaching across both campuses. My husband and I also send our two children to Linwood Monroe Arts Plus. We have one child at each campus. Due to my unique role as a teacher and parent in the school, I fully understand the needs of the community.

We are an arts infused program supporting supporting all students. Our population includes a Language Academy Program for new arrivals to our country, as well as a large Developmental and Cognitive Delay Program. With unique programming comes unique need. As a privileged parent in this community, I need to speak up for members of my community who do not have a voice: those learning English and those with developmental delays. Linwood Monroe Arts Plus students deserve a 21st century facility. The school community needs:

- Right size classrooms to meet the standards of MDE guidelines.
- Breakout rooms to meet the needs of our many special learners.
- Separate cafeteria so that student work in and through the arts can be shared and students have available physical education space in a separate gym/auditorium.
- Updated HVAC: students currently suffer from extreme heat and cold due to insufficient mechanicals in the buildings.
- Developmentally appropriate separation of students by grade level: Ideally Linwood Campus would be PreK-5 and Monroe Campus 6-8. I understand that compromise is needed due to space constraints, so I am willing to accept PreK-4 together at Linwood even though I do not believe this is best for elementary students in grade 5.
- Updated use of existing footprint at Monroe Campus: A centrally located elevator will increase accessibility for our community.
- Handicap accessible bathrooms, gym and performance spaces. It is negligible that these are not already in place.
- Increased and improved play space: Indoor recess in a gym during lunchtimes is a necessity during inclement and extreme weather in Minnesota. The larger community will also benefit from improved outdoor play space.

It is beyond comprehension that anyone could argue against the needed renovation. I happily invite you to our school to see for yourself how the renovations are needed. I reiterate my support for the renovation across both campuses of Linwood Monroe Arts Plus.

Thank you in advance for your support of the children of Saint Paul Public Schools and Linwood Monroe Arts Plus!

Kim Kroetsch
 Vocal Music Specialist K-8
 Parent of students in grades 1 & 4
 Linwood Monroe Arts Plus

FILE
16-061184

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

From: Amy Brisben <advocatesforlmap@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 8:16 AM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Letter of Support for LMAP Variance

From: Amy Brisben

Email Address: amy.bris@gmail.com

Address: 1214 James Ave

Relationship to LMAP: an LMAP parent, a supporter of public education in St. Paul

I am writing to express my strong support for the two zoning variances that Linwood Monroe Arts Plus needs in order to be able to bring both of its buildings into the twenty-first century. The two major revisions to the plans that SPPS has made based on community input since the initial plan was announced in March have made it dramatically better, and the new plan will create a much better learning environment for the school's students and teachers. As someone who believes in the importance of a vibrant public education system, I hope that you will support the requested variances, too.

The two major revisions to the plans that SPPS has made based on community input since the initial plan was announced in March 2016 have made it dramatically better, and the new plan will create a much better learning environment for the school's students and teachers. As a parent of a child at Linwood Monroe, I am amazed at the diversity of the school, the quality of the social curriculum provided there, the value of the infused arts education, and the opportunities provided to my child with this combination of programs. And yet, the limitations of the facilities and the impact on all of the children is disconcerting. I am appalled that, after so many modifications and compromises on the part of the school and the SPPS, that some neighbors and the SHA continue to oppose the FMP plans for our school. I don't know what conclusions to make of their behavior other than: they don't appreciate the realities of the SPPS budget, assets throughout the city, and other constraints, they aren't in support of public education, they aren't in support of a school in their neighborhood, and/or they aren't in support of the demographics of the children at this particular school. It pains me to make these conclusions, but I see no other interpretations of their actions throughout the last 9 months. Thank you for your consideration. I hope that you support these requested variances so that the children and teachers of Linwood Monroe Arts Plus acquire the facilities upgrade that they need and deserve.

Sincerely,

Amy Brisben

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

From: Alina Hornfeldt <advocatesforlmap@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 11:05 AM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Letter of Support for LMAP Variance

From: Alina Hornfeldt

Email Address: glitterbean7@gmail.com

Address:

Relationship to LMAP: an LMAP parent, a supporter of public education in St. Paul

I am writing to express my strong support for the two zoning variances that Linwood Monroe Arts Plus needs in order to be able to bring both of its buildings into the twenty-first century. The two major revisions to the plans that SPPS has made based on community input since the initial plan was announced in March have made it dramatically better, and the new plan will create a much better learning environment for the school's students and teachers. As someone who believes in the importance of a vibrant public education system, I hope that you will support the requested variances, too.

Please make the decision to stand by kids in need. It is my wish that my child will be able to transition into Jr High at a more developmentally appropriate time at 5th grade and not 4th. I also support all his classmates with disabilities and believe that full access at their school to bathrooms and other areas is a priority. The neighbors surrounding the school need to know that for the good of our children, state, and country we all need to be flexible and open to change. I know change is difficult but it is inevitable in all areas of life. It is my hope that we will be able to move forward with the best interests of the children in mind. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Alina Hornfeldt

FILE
16-067184

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

From: Jim Crawford <jjruok@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 8:38 AM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Subject: BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Hi,

I am writing to ask you to support the zoning variances for SPPS, specifically the Linwood campus of Linwood Monroe. This is an excellent school that serves an very diverse community of students in an outdated facility. I would urge you to think of the kids, and of the future of our city when making your decision. If this were a SPA asking for this variance in this same situation I don't believe we would be facing this opposition. History shows that schools are traditionally given variances to meet their needs in cases like this, and I hope you see fit to do the same here. The kids deserve it. Thanks for your time, and attention to this.

Jim Crawford



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.

www.avast.com

FILE
16-067184

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)

From: Aida Martinez-Freeman <amartin6@macalester.edu>
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 4:48 PM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul); #CI-StPaul_Ward5
Subject: BZA hearing: 1023 Osceola site, Linwood Monroe Arts Plus (LMAP)

February 10, 2017

Members of the Board of Zoning Appeals
c/o Sean Westenhofer
15 Kellogg Blvd. West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

February 10, 2017

To the Members of the Board of Zoning Appeals,

My name is Aida Martinez-Freeman and I am a resident in Northwest Como, Ward 5. I'm an educator at Macalester College and a mother of a 3rd grader who attends Linwood Monroe Arts Plus, Lower campus. I'm writing to you to ask for your support and approval of the much needed expansion and renovation plan for the Linwood Monroe Arts Plus School (LMAP).

I'm blessed with a biracial child who is abled-bodied, an English speaker, and overall, a healthy 9 year old. LMAP is the only public, arts education pre-K to 8 school in Saint Paul, serving 67% students of color, 67% low-income students, 17% students with disabilities, and 38% ELL students, and most of our students come from outside the neighborhood. As you may know, Linwood is also a Developmental and Cognitive Disabilities and Language Arts designated school.

To say that Linwood Arts is a special place, is an understatement. My daughter, Isabelle, is thriving academically, socially and culturally. What parent would not want that for their child and to that end, for all children? Apparently, a group from Summit-Hill, the Linwood, Neighborhood Friends, do not seem to have the same wishes for our children.

The Summit-Hill neighborhood where Linwood Art Plus Lower Campus resides is 86% White, with a median income of \$72,389, 92.7% English is their native language, 7% identify as people with disabilities, and 72% of the residences have a \$300,000 plus assessed value. Most of these families send their children to other schools in the area.

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These statistics matter when it comes to who is opposing the variances. Unfortunately, a small yet vocal group of Summit-Hill neighbors have been leading a very concerning campaign to stop the renovation and expansion of Linwood Arts. For a parent to hear comments from these neighbors referring to the children at Linwood as “cargo that needs to be moved,” “those kids,” “juvenile homo sapiens” points to the implicit racism and classism embedded in their responses to the plan. It is deeply disturbing that my child has become “cargo that needs to be moved” by Summit Hill neighbors. Comments like these change the narrative from opposing on technical terms to opposing because of who the children are.

In this day and age, I would assume that investing in your public schools would be welcomed rather than contested. This project for renovations and expansions of Linwood Arts Plus is not about trivial updates to an existing building. These are critical updates that support a comprehensive declaration of equality of children of color, low income children, children with disabilities and children who are English language learners (ELL). The support from our St. Paul NAACP Chapter and the St. Paul Federation of Teachers agree that this is not just a zoning issue, it is an equity issue.

The vast majority of the project is about bringing Linwood up to code as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act passed 26 years ago. With 17% of the children with disabilities and the school classified as a DCD school, it is not adequate to simply assume that the fact that children have the opportunity to get on a bus, go to a wonderful school like Linwood, that they are not being isolated or reminded of their disabilities. Whether it is having only one accessible bathroom in the entire school to no bathroom in the nurses station that presses staff to put a sheet in between offices to give the child some privacy, those updates are not just necessary, they will help our children retain their dignity.

Despite the progress we have made as a society, we still live in a world that the rights of children with disabilities, children of color, low income children and new American children are not always protected and respected. This project has the ability to do just that, give our children a much deserved 21st century school.

As members of this board, I trust that you value our children, schools and communities. Because you have accepted a public service position, I’m asking you to support the Linwood Arts Plus variance request and school infrastructure that will benefit the children. We have an opportunity to turn equity into action.

I look forward to standing shoulder to shoulder with you to advocate for our St Paul kids and SPPS.

Sincerely,

Dr. Aida Martinez-Freeman

1604 Huron St, St Paul, MN 55108

In solidarity,

Aida Martinez-Freeman (she/her/hers), PhD

Director of the Lealtad-Suzuki Center

1600 Grand Avenue

Saint Paul, MN 55105-1899

Email: amartin6@macalester.edu

Tel. 651.696.6219

Web: macalester.edu/multiculturallife