

Mollusky, Kathy

From: Kathy Selvaggio <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 10:46 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Fwd: My comments tonight at the WLWV School Board meeting
Attachments: Statement on building middle school in Willamette.docx

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FYI, my comments at tonight's meeting of the Council and the School Board, and my message to the school board regarding their comment process.

Kathy Selvaggio

Tel in US: + [REDACTED]

skype: [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Kathy Selvaggio <[REDACTED]>
Date: Mon, Feb 24, 2020 at 10:42 PM
Subject: My comments tonight at the WLWV School Board meeting
To: <Ludwigk@wlwv.k12.or.us>, <MolatorR@wlwv.k12.or.us>, <hydesd@wlwv.k12.or.us>, <fitchg@wlwv.k12.or.us>, <kingc@wlwv.k12.or.us>, <thomsoc@wlwv.k12.or.us>, Dr. Jennifer Spencer-Liams <spencerj@wlwv.k12.or.us>

Dear Kathy Ludwig and WLWV School Board Members,

I must say, I went on the school district website, and tried to easily find the place where I could comment on the issue of the plans to build a middle school at Dollar Street, and could not easily find the place to comment. It appears to me that all of the communication from the WLWV district is in one direction -- from the school to the community, with little easy way for the community to communicate directly to the school.

Therefore I am attaching my comments on your plans to build a middle school in the Willamette neighborhood for your consideration, which I presented in a shorter form before the meeting tonight. PLEASE pass them along to the appropriate people working on this issue within the district.

Kathy Selvaggio

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Statement to West Linn-Wilsonville School District

February 24, 2020

My name is Kathy Selvaggio, and I live in the Willamette neighborhood of West Linn. I am here today to raise my strong objections to the lack of a genuine consultative process around the decision to build a middle school in our neighborhood.

On January 8, I attended a meeting of school district officials with the Willamette Neighborhood Association, thinking that participants in this meeting were going to have an opportunity to engage in dialogue with school officials about whether to build a school in our neighborhood. Instead, we were presented with the decision to build the school as a fait accompli, and the school district officials seemed to see the purpose of the meeting as an opportunity placate the residents of the neighborhood, and to offer empty assurances that they would look into concerns about traffic, parking, tree removal, and so on. Essentially, we were told that the school bond ballot measure that passed last November was tantamount to voting for a middle school in our neighborhood – which was certainly not how I or others understood that ballot measure. It seems disingenuous for the school district to claim that they have general public support for this option, when the location of the school was not at all clear in the ballot measure.

At that neighborhood association meeting, School District Superintendent Kathy Ludwig admitted that although they had sent out surveys about the middle school to families with children in school system, they had somehow forgotten to do so with residents in the Willamette community who do not have children in school. But there was no indication that they would even try to fix that oversight.

At that meeting, a number of people raised the alternative of building on the substantial land at the intersection of Borland and Stafford roads, where Athey Creek middle school now sits, if some of the sports fields on that property were moved elsewhere. But school district officials brushed off those concerns, claiming that it was not allowed under current county regulations. Yet they could not answer how the mega-church across the street was allowed to build in that same area, nor did they indicate that they would even explore this suggestion with the county. It appears that they have made up their mind, and that they have no intention of looking at alternatives.

Nor do I trust that the various traffic, parking, land use, and environmental studies that are being called for will have any bearing on what appears to be a done deal. More than likely they will simply serve to rationalize this choice and offer modest measures to mitigate the worst effects.

I have heard from others in West Linn that the school district officials ran roughshod over concerns in the Sunset neighborhood when they built a school there several years back.

If there were a true consultation and a real opportunity for input from residents in the Willamette neighborhood, as well as others in West Linn community, on the location of a new middle school I

could live with the result. But I don't believe that has happened and therefore I want to state my strong objection to this lack of transparency and democratic consultation in this situation.