

## Letters from the Community

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## Tesfaye, Elsabett

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**From:** Wendy Cohen <WCohen@kdclargo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 02, 2017 5:08 PM  
**To:** MCP-Chair  
**Cc:** Tesfaye, Elsabett; Weaver, Richard  
**Subject:** Proposed Expansion of McLean School

Dear Mr. Anderson,

I am writing to you today as a resident of Montgomery County who approves McLean School's plans of expansion. My daughter, Olivia, is currently a 4th grader at McLean School, but that's not where her academic journey began. Along with her twin sister and following in the steps of her older brother, Olivia began Kindergarten at Seven Locks Elementary School in Bethesda. While her grades were more than adequate and she appeared to be happy socially, she was quietly suffering on the inside. During the last week of her first grade year, Olivia bravely admitted to me that she felt "stupid." Of course, this revelation broke my heart and I spurred to action to find a school that could assist Olivia with her learning differences. Fortunately, I did not have to look very far as McLean School is practically a neighborhood school of ours. In fact, it's in the same neighborhood as Cabin John Middle School, where my son Ethan currently attends. Now in her third year at McLean, Olivia's self confidence has truly soared. She loves learning and absolutely can't wait to go to school each and every day.

The work of McLean School benefits children throughout Montgomery County and the proposed expansion will enable McLean School to better fulfill its important mission: to make education accessible, stimulating, and meaningful to a broad range of learners. Olivia and her peers flourish at McLean School because it responds to each student's unique strengths and challenges. The small teacher to student ratios coupled with expert teachers has greatly enhanced Olivia's education. I look forward to Olivia's long McLean School career where she will continue to thrive intellectually, emotionally, and socially.

Again, I strongly favor McLean School's proposed plans of expansion. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,  
Wendy Cohen  
(301) 365-8484

## Tesfaye, Elsabett

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**From:** Suzanne Scheer <suzannescheer4@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 04, 2017 4:17 PM  
**To:** MCP-Chair; Tesfaye, Elsabett; Weaver, Richard  
**Subject:** Support for proposed expansion of McLean School of Maryland

Good afternoon Mr. Anderson, Ms. Tesafaye and Mr. Weaver,

I am writing in strong support of the proposed expansion of McLean School of Maryland.

My husband and I are life-long residents of Montgomery County. Our son Bennett has been a student at McLean since first grade, and he is now a junior. McLean's nurturing environment and small classes have been wonderful for Bennett.

McLean makes education accessible to students who learn differently. The school is transformative for its students, and there is a ripple effect that benefits each student's family as well. So many McLean students had struggled at their prior school and had low self-esteem as a result. These same students thrive at McLean. I had to hold back tears when I heard about a student who came to McLean in fifth grade. After his first day, the student told his mother that he realized that he wasn't stupid. So many of the students who attend McLean are extremely intelligent, but their learning styles weren't recognized in more traditional academic settings. Once they arrive at McLean, the expert faculty determine how that child learns best, and they have the flexibility and small class size that lets them adapt the curriculum for each student.

McLean has been limited by its facilities in many ways, however, one of which is the inability to accommodate more students. If the Board approves the proposed expansion, so many more students could benefit from the outstanding, holistic education that our son has benefited from tremendously.

I hope that you will consider approving the proposed expansion of McLean School of Maryland. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Scheer  
3 Bunker Court  
Rockville, MD 20854