

Mollusky, Kathy

From: Jan Smith <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 7:34 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Axelrod, Russell
Subject: Fwd: Proposed Dollar Street Middle School
Attachments: Dollar Street Athey Creek School.docx; ATT00001.htm

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Thank you fro your attendance at the School Board meeting today. I spoke during the community comment section. I am in opposition to the school at that location because the need for it is not well founded and the site is not adequate. It was presented by the school board as a fait accompli, but it certainly is not. Please look deeply into the school board plans for this ill advised school.

Sincerely,
Jan Smith
[REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jan Smith <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Proposed Dollar Street Middle School
Date: February 24, 2020 at 1:35:35 PM PST
To: ludwigk@wlwv.k12.or.us

Dear Superintendent Ludwig,

As I saw you pull in to the Fred Meyer to get gas last week or so, I remembered that I had not sent you this letter concerning the proposed middle school on Dollar St. With that reminder, here is my letter of objection.

Dear Superintendent Ludwig,

RE: Dollar Street Athey Creek School

Objection

I believe the school to be ill advised. Please know that I grew up living 4 houses from a school so my objection is not about living in proximity as much as about the purpose, poor location and infrastructure of this proposal.

1. Touted school attendance projections are not sound. There has been a decrease in children in the River Heights neighborhood and beyond. I implore you to wait for the 2020 census to bear out the numbers.

In my hometown we lived through such a construction as this. In the end it was named *Gary's Folly* after the superintendent spearheading the construction. Overcrowding and future growth were reasons given for building an additional high school. Enormous disruption occurred, family lives and teacher's lives were impacted. The ill-advised school was built and used for 3 years before it was abandoned because the student growth did not come to fruition. Then it sat dormant for at least 5 years until it was purchased by a private charter school and is now again an unused eyesore for that area.

To the school design and location itself

2. There will not be a significant increase in walkers/bikers as you stated in the WFNA meeting you attended. You suggested an increase in student walkers and bikers from homes in a mile radius. Please recognize that there is no radius in that location, but merely a NE quadrant. Any student South, West or Southwest will not be walking or riding as there are no sidewalks or bike lanes and the aforementioned traffic jam. A friend who lives to the SW said that she would not allow her child to walk to that school. Those children will all be driven because they will be deemed too close to bus.

3. In your response to our questions, you wrote that you will keep as many trees as possible. You will probably leave 1 or 2 token trees left standing on level ground. Although the plot is touted to be 21 acres, less than 2/3 of it is level ground. That is 14 acres that will be deforested in lieu of brick & mortar, concrete & asphalt and uninterrupted grass. Trees cannot stand in baseball fields, soccer fields, school buildings or parking places.

4. Speaking of parking places, we have heard the number 42 for the number of allotted spaces. I have counted and Athey Creek has 105 spaces not counting the maintenance building lot, Inza Wood has 110 spaces just on the middle school side, Meridian Creek has 142 and Rosemont has 130. 42 spaces are woefully inadequate. Overflow parking will be along narrow Dollar St or in the River Heights neighborhood. I don't want to have to get neighborhood parking permit sticker and signage. Also, all schools have a level 0.2 mile Bus loop within their acreage to get the busses off the main roads.

5. The infrastructure of the Dollar Street site does not support a school. Willamette Falls, Ostman and Dollar will all require massive road improvements for the increased traffic, not to mention whatever connector to Willamette Falls is created. And help us all if the traffic study shows a need for a traffic light like at Inza Wood and Meridian. Another traffic device that the residents deal with 24 hours a day for a 2 hour a day reason. I give you the stop sign at Willamette Falls and 12th as an example of such an annoying metering device used 1/12th the time for the purpose of dropping kids at the elementary school.

6. The overflow of traffic, foot or vehicular, and parking into River Heights is bound to bring with it trash and vandalism. I am not looking forward to an increase in petty theft and a decrease in property value for my increased property tax, thanks to this bond.

7. The most recent traffic study showed that traffic on Willamette Falls is mostly local traffic. I would agree to that if you take all 24 hours of the day into account. But for the hours of 3-7 pm, the traffic is primarily through traffic avoiding Interstate 205. This clog of traffic will only get worse with the construction on 205 and the almost inevitable tolling there afterward. Add the school traffic and the nightmare only increases in those very same hours. I believe any traffic study will again conclude that the traffic on WF is local traffic, especially if it is done now during the construction issues in the village. It was either naiveté or an insult to us to assert that driving apps would divert commercial traffic once a school is built. The traffic problem is not commercial traffic; it is commuter through traffic. I propose a neighborhood traffic study to refute the one obtained by the district. The impact to the proposed changes to Willamette Falls and Dollar will divert traffic to Johnson Road which is not safe for that increase.

8. I believe that the district and city council will not heed the studies and reports issued or that those studies will be tainted by contractors desiring construction contracts during this economy. Money will buy this school regardless of the data collected about its soundness. The district does not care about the area into which they are imposing themselves. Although it was stated that mailers were sent to all residents about this school in the recent past, those mailers must have gone to residents will school age children because they didn't come to me.

9. As has been mentioned in our questions to the district, the Athey Creek building could be added on to to house the middle school and the new high school. In many towns and states, one building houses both middle school and high school with just a doorway to divide them. Permitting for a new building is then not required as was your objection. Towns have realized many benefits to the two schools sharing the same space.

Summary

There are so many other issues I have not addressed, like the noise and light pollution. I have no doubt that this project will advance. Trees will be torn down. Road construction will happen; I hope with shoulders and sidewalks. Traffic patterns will be altered. The sleepy River Heights community will be opened up to the world and we will bear the ill effects.

I look forward to total transparency by the district and its contractors in sharing all studies and plans, any deviations or risks that they are willing to take to avoid any issues found in those studies. This location is not sound for many reasons and I am afraid that those reasons will be overlooked by short sighted optimism or contractor greed.

Jan Smith
2200 River Heights Circle
West Linn