

Item 5 - Correspondence

From: [Jacqueline Kistler](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Support for Woodlin Re-Build
Date: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 10:22:21 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Planning Board,

As a Silver Spring resident and parent of two children at Woodlin Elementary School, I urge you to approve the plans to replace Woodlin's current building. The proposed plans by MCPS are beautiful and will provide kids in Silver Spring exactly what they need and currently lack: an accessible, modern building that can host all the kids in our growing community.

Our overcrowded school building cannot safely or fairly accommodate our children:

- Woodlin is one of MCPS's 8 oldest occupied elementary school buildings, and it shows its age.
- Our school is 15% over capacity, and class sizes keep growing.
- We've already co-opted most of the school's green space with portables. In the middle of this pandemic, our kids haven't been able to eat lunch outside like many of their peers in other schools because of Woodlin's inadequate outdoor space and proximity to the road.
- MCPS found problems with the school's infrastructure, building quality, and indoor environment in their thorough analysis of the building.
- The school's previous haphazard additions don't meet the spirit of accessibility.
- Our current bus set-up is dangerous to students and disruptive to the neighborhood.

The new designs address all of these issues. It remediates the current building's issues from infrastructure to accessibility, restores green space, fixes capacity and anticipates population growth, includes modern LFI classrooms, and addresses significant safety concerns.

MCPS thoughtfully engaged the community throughout the planning phases, considered our ideas and feedback, and put together an amazing plan that will support all of our learners today and in the future. A new school must not be delayed!

Thank you,
Jacqueline Kistler

From: [Julie Lees](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: September 30 Mandatory Referral Hearing on Woodlin Elementary School Project
Date: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 9:21:55 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Re: September 30 Mandatory Referral Hearing on Woodlin Elementary School Project

Dear Chairman Anderson and Planning Board Members:

I have lived in North Woodside since 1993, am a past civic association president and current co-chair of our Traffic and Safety Committee. I appreciate the fine work done by both Planning Department and MCPS staff in preparing the recommendations for the rebuild of Woodlin Elementary School. I am writing to request that you endorse the recommendations for the rebuild of Woodlin Elementary School, particularly, the design of separate car and bus loops with bus access from Brookeville Road.

Woodlin was originally built in 1944 with an enrollment of 95 students, long before current safety standards for vehicular and pedestrian access were established. Today, there are 525 students and the traffic levels have increased correspondingly, yet the narrow tertiary roads remain unchanged. The 2013 Woodlin Addition Feasibility Study Commissioned by Board of Education determine that the single parking lot was insufficient to meet the needs of the school population at that time, and obviously the numbers have increased over the past eight years. Students are separated from bus and car traffic by two feet of grass and sidewalk width is inadequate. Cars often fail to obey posted speed limits. School buses traveling on Luzerne Avenue zig zag around parked cars and are intermixed with heavy car traffic. In the past, a kindergartener was hit by a school bus, fortunately not with serious injury, and adults have been struck by cars in the crosswalk at Second Ave. and Luzerne. The current driving pattern for cars and buses is a Rube Goldberg design that is complex, unrealistic, and unenforced.

Brookville Road, in contrast, is an arterial road which can be safely managed for school bus access to the closed bus loop. While car traffic for Woodlin on Luzerne would continue to be heavy for a tertiary road, the students would disembark and embark on the closed car loop, in a manner consistent with MCPS safety requirements.

While I understand that funding sources for the project are under discussion, there is no doubt that this project is necessary and a high priority for our community. Thank you for considering my comments and supporting the Woodlin Elementary School community

Sincerely,

Julie Pierson Lees

1910 Glen Ross Road

Silver Spring, MD 20910

From: [Daniel Hattis](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Written Comment, Item 5, Woodlin Elementary School
Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 10:17:38 PM
Attachments: [Written Comment - Woodlin - Woodside Forest Civic Association 9-28-21.docx](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Hello:

Please see the attached written comment from the Woodside Forest Civic Association (WFCA) for the September 30 hearing. This comment is for Item 5, regarding the Woodlin Elementary School rebuild. WFCA strongly supports moving forward with the rebuild in its current design, with no additional conditions.

Best,
Daniel Hattis
President, Woodside Forest Civic Association

**Written Comment from Woodside Forest Civic Association
September 30, 2021 Hearing of the Montgomery Planning Board**

**Item 5 – Montgomery County Public Schools Woodlin Elementary School,
Mandatory Referral No. 2021029**

The Woodside Forest Civic Association strongly encourages the Montgomery Planning Board to approve the rebuild of Woodlin Elementary School as designed, without any conditions.

The residents of Woodside Forest love our elementary school. The Woodlin administration, faculty, and staff have done an amazing job with our children, in particular over the past 18 months of pandemic, which has been among the most challenging periods in the school's history. However, a building built in 1944 cannot possibly meet expectations for what is needed in a modern school.

Just a short walk through the interior of the building clearly reveals how it is showing its age. Although the administration, faculty, and staff make the school work, the facility is clearly in poor shape and does not present a positive environment for learning. Further, the current building has a capacity of 463 and enrollment of 525. As a result, multiple classes, including music and the entire fifth grade, are in portable classrooms. Outdoor spaces, including play areas, are not up to par. The principal has even cited a lack of outdoor space as a reason why the school has not increased the use of outdoor lunch, which experts consider an important form of mitigation to avoid an outbreak of COVID-19.

There are also serious safety issues. Areas designated for parking, busses, pick-up, and drop-off were developed decades ago and are no longer sufficient. This causes huge problems every morning as students arrive and each afternoon as students leave. During these times, cars, busses, and pedestrians are a huge jumble throughout the neighborhood and it is through luck that no children have been injured.

This rebuild is long overdue. Although any plan may be improved upon, the current design for Woodlin addresses all of the most critical educational, safety, and capacity issues, as well as creating a beautiful green space which fits nicely with the surrounding neighborhood. These improvements are far too important to risk losing. Adding additional conditions would likely result in an end to the entire rebuild project. Given how many pieces must align for such a project to occur, this would potentially jeopardize another generation of children from having a school that meets 21st century standards.

If the Planning Board is interested in additional improvements to surrounding infrastructure, we feel that those issues should be addressed separately. To act otherwise could effectively end a project that Woodlin parents and community members have been requesting for many years. After so long, we are ready for it to begin just a few months from now. The Woodlin rebuild must go forward, and the current design should be approved.

From: [Lauren Boylan](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Cc: [Alison Aughinbaugh](#)
Subject: September 30 Mandatory Referral Hearing on Woodlin Elementary School Project
Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 8:48:39 PM
Attachments: [Woodlin PTA Testimony 30 September.pdf](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Chairman Anderson and Planning Board Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the Woodlin rebuild project. Attached is a letter from the Woodlin PTA in support of the project.

Thank you,
Lauren Boylan
Woodlin Parent-Teacher Association
VP-Advocacy



WOODLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

HOME OF THE WIZARDS



Woodlin PTA 2021-2022

President
Alison Aughinbaugh

VP-Administration
Mary Haas

VP-Advocacy
Lauren Boylan

Treasurer
Eduardo Aponte

Secretary
Hye-Soo Baek

Communications
and Membership
*Jennie Davison &
Katya Rimkunas*

Enrichment
Kirsten Byerts

Events
*Heather Collick &
Erin Toner*

Fundraising
Angie Lai

Outreach &
MCCPTA Delegate
Jean Kim

PTA Teacher Rep
Lauren Clarke

National PTA ID
00016168

Tax ID
52-0609152

Dear Chairman Anderson and Planning Board Members,

The Woodlin Elementary School Parent-Teachers Association is excited to enthusiastically endorse MCPS's plans to rebuild Woodlin Elementary School. As one of the oldest elementary schools in the County, Woodlin needs a new building to safely and adequately support our diverse and growing population.

MCPS thoughtfully engaged with the community to prepare a plan that exceeds expectations in how it addresses Woodlin's current issues and projects for the future. We are thrilled about how the rebuild modernizes the building, restores green space and outdoor play and learning areas, fixes and accounts for future capacity, and emphasizes safety.

Our return to learning this year only emphasized the need for this project. Please ensure that Woodlin's rebuild continues as scheduled, and that any budget issues are worked out by the County. We cannot achieve equity in our schools and country until we can adequately address our schools' capital needs.

Thank you,

The Woodlin Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association

From: [kristin.smart](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Woodlin Elementary School Rebuild - Request to Approve Plans
Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 12:50:18 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Planning Board,

As a Silver Spring resident and parent of two children at Woodlin Elementary School, I urge you to approve the plans to replace Woodlin's current building. The proposed plans by MCPS are beautiful and will provide kids in Silver Spring exactly what they need and currently lack: an accessible, modern building that can host all the kids in our growing community.

Our overcrowded school building cannot safely or fairly accommodate our children:

- Woodlin is one of MCPS's 8 oldest occupied elementary school buildings, and it shows its age.
- Our school is 15% over capacity, and class sizes keep growing.
- We've already co-opted most of the school's green space with portables. In the middle of this pandemic, our kids haven't been able to eat lunch outside like many of their peers in other schools because of Woodlin's inadequate outdoor space and proximity to the road.
- MCPS found problems with the schools infrastructure, building quality, and indoor environment in their thorough analysis of the building.
- The school's previous haphazard additions don't meet the spirit of accessibility.
- Our current bus set-up is dangerous to students and disruptive to the neighborhood.

The new designs address all of these issues. It remediates the current building's issues from infrastructure to accessibility, restores green space, fixes capacity and anticipates population growth, includes modern LFI classrooms, and addresses significant safety concerns.

MCPS thoughtfully engaged the community throughout the planning phases, considered our ideas and feedback, and put together an amazing plan that will support all of our learners today and in the future. A new school must not be delayed!

Thank you,
Kristin

From: [Jennie Davison](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Woodlin Rebuild
Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 10:23:40 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Planning Board,

As a Silver Spring resident and parent of two children at Woodlin Elementary School, I am writing to express my strong support for the Woodlin Re-build and ask that you approve the plans to replace Woodlin's current building. The proposed plans by MCPS are beautiful and will provide kids in Silver Spring exactly what they need and currently lack: an accessible, modern building that can host all the kids in our growing community.

Our overcrowded school building cannot safely or fairly accommodate our children:

- Woodlin is one of MCPS's 8 oldest occupied elementary school buildings, and it shows its age.
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MCPS thoughtfully engaged the community throughout the planning phases, considered our ideas and feedback, and put together an amazing plan that will support all of our learners today and in the future. A new school must not be delayed.

Thank you,

Jennifer Davison
9416 Columbia Blvd.

From: [Charlie Stern](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Cc: [Emily Stern](#)
Subject: Written Comment for September 30 Mandatory Referral Hearing on Woodlin Elementary School Project
Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 10:12:55 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Chairman Anderson and Planning Board Members:

These comments are for consideration by the Planning Board of the Woodlin Elementary School Rebuild design. I appreciate the efforts of both MCPS and the Planning Board staff on this matter, and for soliciting public input on their respective processes.

My wife and I have lived in North Woodside (the neighborhood adjacent to Woodlin Elementary) for five years. Our son is a kindergartner at Woodlin, and we have another child scheduled to start school there in 2023. Our family, along with countless other Woodlin families and North Woodside residents, hopes that the board will approve the existing school design without delay.

For the last several years we have closely followed developments related to the proposed Woodlin rebuild. The existing facilities at Woodlin are outdated, overcrowded, and generally inadequate. I have been alarmed to see the state of Woodlin's current facilities and layout. Every morning, there is a traffic jam of buses and cars that overruns the surrounding neighborhood streets and results in illogical traffic patterns and obvious dangers to pedestrians (in particular children). The school lacks green space and adequate playground facilities because portable structures have taken over most of these areas. And the interior of the school itself is outdated and of poor quality. This is not in keeping with MCPS's high standards and reflective of the school's amazing staff.

The proposed designs will address all of these issues and more, and have the full support of the neighborhood and school. The process to arrive at this point has required a lot of work and public input, and many families and administrators have already begun planning around the current construction schedule. These changes are urgently needed, and the plans can be delayed no longer.

Thank you,
Charlie Stern
1900 Rookwood Road

From: [William Le Roy](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Fwd: Woodlin Rebuild
Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 9:52:51 AM

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See concerns over the Woodlin rebuild below, we hope these can be addressed.

Wm. Le Roy AIA NCARB LEEDap

Begin forwarded message:

From: William Le Roy <w170@me.com>
Subject: Re: Woodlin Rebuild
Date: September 28, 2021 at 9:23:15 AM EDT
To: Phil Olivetti <philipolivetti@aol.com>
Cc: "cxd10507@gmail.com" <cxd10507@gmail.com>

I noticed this during the plan review with the PTA. There are several negatives as well as a few positives. I mentioned this to the MCPS PM who basically admitted that the Woodlin is a cheaper building, a new way to build schools.

- Woodlin cannot be a shelter with this type of construction. In a local emergency we'll need to shelter at Flora Singer or Rock Creek Forest, or even the Yeshiva. (Yeshiva is build with solid masonry, too albeit with wood known as 'common construction')

- The interior of Woodlin will have acoustical problems BETWEEN classrooms and from the hallways. The metal studs with sound batt insulation will reach an STC rating of 40-45 but the studs themselves transmit noise unless they are decoupled from the drywall with furring channels. The CMU Partitions do a better job of dampening sound between classrooms.

- Drywall interior at Woodlin is NOT durable, Concrete block is, will last 80 years. Drywall studs, 40 years.

- New Woodlin is built in the same way an office building in an office park would be. That is not robust, durable.

- The new Woodlin will likely suffer from air leaks, water infiltration and high mold propagation potential since there is so much drywall. Flora Singer and RCF are painted concrete block, no mold potential.

- I hate to think about this one, but shootings happen, Woodlin will not be

protected from a shooting as the walls are too thin to block gunfire. Yes, there is brick veneer this will help, but its 4” thick and is not considered by the Federal Government as an effective force protection measure.

Positives

- fast built, metal studs go up much much faster than concrete block/CMU.
- labor is easier to find to build the new Woodlin, less skilled labor required to build metal stud framing than CMU. This saves on the cost of finding a mason subcontractor to build CMU walls and partitions.
- potential higher energy efficiency than both Flora Singer and RCF. This is due to the greater amount of insulation in the walls, roofs, etc. Concrete block conducts heat, metal stud walls resist heat transmission better. This means much lower operating costs, less cold surfaces on the exterior that Flora or RCF.

On Sep 28, 2021, at 8:56 AM, Phil Olivetti <philipolivetti@aol.com> wrote:

Bill, thank you. What are the safety implications of this type of build if any? Was this issue discussed at meetings you attended? Is so what was the response. Phil

On Sep 28, 2021, at 8:33 AM, William Le Roy <w170@me.com> wrote:

David,

You are aware that the Woodlin replacement is to be constructed out of light gauge cold formed metal studs instead of concrete block? Flora Singer and Rock Creek Forest are both built of steel frame with concrete block and brick. Woodlin will not. This saves a significant amount of time that will accelerate construction but at reduced cost and reduced resiliency.

Wm.

On Sep 27, 2021, at 2:53 PM, David Cox <cxd10507@gmail.com> wrote:


Great, thanks for the update, Phil.

On Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 2:49 PM Philip Olivetti <philipolivetti@aol.com> wrote:

David,

Yes have been following. As of now no one representaing Linden CA will be to testifying at the Planning Board meeting. Agree with you that Woodlin needs to stay on track. Woodlin redevelopment is long over due!

The rerouting of the buses on to Brookville /Seminary Road will likely have an impact on traffic congestion, but so to will the eventual redevelopment of Georgia Ave, the Green Line and redevopment of the Brookville industrial area. But I am pro development so a bit

hyprocritical of me to be NIMBY. 

Phil

-----Original Message-----

From: David Cox <cxdl0507@gmail.com>
To: Philip Olivetti <philipolivetti@aol.com>;
William Le Roy <w170@me.com>
Sent: Sun, Sep 26, 2021 4:04 pm
Subject: Woodlin Rebuild

Hi Phil and Bill -

I am sure Linden has been following the Woodlin Rebuild project. Does Linden CA plan to testify in support the design at Thursday's Planning Board meeting? It sounds like the planning staff's recommendation considers impact to the Linden side of Brookville/Seminary by adding considerations to address traffic and pedestrian safety. Very important that the school stay on track for reconstruction considering the capacity issues and the Planning Board's push for higher density housing in the service area. Let me know if you would like to discuss.

- David Cox

From: [Shannon Hepler](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Support for Woodlin ES rebuild plan
Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 9:33:31 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Planning Board,

As a Silver Spring resident, a parent of one current and one future student at Woodlin Elementary School, and a home owner in the immediate vicinity of the school, I urge you to approve the plans to replace Woodlin's current building. The proposed plans by MCPS are beautiful and will provide kids in Silver Spring exactly what they need and currently lack: an accessible, modern building that can host all the kids in our growing community. The plans for the redesign are forward-thinking and allow for improved facilities that not only better serve our children, but are considerate of the specific needs of our school and neighborhood communities.

Our current overcrowded school building cannot safely or fairly accommodate our children:

- Woodlin is one of MCPS's 8 oldest occupied elementary school buildings, and it shows its age.
- Our school is 15% over capacity, and class sizes keep growing.
- We've already co-opted most of the school's green space with portables. In the middle of this pandemic, our kids haven't been able to eat lunch outside like many of their peers in other schools because of Woodlin's inadequate outdoor space and proximity to the road.
- MCPS found problems with the schools infrastructure, building quality, and indoor environment in their thorough analysis of the building.
- The school's previous haphazard additions don't meet the spirit of accessibility.
- Our current bus set-up is dangerous to students and disruptive to the neighborhood.

The new designs address all of these issues. It remediates the current building's issues from infrastructure to accessibility, restores green space, fixes capacity and anticipates population growth, includes modern LFI classrooms, and addresses significant safety concerns.

MCPS thoughtfully engaged the community throughout the planning phases, considered our ideas and feedback, and put together an amazing plan that will support all of our learners today and in the future. A new school must not be delayed!

Thank you,
Shannon Hepler

2031 Glen Ross Road

--

Shannon M. Hepler (she/her)

202.246.1407

shepdc@gmail.com

From: [Alan Page](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Woodlin construction project
Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 7:54:48 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Planning Board,

As a Silver Spring resident and parent of a third grader at Woodlin Elementary School, I urge you to approve the plans to replace Woodlin's current building. The proposed plans by MCPS are beautiful and will provide kids in Silver Spring exactly what they need and currently lack: an accessible, modern building that can host all the kids in our growing community.

Our overcrowded school building cannot safely or fairly accommodate our children:

- Woodlin is one of MCPS's 8 oldest occupied elementary school buildings, dating almost back to World War II (many decades of research into best design practices for elementary schools are therefore not a part of its design).
- Our school is 15% over capacity, and class sizes keep growing.
- We've already co-opted most of the school's green space with portables. In the middle of this pandemic, our kids haven't been able to eat lunch outside like many of their peers in other schools because of Woodlin's inadequate outdoor space and proximity to the road.
- MCPS found problems with the schools infrastructure, building quality, and indoor environment in their thorough analysis of the building.
- The school's previous haphazard additions don't meet the spirit of accessibility.
- Our current bus set-up is dangerous to students and disruptive to the neighborhood.

The new designs address all of these issues. It remediates the current building's issues from infrastructure to accessibility, restores green space, fixes capacity and anticipates population growth, includes modern LFI classrooms, and addresses significant safety concerns.

MCPS thoughtfully engaged the community throughout the planning phases, considered our ideas and feedback, and put together an amazing plan that will support all of our learners today and in the future. A new school must not be delayed!

Thank you,

[SEP]

Alan

From: [David Roath](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Woodlin Proposed Building Plans
Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 7:42:54 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Planning Board,

As a Silver Spring resident and parent of one child at Woodlin Elementary School, I urge you to approve the plans to replace Woodlin's current building. The proposed plans by MCPS are beautiful and will provide kids in Silver Spring exactly what they need and currently lack: an accessible, modern building that can host all the kids in our growing community.

Our overcrowded school building cannot safely or fairly accommodate our children:

- Woodlin is one of MCPS's 8 oldest occupied elementary school buildings, and it shows its age.
- Our school is 15% over capacity, and class sizes keep growing.
- We've already co-opted most of the school's green space with portables. In the middle of this pandemic, our kids haven't been able to eat lunch outside like many of their peers in other schools because of Woodlin's inadequate outdoor space and proximity to the road.
- MCPS found problems with the school's infrastructure, building quality, and indoor environment in their thorough analysis of the building.
- The school's previous haphazard additions don't meet the spirit of accessibility.
- Our current bus set-up is dangerous to students and disruptive to the neighborhood.

The new designs address all of these issues. It remediates the current building's issues from infrastructure to accessibility, restores green space, fixes capacity and anticipates population growth, includes modern LFI classrooms, and addresses significant safety concerns.

MCPS thoughtfully engaged the community throughout the planning phases, considered our ideas and feedback, and put together an amazing plan that will support all of our learners today and in the future. A new school must not be delayed!

Thank you,



David Roath

From: [Jean Kim](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Cc: [Aaron Lichtig](#)
Subject: Approve Woodlin Rebuild
Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 6:19:45 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Planning Board,

As Silver Spring residents and parents of two children at Woodlin Elementary School, we urge you to approve the plans to replace Woodlin's current building so that the work may start without delay. The proposed plans by MCPS will provide kids in Silver Spring exactly what they need and currently lack: an accessible, modern building that can host all the kids in our growing community.

We were shocked when we first saw the condition of the deteriorating school when our oldest started K several years ago. Our overcrowded school building cannot safely or fairly accommodate our children:

- Woodlin is one of MCPS's 8 oldest occupied elementary school buildings, and it shows its age
- Our school is 15% over capacity, and class sizes keep growing.
- We've already co-opted most of the school's green space with portables. In the middle of this pandemic, our kids haven't been able to eat lunch outside like many of their peers in other schools because of Woodlin's inadequate outdoor space and proximity to the road.
- MCPS found problems with the schools infrastructure, building quality, and indoor environment in their thorough analysis of the building.
- The school's previous haphazard additions don't meet the spirit of accessibility.
- Our current bus set-up is dangerous to students and disruptive to the neighborhood.

The new designs address all of these issues. It remediates the current building's issues from infrastructure to accessibility, restores green space, fixes capacity and anticipates population growth, includes modern LFI classrooms, and addresses significant safety concerns. It also incorporates daycare/ PK (existing Woodlin Child Development Center where both our children attended) into the design.

MCPS thoughtfully engaged the community throughout the planning phases, considered our ideas and feedback, and put together an amazing plan that will support all of our learners today and in the future. A new school must not be delayed and we urge you to approve the plans to rebuild without delay.

Thank you,
 Jean Kim & Aaron Lichtig

1115 Woodside Pkwy

From: [Kirstin Austin](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: September 30 Mandatory Referral Hearing on Woodlin Elementary School Project.
Date: Monday, September 27, 2021 9:45:12 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Chairman Anderson and Planning Board Members,

My message is in regards to the September 30 Mandatory Referral Hearing on Woodlin Elementary School Project.

I live in North Woodside. A wonderful feature of the neighborhood is the Woodlin Elementary School. As you are aware, the school is old and in need of an upgrade. I am very much in favor of the Board approving the plan. I understand the roads department has said they do not have the funds right now to make the needed left hand turn lane on Brookville. However, this should not slow down the approval of the needed work, and I think it very important for the County to work out this budget issue amongst the departments. One department should not be able to hold up the needed and planned upgrade to the school that will serve so many children in this area of the county. It is also very important that the buses enter from Brookville as planned. The buses do not fit on our little streets and it is not safe.

The school is very important to all the neighborhoods it serves and it needs the upgrade. Please approve the plan.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kirstin Austin
9000 Louis Ave
Silver Spring, MD 20910

From: [Kara Reeve](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: comments on Woodlin Elementary rebuild project
Date: Monday, September 27, 2021 9:11:23 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Chairman Anderson and Planning Board Members,

I'm a Silver Spring resident (North Woodside) and my daughter will be old enough to attend Woodlin Elementary School right when it is scheduled to re-open in 2023 - we moved to my home because of this school! I strongly urge you to approve the plans to replace Woodlin's current building that is not only over-capacity, but creates traffic problems that impact safety for children and families who travel to the school and who live in the neighborhood. The proposed plans by MCPS are sound and will provide kids in Silver Spring exactly what they need and currently lack: an accessible, modern building that can host all the kids in our growing community.

For Montgomery County to remain competitive, we must invest in our children and our schools. The current conditions at Woodline are inadequate and the buildings are overcrowded. Please approve the existing design so Woodlin can re-open as planned and alleviate the following issues:

- Woodlin is one of MCPS's 8 oldest occupied elementary school buildings, and it shows its age.
- Our school is 15% over capacity, and class sizes keep growing.
- We've already co-opted most of the school's green space with portables. In the middle of this pandemic, our kids haven't been able to eat lunch outside like many of their peers in other schools because of Woodlin's inadequate outdoor space and proximity to the road.
- MCPS found problems with the schools infrastructure, building quality, and indoor environment in their thorough analysis of the building.
- The school's previous haphazard additions don't meet the spirit of accessibility.
- Our current bus set-up is dangerous to students and disruptive to the neighborhood.

Also, the current design includes a plan to change the traffic patterns to route buses into the school along Brookville. Unlike Luzerne, Brookville has been designated an arterial road in the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways. The new plan would keep the buses off Luzerne, and put them where they belong, on an arterial road. It would also result in less car stops and drop offs on Luzerne because the route to the car drop off will not be blocked by buses, and much safer traffic patterns because the daycare drop off will be separated from the school dropoff.

It is your obligation to approve the plan, which was developed through a thoughtful

community engagement process, to provide a healthy, safe, and inspiring learning environment.

Many thanks,

Kara E. Reeve

2221 Luzerne Ave

From: [Lauren Lewis](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Woodlin ES rebuild
Date: Monday, September 27, 2021 8:43:07 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Planning Board,

Twenty nine years ago this past fall, my mom and dad walked me down Luzerne Avenue to my first day of kindergarten at Woodlin Elementary School. One month ago, I made that same walk with my husband and my daughter for her first day of school. Because of COVID, we hadn't been able to enter the building before her first day of school, but I told her the doors I thought she would enter through and the direction I thought she would turn to go to her classroom. She was going to follow my same route. Not much has changed.

That's not entirely true though, because when I went to Woodlin my friends and I played soccer and tag on a huge field that held no portable classrooms. And that is one of the primary reasons I am writing to urge you to approve the beautiful and accessible plans proposed by MCPS to replace Woodlin's current building. Nostalgia aside, the kids of Silver Spring deserve a modern and accessible building that can safely house all students (present and future) in the community while also providing space to run around and learn outdoors -- something that we've all learned, through this pandemic, is crucial to the health and well-being of our kids.

Woodlin is one of the oldest occupied elementary schools in MCPS. In fact, through their analysis, MCPS found problems with the school's infrastructure, building quality, and indoor environment. Woodlin is overcrowded. The use of portable classrooms has severely restricted the usable outdoor space. And Woodlin, while a wonderful community school, creates congestion and traffic havoc on Luzerne Avenue and in the adjoining neighborhood because of the current entrance. The MCPS plan is the result of thoughtful engagement with the community, and it addresses all of these issues and more. It is certainly worthy of your approval.

Please don't delay this important project.

Thank you,
Lauren Lewis

From: [Lynne Mogilensky](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Woodlin Elem. School rebuild
Date: Monday, September 27, 2021 5:03:22 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

I am writing in support of building a new Woodlin Elementary School. I live three blocks from the current school.

The school is overcrowded. We need a new building without portables/trailers.

I urge you to relocate the bus traffic to Brookville Road. Luzerne Avenue and the neighborhood in general are too small to handle the bus traffic that comes to the school. It will be much safer on Brookville Road.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lynne Mogilensky
1902 Rookwood Rd.
Silver Spring, MD 20910

From: [Judy Karasik](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Cc: [David Cox](#)
Subject: A Community Voice on Woodlin Elementary School Rebuild
Date: Monday, September 27, 2021 3:34:58 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Chairperson Casey Anderson, and Commissioners Gerald Clichy, Tina Patterson, and Partap Verma,

I write to urge you to approve the existing design submitted by MCPSS for the rebuild of Woodlin Elementary School. I live up Luzerne Avenue from Woodlin, my son attended Woodlin from Kindergarten through Sixth Grade, and both myself and my mother, also a Luzerne Avenue resident, have volunteered at the school.

The rebuild is long overdue and I hope you can approve the design. **There is one piece of the design -- the bus entrance from Brookville Road -- that is not covered by the budget. I urge you to find the funds for this piece of the design which is essential for both safety and the integrity of this strong design, which gives the Woodlin community the school it has long deserved.**

I: The Need

As you know, Woodlin is an old school that has been repeatedly added to over the years, including an ever-growing cluster of portables -- all entirely inadequate efforts to address gigantic levels of overcrowding.

II. How the Woodlin Rebuild Is A Positive Step Towards Greater Equity

The traffic problems, the small city of portables, and the overcrowding has made many of us in the community feel that Woodlin is considered by MCPSS as a second-tier school. Given the fact that we are majority students of color (45.4% African-American and Hispanic, 38.7% White) and have 31% FARMS and 20.75% ESOL, and 18% Special Ed, to many of us this reflects a lack of commitment to equity. The rebuild would be a step in the right direction, giving our diverse community a school that reflects our pride in who we are.

III. How the Design Reduces Chronic Overcrowding, Increases Essential Play Space, Keeps the School Connected to Community, and Radically Improves Safety by Moving the Bus Access:

First, the issue of **overcrowding**, which the design addresses:

- Twenty years ago, when my son, then five years old, entered Woodlin as a

Kindergartener, the school had portables. *Twenty years ago.*

- For the past ten years increasing numbers of portables have severely limited what kids can do at recess and in PE classes. Being the mother of a son I can't express strongly enough how much young kids need both if they are going to be able to concentrate in class.
- The design solves this problem as it creates a much bigger school and includes space for expansion within the frame.

Second, the issue of **play space**, which the design addresses:

- Eliminating the portables helps with play space.
- Previously, Woodlin has not been able to access a big chunk of MCPSS-owned land on an adjacent hill -- ideal for additional playing field space -- because of the configuration of the school's footprint.
- The design finally takes advantage of the previously unused MCPSS-owned land. Bravo!

Third, the **connection to community**:

- The design retains the connection to community by keeping its public outdoor spaces facing Luzerne Avenue and the residential community.

Fourth -- and this is tremendously important -- the issue of **safety and the importance of keeping buses off Luzerne and, instead, on Brookville**, which has been designated an arterial road in the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways:

- Right now, on the small street where I live, Luzerne is used by both parent cars and buses. That is bad news.
- Buses do not observe speed limits. I can't tell you the number of times I've seen buses rolling down the road at unsafe speeds.
- Only 2 feet of grass separates buses from foot traffic.
- Let's keep in mind that the majority of pedestrians are absent-minded elementary school students. I have witnessed very young children walking into the road, for heaven knows what reasons, and narrowly escaping being hit by buses.
- The street is additionally clogged with parents' cars -- creating situations where parents and children, all in a rush to get to school, can make dangerous mistakes.
- All of this would be radically ameliorated by the design, which puts the bus entrance on Brookville.
- In addition, and not incidentally, the bus entrance on Brookville eliminates stress, confusion and delay which cuts into instructional time. Since there are more buses serving the school than there is bus queuing space, traffic at the school is clogged -- delaying school arrival times which cuts into instructional time -- and making departure a parallel mess.

IV. The Problem -- and the Ask.

Here's the problem: the report to the planning board states that

Planning and MCDOT staff have discussed with MCPS necessary improvements along Brookville Road to include a turn lane for buses, a Master-Planned buffered sidepath, and a pedestrian crossing. MCPS has identified that their approved budget cannot accommodate these improvements.

- **Please include funds for the necessary improvements to Brookville Road to include a turn lane for buses, a Master-Planned buffered sidepath, and a pedestrian crossing.**

V. In Closing

Please let's keep the project on schedule and with the necessary allocations to keep the bus traffic safely on Brookville Road.

Yours sincerely,

Judy Karasik

2016 Luzerne Avenue

Silver Spring, MD 20910

301-467-8736

karasikjudy@gmail.com

From: [Jer and Liz Malerba/Horan](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Written Comment for Sept. 30 Mandatory Referral Hearing on Woodlin Elementary School Project
Date: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 11:33:55 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Chairman Anderson and Planning Board Members,

We are writing in support of the Planning Department staff report and recommendations for the proposed reconstruction of Woodlin Elementary School that you will be considering at your September 30, 2021 meeting. We hope that you will approve the design and recommendations that are on the agenda so that the project can move forward on schedule.

We moved to North Woodside shortly after the birth of our son in 2018. Our proximity to Woodlin Elementary was one of the attractions of the neighborhood, and as an infant our son loved watching the line of buses and masses of “big kids” from our porch in the morning and afternoon. As he’s grown we have also come to appreciate the playground, adjoining fields, and parking lot (which is a wonderful place for weekend biking and scooting!) as places to play and to connect with other local families with current and future Woodlin students.

As much as our son has enjoyed the current traffic patterns, as parents we share the safety and other concerns that would be addressed by the rebuilding proposal. We are appreciative of the work done by the Planning Board staff, MCPS staff, and other engaged members of the community to craft a proposal that addresses the traffic, safety, and capacity issues with the current facility.

In particular, we are very supportive of rerouting the bus traffic from Luzerne to Brookville Road. This will reduce congestion, and we hope will also make for a safer and more efficient system for students, teachers and school support personnel, and parents during pick-up and drop-off times. While we understand that there are some additional transportation improvements that are needed but not currently budgeted, it is our hope that the Board will allow the project to move forward while an amicable resolution to those matters is sought.

In addition to the traffic and transportation upgrades that will improve safety and efficiency, the proposed modernization of the building will make for a safer, more accessible, and supportive learning environment for all students.

Finally, we are excited to see the newly reconfigured play fields, green spaces,

and green roof.

The proposed reconstruction design before you represents a much-needed investment in the future for the children and families in the North Woodside Community, and we hope that you will approve the proposal and allow the project to proceed on schedule.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Horan and Liz Malerba

Glenridge Road