

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Jessica Munns <jessicamunns@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2015 11:30 AM
To: Sheehan, Maureen
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary

Categories: Loyal Heights Elementary School

Dear Ms. Sheehan,

My children attend LHE and, while I agree that it needs updating, I think there should be no waiver from city zoning regulations. I also think that a redesign needs to be done on a smaller scale and one that's more inline with the neighborhood and it's resources. Loyal Heights is not the place for a super-sized "mega school." The current plan is truly too large for the available space, too large of a school body and too large for the neighborhood. The original maximum number of students was 709 but the true capacity of the school is almost 900 and I have no doubt that it will filled to it's maximum. The site and the neighborhood cannot accommodate a building and student body of this size.

Here are some additional issues that are being ignored:

- The building takes up too much of the block and is too tall for the neighborhood creating a loss of light and privacy for neighbors.
- The remaining playground space is too small and will be much smaller than other schools. The playground is a community resource used by neighbors of all ages.
- Extremely congested traffic will only be made worse by additional busses, more student drop offs due to increased enrollment and additional staff parking. My children walk to school as do many others but the larger boundary will only increase traffic and congestion. The homes on the nearby blocks will be inundated with cars.

A waiver from city zoning regulations should not be granted and a different plan on a smaller scale that's more appropriate for the neighborhood and it's resources should be considered.

Sincerely,

Jessica Munns
Loyal Heights resident and LHE parent

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 2:47 PM
To: 'Michelle Mayo'
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Michelle,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: Michelle Mayo [mailto:mayo_michelle@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 2:36 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>; Nyland, Kathy <Kathy.Nyland@seattle.gov>
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Please consider making changes to Loyal Heights Elementary remodel. I am not agreement with the size of building or taking the playground space from future students.

Please forward my message to the Departures Committee.

Thank you,
Michelle Mayo

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 9:09 AM
To: 'Elizabeth Mazza'
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Remodel

Elizabeth,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: Elizabeth Mazza [<mailto:fsudizz@msn.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 12:02 AM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>; Nyland, Kathy <Kathy.Nyland@seattle.gov>
Subject: Loyal Heights Remodel

I am writing with concerns about the current plan for the Loyal Heights Elementary remodel. Among multiple issues, the issue that is most concerning to me is that the current plan does not provide adequate outdoor space for open air education, special school events, exercise, or safe play. As designed, the building is too large for the lot. We need a new plan that respects the needs of our students, teachers, staff, and community. Additionally, the increased projected enrollment will likely cause significant problems in our local community due to increased traffic, especially during the morning school hours. Next year, SPS plans to switch the start times of the schools so that the elementary schools start earlier and the middle/high schools have later starts. This would put LHE start time in the middle of the morning commute times for members of our community causing significant traffic flow problems in our neighborhood and increased safety concerns, especially because there will be several more buses coming into our area each morning.

I ask that you please reconsider the plans for this remodel for both our children and our neighborhood.

*Sincerely,
Elizabeth Mazza
Loyal Heights Elementary Parent and Community Member*

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2015 9:23 AM
To: 'John Gieser'
Cc: Moore, Steven E.
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Elementary School Project

John,

Thank you for your letter. The School district will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: John Gieser [<mailto:johngieser@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 8:37 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary School Project

Hi Maureen,

My name is John Gieser, I live at 7754 25th Ave NW. I am writing to you today about the proposed redevelopment of Loyal Heights Elementary School. While I understand the need for updating and expanding the school, I along with my fellow neighbors believe that what is being proposed is way out of proportion in size and costs.

I realize that with the influx of people moving into the city that schools must be made larger and remodeled but to try and make 1 school accommodate so many more students at the risk of the neighborhood is simply unfair.

What is being proposed;

Increasing the building coverage from 35 to 50%, not allowed by city code.

Building that is taller then code allows, 60ft as opposed to 35ft

Reduced setbacks, in some place 0ft, again not within city code

Eliminate off-street parking

Allow continue on-street parking for bus loading

All these reasons add up to a behemoth building out of place while basically screwing over the people who live within the neighborhood.

We will experience a loss of light in the afternoon (east of the building), loss of parking spaces (already getting hard to come by), increase in trash (I know my kid doesn't litter), and loss of green space.

I am asking for a reconsideration on this plan, to be more in scope with the grounds and neighborhood. There are 2 schools within a mile of here that are 1 story buildings with much bigger lots to which expansion could easily be done to without 1 school baring the all the growth. There is another school, Viewlands a very short distance north that could also expand with ease.

All these reasons and I'm sure there are ones that I'm not aware of, such as construction trucks and workers plugging up my neighborhood for 2 years (larger school, longer time to complete). All we, the neighborhood, are asking for is something that fits in and doesn't destroy our neighborhood. This isn't South Lake Union, this is where people live 24/7.

Thank you for your time
John

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 4:14 PM
To: 'stancohen1@comcast.net'
Cc: Moore, Steven E.
Subject: RE: meeting on this Tuesday

Stan,

Thank you for your letter. The School district will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: stancohen1@comcast.net [mailto:stancohen1@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 4:12 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>
Subject: Re: meeting on this Tuesday

Maureen, I have attached my comment below for your to share at the meeting and with Principal Floyd.

Thank you for your assistance in the matter.
Stanley Cohen

A COMMENT BY STANLEY COHEN TO THE SEATTLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

I regret that was unable to present this comment to you but I was out of the Country and will return on September 16, 2015

Presently, there is a danger to all school students in the Seattle School system.

The danger: The access doors to the schools are unlocked at all hours and there is no hiding place in the classrooms for the students to hide in if an active shooter enters the school like happened at Sandy Hook, Elementary School in Newton, Connecticut, December 14, 2012.

Unlocked doors allow a shooter intent on shooting or injuring children to walk into the school without giving any advance warning to the school and without giving the teachers a chance to hide the students before the shooter arrive at the classroom. A locked door will not prevent a shooter from entering the school, but the noise required to break the door will alert the school to the danger and to enable teachers to have time to hide the students in the hiding place before the shooter arrives at the classroom.

Lack of a hiding place in the classroom for the students to hide in before the shooter arrives at the classroom leaves the children to be in full view of the shooter. Presently, what the school does to "protect" the students if a shooter enters the school is to line them up in the classroom against a wall side-by-side with their backs to the wall. The danger is that if the shooter breaks the glass on the classroom door and looks in, he will see the students neatly lined up against the wall and place the sights of his firearm on them. The police will arrive too late to save them.

Suggestions:

A hiding place should be created in all classrooms and all access doors to the schools should be locked while the school is in session.

The hiding place can be a cubicle formed from 4 to 6 bookcases creating a space large enough to conceal the students from a shooter who looks into the classroom. Two teachers at Sandy Hook, Teachers Roig and Soto, hid their students and the shooter moved on when he did not see them, and these students lived. The cubicle is inexpensive since the book cases are already in most classroom and takes minutes for create.

The Cubicle of Life concept has already been implemented in the Somerset County Pennsylvania School District by Superintendent of the Somerset County School District, Krista Mathias. I have quoted her below to demonstrate the value of the Cubicle of Life to the safety of school students. I offer to volunteer to assist any school administrator in the design and implementation of the Cubicle of Life in classrooms.

Stanley Cohen

April 28, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in response to a concept introduced to the Somerset Area School District by Somerset Borough Police Chief Randy Cox. The *Cubicle of Life* concept was developed by Dr. Stanley Cohen, a former college professor of Chief Cox. It is a safety measure the Somerset Area School District is planning to implement for the 2014/2015 school year. It is simple, easily understood by even the youngest students, and very inexpensive. I am happy to lend my support to the concept and implement it in our District.

Chief Cox has brought many safety initiatives to the District, always with thorough explanations and instruction for faculty and staff. The *Cubicle of Life* concept is one that is logical and natural for teachers and students. Any safety measure that is easy to implement and requires little training for faculty, staff, and students is one that is likely to be used and useful in a crisis situation.

As the District's elementary classrooms almost all have bookshelves that will work for this action, it is not a measure that will be costly for the District---another factor that creates ease of implementation.

As always, I look forward to your future guidance in safety-related matters and to your assessment of the District's use of the *Cubicle of Life* concept.

Sincerely,

Krista

Mrs. Krista S. Mathias, Superintendent
Somerset Area School District
645 South Columbia Avenue
Somerset, PA 15501
(814) 443 - 2831, Extension 3211

From: "Maureen Sheehan" <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>

To: stancohen1@comcast.net

Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 1:49:45 PM

Subject: RE: meeting on this Tuesday

Stan,

You can submit a comment letter to me and it will be shared with the school district and included in the public record.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: stancohen1@comcast.net [<mailto:stancohen1@comcast.net>]

Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 7:05 AM

To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>

Subject: meeting on this Tuesday

Ms. Sheehan, Stacy Whiting, Loyola Heights Elementary School, invited me to attend the meeting on Sept 13, 2015, to make suggestions for the new school. Sadly, I am in Brazil with my son visiting his wife's family and cannot be at the meeting which i want to attend and make several suggestions for the school. I will return to Seattle this Wed. September 15, 2015 and can be available to meet with Mr. Floyd or members of the advisory committee. Can you please inform me as to how I can make my voice and ideas for a better and safer school to be heard at the meeting on the 15th of September. Could I submit a written/emailed statement that could be read at the meeting expressing my ideas for a improved and safer school? Thank you for replying.
Stan or call 412-656-3297

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 9:30 AM
To: 'Catherine Sweeney'; rlb主@seattleschools.org
Cc: Moore, Steven E.
Subject: RE: Concern about LHE site

Catherine,

Thank you for your letter. The School district will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: Catherine Sweeney [mailto:casweeney2007@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 5:31 AM
To: rlb主@seattleschools.org
Cc: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>
Subject: Concern about LHE site

Dear Mr. Best and Ms. Sheehan:

I am out of town and unable to attend tonight's meeting regarding departures for the LHE remodel site. I wanted to express a few concerns.

We are all aware of the demographic challenges that Seattle is facing. However, I'm concerned that there are problems with the strategy for the LHE remodel.

Given the larger school population served by the new building, we need to have a livable, reasonably sized playground for all those kids. I am very sympathetic regarding the need for additional preschool options, but I think it is wrong to build a building with an insufficient playground just so we can include a preschool. I know that parents would be sympathetic to positive uses for the Webster School site (Nordic Heritage Museum) - perhaps the city and district could collaborate on some substantial preschool space there? There's also the issue of the additional car traffic generated by the preschool. If it is functioning as a daycare, it is normal and understandable that parents (who are always pressed for time) are going to need to drop off their children via car and then commute to work.

I appreciate you reviewing my concerns and including them in the records of comments related to the LHE remodel. Thank you.

Best wishes,
Catherine

Catherine Sweeney
7721 22nd Ave. NW
Seattle, WA 98117
c 206-999-9867

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 9:32 AM
To: 'Brennan Beck'
Cc: Moore, Steven E.
Subject: RE: Save Loyal Heights

Brennan,

Thank you for your letter. The School district will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: Brennan Beck [<mailto:brennan.beck2@gmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, October 03, 2015 11:43 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>
Subject: Save Loyal Heights

Hello,

My name is Brennan Beck and I am 18 years old and recently graduated from Ballard High School. I have lived my whole life a mere two blocks away from Loyal Heights Elementary and attended it from 2002 to 2008. Loyal Heights has always been a special place to me; one where my first memories and friendships developed and it would be extremely disappointing for me to see it fall victim to ever more development. It is a beautiful historic building in a style of architectural quality that can not be replicated in the modern era. So why touch it? I believe a landmark elementary such as this one should be preserved because it is a truly marvelous work made of brick and stone that has stood for an impressive eighty-five years. Furthermore, this expansion will disregard the needed space that young adolescence deserve for play, which is a crucial part of a child's education that often goes undermined by those high up in the board of education. This proposal is outrageous because it will remove a large portion of the playground for more classroom space in order to make enough space to add more students to the elementary, which in turn will overpopulate the play areas during recess. On another note, I know that North Beach Elementary has a lot of space that could also be developed into a larger school, and it is not a historic building like Loyal Heights. There is also the former Webster Elementary in Ballard that is currently being occupied by the Nordic Heritage Museum, but the school district still owns that property, so wouldn't it be wise to simply reopen that building to account for the influx in population that this city is currently experiencing?

Sincerely,
Brennan Beck, Diann Tinsley(Mom), Philip Beck(Dad), and Gunnar Beck
(206)706-1755

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 3:59 PM
To: 'David Hyre'
Cc: Moore, Steven E.
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Elementary rebuild

David,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: David Hyre [<mailto:hyre.david@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 5:08 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary rebuild

Hello Ms. Sheehan,

I am a parent and heavy facility-user at Loyal Heights, and wanted to share a few concise notes on the revisions I've heard made to the plans presented last spring. I work with the TAG theater group, which involves about 200 of the LHE students each spring, for a 4-month period, so my contribution is largely from that perspective, though I have been involved in other commercial refits. I intend to be at the planning meeting tonight but expect it to be difficult to give input. I'll be brief here, but feel free to contact me for further explanation. I hope my information is helpful and not made moot by redesign or other issues since last spring.

I actually appreciated the original plan presented to the students and community in spring 2015. The salient features were: 1) adding space on a set-back 3rd floor, making the visual impact reasonably small due to the setback from the existing parapet giving it very limited visibility; 2) the division of the school into quiet and loud zones, quiet being all the academic areas, and loud being gym, cafeteria, stage, and music room; 3) the music room and stage being contiguous, allowing each to leverage use of the other for rehearsals and performances; and 4) a reasonable playground for the way the school uses it during the school day.

The first item needs no explanation, I am interested to hear the justification for removing the extra floor. The school will continue to grow as the density continues to increase, there should be as much capacity added now as possible.

The second and third items relate to moving the music room into what was the "quiet" area of the school, placing it across a wide and busy hallway. This moves a great deal of noise into what was a quieter part of the school. It removes the possibility of keeping the academic area locked up while using the music / stage / cafeteria area, because that hallway is now breached. It also makes joint use of both spaces rather difficult, requiring a stream of students crossing to the other area of the school instead of walking through a door. This is where I see the largest impact to performing arts and any serious use of the stage; the music room can no longer be an easy set-up or green room for activities on the stage, or serve as easy storage for each other. Keeping them

together allows leveraging the other's space for varied uses. Unless I am mistaken, this area of hallway is also one of the two major entry points for the school, the one on the west side.

The other issue was the size of the playground. I was one of the seeming minority who 1) approved of the much-smaller playground area, and 2) had numbers to support its size. All the proponents and online comments I heard and read all said the same thing - that smaller was not good - but little numerical support other than "smaller" and comparisons to schools who may run their recesses differently. The people I heard had never served on playground duty and were basing their judgement solely on what it looked like the first 15 minutes the entire school was out there after dismissal, which is HIGHLY unrepresentative of what it is like during the school day, when the current playground looks rather empty. Likewise, not one of them had toured the interim school site at John Marshall, which is much smaller than any of the proposed LHE playgrounds. The proposed space is sufficient for its use in supporting school activities as they are currently practiced.

I have one additional area of concern not addressed in any of the designs: traffic, both vehicular and foot. Traffic is already tied in knots for 15-20 minutes around the beginning and ending of school. There are a number of small changes that might both alleviate that AND make the students safer. The problem is the number of students walking to school combined with the number of cars bringing others there: they interfere directly with each other. If traffic around the perimeter of the school were made one-way clockwise, and one or more elevated crosswalks were put where foot and vehicle intersect, it would allow safe flow of both because they would be physically separated. Ideally, elevated crosswalks E/W across 25th and N/S across 80th would allow cars to flow unimpeded at the NE corner of the school. Another bridge E/W across 24th on the south side of 80th would alleviate the constant interference with those turning south off of 80th. A N/S bridge might be helpful to a lesser degree. This would allow students from all quadrants around LHE to get to the building with zero or at most one crossing of a major street. These issues will increase exponentially with student density.

Were a 3rd floor to be added to the school, it might even be possible that the elevated walkways could enter the school directly on an upper floor, though that might not mesh as well with the security entrance as I understand it from the plan proposed last spring. If necessary, the elevated walkway across 25th could easily be paced midway down the block instead of at the corner.

Thank you for listening, and best wishes for the whole process,

David Hyre

LHE-TAG chair and Music Director

206-595-0830

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 3:59 PM
To: 'Rich Werner'
Subject: RE: LHE "Departure Advisory Committee" meeting

Rich,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: Rich Werner [<mailto:rich@werner2.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 5:27 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>
Subject: LHE "Departure Advisory Committee" meeting

Maureen: Here are some comments I hope to make at the LHE "Departure Advisory Committee" meeting this evening. Much more could be said about this project, but I know time is limited.

My name is Richard Werner. My wife Laura and I have lived at 7739 26th NW for 31 years this November.

1. We should not have to be here tonight. We are here because the school district knowingly designed a project that violates city code and environmental standards. It is wrong for a **taxpayer funded** entity to operate in this manner. This displays a level of arrogance that is quite disturbing. This should not be called a "departure advisory committee", it should be called a "zoning code violation committee". The school district likes the term **minimal** when it comes to the impacts of this project. The school district information says that the project will have minimal traffic impact, the high no setback walls will have minimal impact on light levels and aesthetics, there will be minimal impact on the trees in the area, minimal impact on open play areas etc. The impacts may be minimal for the architects, project manager and other people with the district, but I have a feeling that if these same people had this project happening in their neighborhood they would no longer consider the impacts quite so minimal. **This is an oversized project on an undersized property and if it happens with the current design it will have a major negative impact on the entire neighborhood.**
2. Parking – I have read the very long parking and traffic study done by Heffron Transportation and they conclude that there will be **minimal** impact on parking in the area by this project. I think the study is flawed in several ways:
 - a. There were not enough study samples – only two during the day: 10:15 – 11:00 am and 10:00 – 10:45 am on consecutive days (No comments about the weather. I imagine that the traffic and parking patterns change based on how much rain is coming down.) There were no study samples during the drop off or pickup times and no study samples of after school parking when

parents tend to come to the school and stay for a period of time, many of them to use the play area that the proposal wants to eliminate.

- b. The parking samples for the evening are meaningless. The one sample during an “event” was for a PTA board meeting which according to the PTA might have a maximum of 20 attendants. They should have done a sample on a night like Curriculum Night last week. My quick observation is that parking utilization was 100% (or more with people parked in cross walks etc). Adding an additional 200 – 300 students would make this an impossible parking situation.
 - c. The area used for the traffic study – Earl Ave on the West, Jones Ave on the East, 75th St on the South and 83rd on the North, is not realistic for the way people actually park. The number of spaces listed available in this area is probably accurate, but there is no mention of the fact that people will not willingly park any further from their final destination than possible. If there is a parking space available 50’ from the building entrance or one 3 ½ blocks away, it is obvious that most people will choose to walk 50’ rather than 3 ½ blocks.
 - d. This was a study designed for a particular outcome, not necessarily an accurate assessment.
3. Setback and trees. Eliminating the setback on the West side of the school has a very strong potential to damage and ultimately cause the removal of the trees on 26th. Extensive trimming will be required to clear the building and no one can guarantee that the trees will survive the trimming and drastic loss of morning light. Even though the city arborist says the trees must stay, the arborist who did the study for the school district indicated in a private conversation that the trees “should” be OK, but there is no guarantee. So there is the potential to destroy even more trees than are listed in the project information.

Rich

Rich Werner

206-789-6310 - office

206-786-0081 - cell/text

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 11:31 AM
To: 'K Cruver'
Cc: Moore, Steven E.
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Kendahl,

Thank you for your letter. The Committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: K Cruver [<mailto:kcruver@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 9:05 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Hi Maureen,

I have a few concerns I'd like to share with you and the departures committee about the current plans for the Loyal Heights Elementary remodel.

I'm disturbed that the recent architectural plans for the project have so dramatically reduced the amount of outdoor play space.

Recess time is learning time, and essential to the health and well-being of students. It's worrying that this vital element of elementary school has not been made a priority, because the amount of outdoor square footage per child is so much lower than at other schools in the area.

Kids who don't have room to play will either stand around like cattle or attempt to move and play as if they do have room and get hurt. When students were getting hurt running into each other in a similarly-sized space at Adams Elementary, the PTA funded a larger playground by repurposing the parking lot. We won't have that option at Loyal Heights.

There are, however, other possibilities for handling a growing population in Northwest Seattle, including the already available options of North Beach Elementary and the Nordic Heritage Museum space. In an ever-changing city there will be other options too. But if we build over much needed play space, we will have no other options for years to come. That is why it is so important to do this right.

The current plan is a misguided attempt to shoehorn an oversized building into one of the smallest school lots in the area. I ask that you acknowledge how impractical that is and encourage the district to make adjustments accordingly.

Take out the courtyard; there's no need for it. Take out the preschool and connected play yard; we've got an abundance of under enrolled preschools in the area. We need the space more than the childcare. Restore the full basketball court. Give the kids room to play, so that they will have the capacity to learn. If this is truly to be a school of 660 students, remove some auxiliary classrooms.

I understand that Seattle is growing rapidly and that SPS will need to accommodate an expanding student population. However, I don't see this as justification for putting Loyal Heights students in a space that is unhealthy and unsafe. Capacity is an important issue, but the well-being of our children should be the top priority.

If we don't treat our kids with respect, we'll all pay the cost. Some day these students will be running this city. We need to set them up for success. Make a plan that respects our children and reflects the needs of our community.

I just wanted to thank you too Maureen and the committee for all that you have done in relation to this project. I know that it hasn't been an easy ride and I appreciate your diligence in deliberating carefully and thoughtfully.

Regards,

Kendahl Cruver
Loyal Heights Parent

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 11:26 AM
To: 'Darrell Toland'
Cc: Moore, Steven E.
Subject: RE: LHE

Darrell,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: Darrell Toland [<mailto:tolandcreative@me.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 9:06 AM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>
Subject: LHE

Maureen,

My name is Darrell Toland. I live in Loyal Heights. I attended the meeting at LHE Monday night. This is a follow up to that. I have two daughters, ages 14 and 10. The oldest spent K-5 at Loyal Heights Elementary. The youngest is currently there attending 5th grade. She also started at this school in Kindergarten. LHE is a very successful school. It has a solid staff but mostly it has a solid community of parents and neighbors that give their time and energy to make the school the success it is. This model works because as parents, we constantly mingle and share on the playground before and after school. This BUILDS community. This is not a commuter school.

When I heard there was going to be a remodel/addition I thought, "fantastic". I imaged a design that improves what we have. A design that is environmentally sound and integrates seamlessly with the neighborhood respecting the neighbors, fauna, and community. What we got was a Costco.

What this project is, is a very poor attempt to correct past short sighted planning with a "fix all" monstrosity. This design is simply too big for this space. The variances being asked for offer an obvious clue to how wrong this is. No setbacks? Commercial height allowances. The "traffic study" was a joke. More importantly than that is the lack of green space. This isn't a High School or Middle School. It's an ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. These kids need to run and move and play. Besides this being a potential a toe hold for developers to change our zoning for future development, Image waking up every morning to a massive wall. That's what the neighbors on the West side will experience. Especially with 90% of the mature tree canopy removed. The scale alone disregards and ignores the very community it's supposed support. It's an insult.

Why is the district attempting to bus kids past three perfectly good schools in order to bring them to Ballard? The Nordic Heritage Museum is moving making Webster available. North Beach has much more open space for an expansion. I suggest the district goes back and start over with a smaller, smarter plan.

Regards,
Darrell Toland
206-383-0445
tolandcreative@me.com

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 9:23 AM
To: 'David Bruning'
Cc: Moore, Steven E.
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

David,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: David Bruning [<mailto:dbruning@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 9:01 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Although I was unable to attend the meeting on Monday, I do wish to express my concern over the current proposed plan for the Loyal Heights Elementary remodel. My main concern is with the proposed size of the footprint and the lack of playground space. Cutting down play space and increasing student population is not in the best interest of our children. This decision will impact students of Loyal Heights for generations to come. Please reconsider your current proposal.

Thank you,
David Bruning
Loyal Heights parent

Fortunato
8044 21st Ave NW
Seattle, WA 98117

SEATTLE WA 980

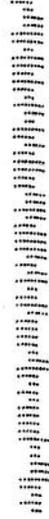
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RECEIVED

OCT 08 2015

Ms. Maureen Sheehan
Seattle Department of Neighborhoods CITY OF SEATTLE
P.O. Box 94649
Seattle, WA 98124-4649



98124694649

October 5, 2015

Ms. Maureen Sheehan
Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
P.O. Box 94649
Seattle, WA 98124-4649

Dear Ms. Sheehan –

I respectfully submit my comments regarding the **remodel plans for Loyal Heights Elementary School and the requested changes to the Development Standards Departure Advisory Committee** by Seattle Public Schools (SPS).

My family has resided in our home in the Loyal Heights community for 13 years. Our son is a 3rd grader at Loyal Heights Elementary School, our daughter is a kindergartner, and I serve on the LHPTA Board as a Fundraising Director.

You'll find that most residents in this community agrees that this school should be remodeled. However, the concern our community has repeated since the architectural renderings were made public this past winter is the size and scope of the remodel and whether the purported population increase to substantiate it actually exists. We also fear these concerns have been largely ignored by SPS in favor of a "one size fits all" approach to enrollment questions in Northwest Seattle.

In order to build a school the size SPS desires means that zoning deviations are required. According to the Seattle Department of Planning and Development (DPD), the lot on which Loyal Heights Elementary School (2511 NW 80th Street) sits is designated "Single Family 5000." As defined by DPD, this zoning designation allows for "...detached single family houses on lots compatible with the character of single family neighborhoods..." Also as defined by DPD, structures zoned as SF5000 are to have a 20' setback in front yard; 5' set back in side yard; 10' setback in backyard; heights not to exceed 30'; and no more than 35% lot coverage.

For the sake of comparison, Ballard High School (1418 NW 65th Street) is designated "Neighborhood Commercial2 Pedestrian 40" (NC2P-40), which according to DPD has a height limit of 40' and lot coverage of up to "...50,000 square feet for multipurpose retail sales facilities."

Of the deviations SPS is requesting for the Loyal Heights rebuild, the following three should **NOT** be granted as they clearly fall into commercial zoning practices versus those allowed in an SF5000 zone:

- 1) Increase lot coverage from the 35% to more than 50%.
- 2) Increase maximum height to 60 ft.
- 3) Reduce setbacks to 0 ft. in some locations.

By the City of Seattle's own standards these requests should not be agreed to because any other entity that would develop, build, or remodel in an SF5000 zone would have to seek a rezone or a comprehensive plan amendment. Just because SPS is a public entity does not preclude it from going through the proper channels any other applicant would be required to follow. The school is zoned as SF5000 and the remodel should reflect what, according to the DPD, is "...compatible with the character of single family neighborhoods..."

Furthermore, the intent of the lot coverage, setbacks and height restrictions are to mitigate the bulk and mass of the buildings in the SF5000 zone. The present school has been a part of the neighborhood for over 60 years and has complied with these standards. In addition, the surrounding neighborhood homes, churches, and community centers meet the standards set forth in the code. In making the decision on the deviations the question should be asked "how does the proposal intend to mitigate for the increased density?" The proposal does NOT mitigate in any way for the build and mass of the structure.

As you know, this summer Mayor Ed Murray rescinded his Housing Affordability and Livability Advisory (HALA) Committee's recommendations that would have permitted more density and commercial housing options within single-family zones. You will recall that *the* reason neighborhoods, communities and families opposed the recommendations is that increased density would have led to the construction of over-sized structures in single family zones – which is exactly the concern this community has about the Loyal Heights remodel.

Interestingly enough, even though the HALA Committee's recommendations for single-family zones were rescinded, the committee insisted that although higher density would have resulted, height restrictions in those areas would have remained the same. So even under the rescinded recommendations the single family height restriction would have still been in place. If Ballard High School is zoned commercial, then why should a 60' high elementary school be allowed in a single family neighborhood? Furthermore, why should SPS be allowed to go beyond the lot coverage as predicated by commercially zoned properties within a neighborhood zoned for single family construction?

SPS has argued a larger school will address the needs of a growing neighborhood. Ironically the *Seattle Times* reported in September it was reported that in terms of population growth "...other neighborhoods, particularly in North Seattle, haven't changed much at all." While downtown Ballard has grown this is not our elementary school's service area. Instead, enrollment is down at Loyal Heights this year, so the monolithic school SPS intends to build appears to be for a population that hasn't surfaced.

Clearly SPS sees only one "bite at the apple" for construction in Northwest Seattle and therefore has established an enrollment number and designed a building to then meet that number which remains largely in question. Why not refurbish a number of North Seattle schools to meet the population needs rather than make a long-term mistake by completely paving-over 2511 NW

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 3:45 PM
To: 'Brian Utting'
Cc: Moore, Steven E.
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Elementary School Construction Zoning Waivers

David,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

As for you question, you may contact the School Board regarding the Program.

Maureen Sheehan
Major Institutions and School Coordinator City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

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

From: Brian Utting [mailto:brianutting1mp@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 2:23 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary School Construction Zoning Waivers

Dear Maureen,

I live at 7511 25th Ave NW, about a block from the Loyal Heights Elementary School. My grandparents moved into this neighborhood in 1924, and my mother attended Loyal Heights Elementary School. I've visited and stayed with my family here since the 50s, and have lived on this block for 20 years. Having been part of the neighborhood for so many years, I have a pretty good instinct about what this neighborhood needs, and what it can handle.

I want to formally state that I am absolutely opposed to the proposed enlargement and construction zoning waivers/departures for Loyal Heights School. The footprint of the school simply can't absorb that much building, that many students, or that much traffic. Furthermore, it would destroy the planting and play space that the neighbors have worked so hard to build.

I'd also like to go on the record as opposing the Seattle School District's proposal to increase the capacity of the school in the first place. This small parcel (one of the smallest elementary school parcels in the city) simply can't absorb 200-300 more students, and it makes absolutely no sense to import children from other neighborhoods, especially given that some of the other schools have additional capacity, as well as being located closer to the students who live in those areas. This "one size fits all" approach of assigning 600+ students to each campus is ill-conceived and short-sighted, and really doesn't take the character of individual neighborhoods and schools into account. Please let me know who I can contact about this fundamental planning error.

Thank you,
Sincerely,
Brian Utting

Sheehan, Maureen

From: matthew wiley <mawwam2001@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 2:32 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen
Subject: O365 EOP thinks this is SPAM - written comments concerning LH zoning standards

Hello, my name is Matt Wiley and I have been a home owner and active community member in the Loyal Heights neighborhood since april 2008. I would like to express my thoughts on the elementary school development standards departure.

First and foremost as a resident in the neighborhood i have several concerns around the impact on neighborhood parking. a significant increase in student body represent a marked increase in already impacted street parking in the neighborhood. As a resident I rely on street parking....in the events of school activities and increased bus load/unload I sometimes cannot find parking at all as it is. Secondly the increase in the dependency on neighborhood utilities would impact an already heavily taxed solid waste sewage and utilities network that already shows signs of frequent back up and signals a failure to be able to support such an increase in use with the current infastructure. The zoning requirements are in place for a reason.....i feel a waiver on the such would not only directly impact myself and the surrounding neighborhoods but also send a message to other developing projects in the area that they could be exception to the laws and zoning.

Ballard is my home, I see it growing faster then our structure can handle and I feel it is impairative to maintain standards not only with local schools but also with larger developments like multi family housing structures and larger buisnesses.

thank you,
matthew wiley

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 2:12 PM
To: 'Jessica Fuller'
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Jessica,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: Jessica Fuller [<mailto:jrfuller22@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 2:09 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>; Nyland, Kathy <Kathy.Nyland@seattle.gov>
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Dear Ms. Sheehan and Ms. Nyland-

I was at the departures meeting last week and I felt as though the community of Loyal Heights was in almost 100% agreement that the current design for the new Loyal Heights elementary does not meet the students nor the neighborhoods needs in a new school.

There is simply not enough space on the small lot to house such an enormous school. My children (currently in 3rd and 5th grade) will never go back to the new school, however that school is part of our whole community.

Kids need open space to grow and learn. Neighbors use the playground to gather in the mornings, afternoons and weekends. Please consider what that playground means to all the students of Loyal Heights as well as the community at large.

I hope the departures committee votes NO to the "departures" as the current design requires. As a neighbor and parent I would like to see a new plan that views the school as a whole part of our community, not simply a space to fill with more and more students.

Please forward my comments to the departures committee.

Thank you,
Jessica Fuller

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 2:13 PM
To: 'Colin Ernst'
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel.

Colin,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: Colin Ernst [<mailto:monkfrog@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 2:10 PM
To: Nyland, Kathy <Kathy.Nyland@seattle.gov>; Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel.

The current design for the Loyal Heights Elementary remodel is too big in every aspect. It will create an unsafe learning environment with too many children in a small space. It will create dangerous situations during drop off and pick up since all the extra people and traffic are expected to fit in the same infrastructure as the current school. There are other options for the school district to place the growing number of kids in our neighborhood (expanding North Beach Elementary and reclaiming Webster school for instance.)

The departures must not be approved and the entire project must be redesigned.
Please forward this email to the Departures Committee.

Sincerely,

Colin Ernst
8527 30th Ave NW
Seattle, WA 98117

Father of a 3rd grader at Loyal Heights living 5 blocks from the school.

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 2:29 PM
To: 'Melissa Columbus'
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Melissa,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan
Major Institutions and School Coordinator City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

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

From: Melissa Columbus [mailto:melandtom28@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 2:18 PM
To: Nyland, Kathy <Kathy.Nyland@seattle.gov>; Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Please review this email and forward to the Departures Committee.

To Whom it May Concern,

Please revise the remodel plans for Loyal Heights Elementary School. The current plans eliminate much of the current playing field. This is an important play area for not only our students but for our community. Simply visit this playground before school, during school, after school and on the weekends to witness this simple fact for yourselves.

There must be a better solution to accommodate the new student increase while maintaining the integrity of the play field.

Please work with the school, parents, and community members until there is a remodel plan that fits everyone's needs.

Thank you,
Mel Columbus

Sent from my iPhone

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 2:47 PM
To: 'Chuck Fuller'
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Chuck,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: Chuck Fuller [<mailto:chuckf@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 2:38 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>; Nyland, Kathy <Kathy.Nyland@seattle.gov>
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Hello -

My name is Chuck Fuller, and both of my sons currently attend Loyal Heights Elementary (5th and 3rd grades). We live just a couple of blocks away from the school, and value what an integral part the school plays in our community. Proximity to LHE was one of the driving factors in our choice of home.

As a concerned parent and homeowner in Loyal Heights, I want to add my voice to those who have grave concerns over the current remodel plan for Loyal Heights Elementary. The plan as it currently exists fails to provide enough outdoor space for recess, safe play, exercise and open air education for the school. The building is simply too big for the available lot, and needs to be redesigned from scratch to accommodate the needs of the remodel and the needs for a healthy space that fits within the Loyal Heights community.

Do not move forward with the current plan, it does not fit the bill - I would appreciate it if you could forward my message to the Departures Committee.

Thank you -

Chuck Fuller
7516 Jones Ave NW
Seattle, WA 98117

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 9:05 AM
To: 'Betsy Swart (earthlink)'
Subject: RE: Add my voice to re-do the current remodel design for Loyal Heights Elementary

Betsy,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan
Major Institutions and School Coordinator City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

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

From: Betsy Swart (earthlink) [mailto:wonderwing@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 3:08 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>; kathy.nyland@seattle.org
Subject: Add my voice to re-do the current remodel design for Loyal Heights Elementary

To Mss. Sheehan and Nyland and the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods:

I believe an updated and 'improved' Loyal Heights Elementary must include more outdoor space and thus, a smaller building footprint. We must preserve more of the existing outdoor space on the LHE lot for the health and well being of the school and neighboring communities. Please hear my plea for a re-design to decrease the building footprint and increase outside open and play space.

Thank you for reading my comments and for sharing them with the Departures Committee.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Swart

LHE parent through 2020

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 9:05 AM
To: 'Theresa Yoder'
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Theresa,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan
Major Institutions and School Coordinator City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

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

From: Theresa Yoder [mailto:sylph@tessier-ashpool.net]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 3:14 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>; Nyland, Kathy <Kathy.Nyland@seattle.gov>
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

On behalf of the Loyal Heights community, and my daughter, who is a student at Loyal Heights Elementary, I find it necessary to object to the current design for the remodel of the school. As it stands, the design eliminates a valuable resource the school provides for the community as well as the students, open space. The tiny playground proposed in the new design is unacceptable, as there will be no room for the number of students the school will hold to run and play. It also removes the majority of the green spaces, which are where many children, my daughter included, prefer to play.

Additionally, the playground at Loyal Heights Elementary is one of the few in the area for the community at large to use, and the only one within that particular arterial quadrant. If this space is lost, residents must cross busy streets to reach the next nearest open space of significance that is publicly accessible. The changes proposed in the school remodel to this space would have a significant negative impact the resources available to the community at large. Ballard already has the least public greenspace in Seattle next to Downtown, please do not reduce that any further.

If you would please forward this message to the Departures Committee, I would appreciate it.

Thank you,
Theresa Yoder (Loyal Heights Elementary parent)

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 9:05 AM
To: 'Andrea Kent'
Subject: RE: No to all Departures for Loyal Heights School

Andrea,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: Andrea Kent [<mailto:dear.andrea.kent@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 3:18 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>
Subject: No to all Departures for Loyal Heights School

To Maureen Sheehan,

My name is Andrea Kent. I was at the public meeting Oct 5, 2015, at Loyal Heights School. I spoke then of my disagreement to the enlargement and construction zoning waiver / departures for Loyal Heights, and wanted to email you this as well.

The Loyal Heights School property is too small for such a huge project.

Andrea Kent

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 9:06 AM
To: 'gnve@comcast.net'
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Elementary remodel

Vanessa,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: gnve@comcast.net [mailto:gnve@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 4:23 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>; Nyland, Kathy <Kathy.Nyland@seattle.gov>
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary remodel

Dear Ms. Nyland and Ms. Sheehan,

My husband and I are concerned parents of two boys currently attending Loyal Heights Elementary. Last Monday evening I attending the departure meeting for the proposed remodel of our elementary school. At the meeting many voices of parents and neighbors who opposed the current plan for the remodel were heard. I did not speak but that does not mean I am without a voice.

My husband and I live in the house he grew up in here in Ballard. We have been a part of this community (as a married couple) for sixteen years. Our boys have been attending Loyal Heights for the past 5 years (currently in 4th grade and 1st grade). We love our school. We are in favor of a remodel of our school, but NOT the remodel that is currently being proposed. I fail to understand why Loyal Heights cannot be remodeled without compromising our much needed play/community space? When the last bell rings parents and children alike gather for hours to play*, talk, and share our lives. *Keep in mind, when I use the word "play" I am referring to kids playing football, basketball, soccer, climbing, swinging, sliding, and walking together as friends. If our outdoor space is decreased as the new plans indicate where will our community of parents and students gather? Remember we are not talking about 450 families any longer, we are looking at 660+ families! We will not gather together as there will not be space for the children to play and the mothers and fathers to commune. I find this outrageous and heartbreaking! We are a community of families who sincerely care about each other, care about our school and what is best for our children. The most recent proposed plan for a remodel IS NOT WHAT IS BEST FOR OUR CHILDREN! A new plan must be redrawn, one that does not include a 90,000 sq. ft. school of 800+ students being built on a small lot in the Loyal Heights neighborhood. Please, let's do what is right and ethical.

Please forward this email to the Departure Committee.

Sincerely,
Vanessa Egerdahl

gnve@comcast.net

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 9:08 AM
To: 'Kristen Smith'
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Kristen,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: Kristen Smith [<mailto:khelsby@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 5:33 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>; Nyland, Kathy <Kathy.Nyland@seattle.gov>
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

The current remodeling plan for Loyal Heights Elementary, including proposed departures from applicable zoning regulations, will adversely affect our neighborhood. Importantly, such plan also fails to provide sufficient outdoor space to facilitate safe play and physical education. In light of the foregoing, I am writing to respectfully request that the current remodeling plan be revised to account for the likely negative impacts on our community and to develop a plan that respects the needs of our students, teachers and neighbors.

Please forward this email to the Departures Committee.

Thank you,

Kristen Smith

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 9:08 AM
To: 'Mike Trussell'
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Mike,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: Mike Trussell [<mailto:guitarmike123@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 8:32 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>; Nyland, Kathy <Kathy.Nyland@seattle.gov>
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

First, I would like to let you know that my wife and I are proud parents of a kindergartner at Loyal Heights Elementary and residents of the neighborhood.

I understand that there are some people who are concerned that the proposed remodel to Loyal Heights Elementary is not the right solution. I would like you to know that there are also those that think the proposed remodel is a good compromise and should proceed. While the plan is not perfect, no plan of this size is. It is my opinion that if we as parents and concerned citizens wait for the perfect plan to take action, no action will be taken. Further, as an engineer with experience on projects of this size and larger, I understand that the more last minute changes are made, the higher the design cost of the project goes. My fear is that this increase in design costs on a fixed budget will lead to short cutting what should be the mission of this project: providing our children and future generations of children with an educational setting that will allow them to flourish.

Please feel free to forward this email to anyone you think would benefit from reading it.

Thanks for taking the time to read this. I look forward to hearing back from you.

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 9:08 AM
To: 'Ellsa Kunz'
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Ellsa,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: Ellsa Kunz [<mailto:ekunz35@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 11:07 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>; Nyland, Kathy <Kathy.Nyland@seattle.gov>
Subject: Re: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

also please forward this email to the departures committee.

Regards,

Ellsa Kunz

On Mon, Oct 12, 2015 at 10:50 PM, Ellsa Kunz <ekunz35@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Maureen & Kathy:

I am opposed to the city and Seattle Public Schools new proposed remodel for the Loyal Heights Elementary School site and urge the city council, departures committee members and the department of neighborhoods to REJECT ALL DEPARTURES and look at a reasonably sized upgrade for the space.

This project is TOO LARGE on TOO SMALL a lot. It will ruin the integrity of the school and neighborhood, by being too large, violating fire codes, disregarding the needs of our students to play during the day and for our neighborhood to continue to have a public space to use in the evenings and on weekends.

I live at 8009 25th Avenue NW, the 3rd city lot North of 80th directly across from Loyal Height Elementary School. I have a 7th grader who went all the way through 5th grade and a 4th grader currently at the school. I already get blocked into my driveway on a regular basis for drop off and pick up. School Events already line the streets up and down the perimeter for several blocks on all sides. The crossings on 24th and 80th are already congested. If bell times are made earlier and overlap the commuters, it will be dangerous for buses, students, parents and the student and volunteer crossing guards. This provides unsafe loading and unloading zones and traffic flow for a site with no off street loading zones.

Your proposed plan will not only restrict physical activity for the kids but it will be outright dangerous to be on that playground with that many kids and a building size taking up over 50% of the lot. This is unacceptable and should be stopped.

You heard loud and clear from this community at the 1st departures meeting that we DO NOT APPROVE THESE DEPARTURES. WE REJECT ALL THE REQUESTED DEPARTURES AS A COMMUNITY. THIS WAS NEARLY UNANIMOUS from a standing only crowd on a Seahawks Monday game night. THIS PROPOSAL DOES NOT BELONG ON THIS SITE.

There has been NO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY DONE. North Beach has WAY more space and is 5 blocks North, Adams (15 blocks SW) has way more space and took over their parking lot because SPS plan for their site was dangerous for the kids on the playground, they had room to expand, we don't. The Norwegian Heritage Site is being taken back over for school use (10-15 blocks SW). Whittier (10 blocks East) and Broadview Thompson and Viewlands (both within 1/2 mile). Seattle Public Schools also just sold another older site for Condo's or some other non school use.

TOO MANY DEPARTURES, TOO MANY KIDS. NOT ENOUGH OPEN SPACE. NOT ENOUGH CONSIDERATION FOR FIRE SAFETY. NOT ENOUGH CONSIDERATION FOR TRAFFIC AND BUS LOADING AND UNLOADING SAFETY. NO RESPECT FOR OUR KIDS OR THIS COMMUNITY WITH THIS PLAN. REJECT THESE DEPARTURES and come up with a real plan that fits the space.

There was ample time with 25 minutes left in the meeting for the committee to REJECT all these departures, yet you asked them to hold off as it seems like there was inadequate preparation for the meeting as the rules for future meetings were not even known.

Enough monkey dances and politics. It is OUR community and we have been VERY CLEAR. WE VOTE NO ON ALL DEPARTURES.

fire code, 1027 Exit Discharge.

[B] 1027.5 Access to a public way. The *exit discharge* shall provide a direct and unobstructed access to a *public way*.

Exception: Where access to a *public way* cannot be provided, a safe dispersal area shall be provided where all of the following are met:

1. The area shall be of a size to accommodate at least 5 square feet (0.46 m²) for each person.
2. The area shall be located on the same lot at least 50 feet (15 240 mm) away from the building requiring egress.
3. The area shall be permanently maintained and identified as a safe dispersal area.
4. The area shall be provided with a safe and unobstructed path of travel from the building.

Regards,

Ellsa Kunz

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 9:08 AM
To: 'Lolly Bates'
Subject: RE: Need to Reconsider Loyal Heights Elementary School Remodel / Addition Program

Lolly,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: Lolly Bates [<mailto:lolly@batesearly.net>]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 11:15 PM
To: schoolboard@seattleschools.org
Cc: ltherndon@seattleschools.org; Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>; Nyland, Kathy <Kathy.Nyland@seattle.gov>
Subject: Need to Reconsider Loyal Heights Elementary School Remodel / Addition Program

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 9:09 AM
To: 'Doug Kisker'
Cc: Doherty, Erin
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Elementary remodel

Doug,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: Doug Kisker [<mailto:dtkisker@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 6:25 AM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>; Nyland, Kathy <Kathy.Nyland@seattle.gov>; Doherty, Erin <Erin.Doherty@seattle.gov>
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary remodel

Dear members of the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods and Landmark Preservation Board,

I believe there is enormous room for improvement in the remodel design of Loyal Heights Elementary. While the currently proposed plan is deeply flawed, I still see the opportunity for it to be a very good plan, but only if it is scaled back.

In short, the existing plan proposes to maximize square footage of the building by a formula that does not work on the small LHE lot. This site calls for the most efficient design, not the biggest design. To be clear- I am ENTIRELY in favor of an updated and larger LHE. However, the current design is VERY poorly considered for the size of the lot.

My detailed concerns follow, but I can easily summarize them by saying that if the only departure allowed is in building height, the landmark building design requirements are welcomed, and the impressive architects currently working on the design are given freedom for creative problem solving, I am entirely confident that a renovated LHE will serve students, teachers, and neighbors very well.

Here is my opinion of the current plan.

First, the lot coverage is much to great. It neither provides sufficient play space for the students, nor respects the small lot the school is on. This additionally means the surrounding neighborhood is not being respected either. The loss of open space will have a severe negative impact on the students, and on the surrounding community. It is important the City of Seattle's neighborhood building guidelines be followed in order to respect the neighborhood, and the students.

Second, I do not believe eliminating or substantial reduction of set backs is an acceptable way to increase usable square footage, as it directly detracts from the neighborhood feel. Again, the the City of Seattle's neighborhood building guidelines should be followed.

Third, students of every age need safe space to get in and out of cars and buses. The current plan does nothing to increase such safety over the existing school arrangement. Furthermore, a plan that increases safety for students getting in and out of cars and buses will make the neighborhood better by reducing congestion. This will be critically important with the 2016/17 belltime analysis moving school start times to 8am. This will create enormous impact as many of the spots parents are currently using for drop off will not be vacant, due to surround families not having left for work yet. The difference between the current 9:40am bell, and the planned 8:00am bell will create a huge problem in on-street parking.

To assure you that I am working to be objective in my consideration, I am not opposed to an increase in height. In fact, I think a taller building allows for more creativity in design. I think a design incorporating a sloped peak or "stair stepped" roof that is higher in the middle than the outer perimeter could be both functional and attractive.

I am confident that a substantial revision to the plan could make the renovated school even better than the current plan- for students, teachers, faculty and staff, and the community to which Loyal Heights means so much.

Finally, please forward this email to the Departures Committee for their consideration as well.

Kind regards,

Doug Kisker

Loyal Heights Parent & neighbor (a few blocks away)

3154 NW 90th

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 9:10 AM
To: 'Mike McCarter'
Cc: 'Kerry McCarter'
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Elementary School- Safe Drop off and Pickup Area in New Design?

Mike,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: Mike McCarter [<mailto:sendmikeamessage@live.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 7:25 AM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>; Nyland, Kathy <Kathy.Nyland@seattle.gov>
Cc: 'Kerry McCarter' <kmccarter@outlook.com>
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary School- Safe Drop off and Pickup Area in New Design?

Hello Maureen and Kathy,

We have one child attending LHE in the 1st grade and another one joining in kindergarten next year. Upon learning that a new design was being proposed for the school I've been voicing my concerns about the need for a safe drop off and pick up area for the children. I have been picturing something similar to what Whitman and BHS have. When I saw the new proposed plans I was disappointed to see that it does not include any improvements in this regard.

The current situation is not safe for our children and it will become even more dangerous when density increases with the new design. I was told that the two of you are the correct individuals to speak with regarding this matter, and as such I am really am hoping you will consider modifying the current design to optimize child health and safety in addition to capacity. Please let me know if you'd be open to discussing this further.

Thanks for your consideration of this matter and for all that you are doing to support our schools and our community.

Regards,

Mike McCarter
206.579.7315

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 10:35 AM
To: 'mccacsea@gmail.com'
Cc: Moore, Steven E.
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Remodel
Attachments: Appendix E Responses to Comments.pdf

Christine,

Your questions were responded to in the Final SEPA Checklist/Determination. The answers to these and others were included in the back of the Final SEPA. Please see attached. I've identified which comments corresponds to your observations.

If you have comments regarding the specific departures, please attend the Sep 15 meeting or send them to me at your earliest convenience.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: mccacsea [<mailto:mccacsea@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 4:14 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>
Subject: Loyal Heights Remodel

I reviewed the SEPA checklist for the proposed remodel of Loyal Heights Elementary School. While I understand the need to expand the school and more effectively serve even its current enrollment, the SEPA checklist takes a very cursory and superficial view of the construction process and long-term transportation impact on the surrounding neighborhood. I'm sure others, particularly those adjoining the site, will have plenty of comments on the prospect of early morning construction noise over a long construction period, the size of the project as it extends to the lot lines, and the lack of an off-street pick-up & drop-off plan to address the increased traffic. As a resident in the parking study area, I have the following observations:

1. The parking study is a theoretical model encompassing an 800-foot full circle around the school. It appears that the parking consultant did not personally visit the neighborhood and monitor how human beings actually park. Both 24th and 80th are busy streets, and drivers, especially with children, do not park east of 24th nor north of 80th. It's simply human nature to park within the residential neighborhoods south of 80th and west of 24th. This means that the real impact on parking within the blocks in this area will be quite different than reflected in the parking study. This will affect the school construction period as well as the long-term use. (**See Comment #2**)
2. It also appears that the parking consultant did not measure parking when events are held at the church located at 80th & Earl, which are not limited to Sundays and frequently overlap school hours and events. There is no parking available on much of 80th and any of Earl Ave during these times. (**See Comment #3**)

3. The reference to bus availability also reflects a shallow analysis. How many employees and families currently take the bus to the school? Do any? What's available and what's practical for most people doesn't seem to be considered, especially in an area poorly served by direct, all day bus routes **(See Comment #5)**

4. How many students currently live within a quarter-mile of the school, and how many are expected to live within that radius after expansion? Again, the study does not address the realities of how working parents get their children to and from school, nor disclose whether the school has students from outside the reasonable walking radius. Does this school enroll students from outside the neighborhood zone? Will it in the future? **(See Comment #20)**

5. Finally, how will the signal at 80th and 24th be handled? Because there is no left-hand light, this signal backs up considerably during the day, especially in the mornings and afternoons. With a tight turn from 24th onto 80th, this also likely presents a further problem for construction trucks. How will this be handled? **(See Comment #4)**

Regards --

Christine A. McCabe

mccacsea@gmail.com

7715 Earl Ave NW

Seattle, WA 98117

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Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 12:41 PM
To: 'Dani Forbess'
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Dani,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: Dani Forbess [<mailto:daniforbess@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 11:15 AM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>; Nyland, Kathy <Kathy.Nyland@seattle.gov>
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Dear Ms. Sheehan and Ms. Nyland:

As the current pastor of Northminster Presbyterian Church at 7706 25th Ave NW, directly across the street from Loyal Heights Elementary, I would like to state my desire to re-negotiate the remodel plan for Loyal Heights Elementary. The current plan is too large in scope and does not provide adequate outdoor play space for the children. Research shows that children benefit physiologically from outdoor play in a way that cannot be duplicated. They are able to develop skills of confidence, communication, creativity, and innovation. They exercise gross motor and fine motor skills. Moreover, they return to the classroom poised to learn with greater focus and clarity. I believe current research trends support the value of outdoor space in such a way that far exceeds the convenience of a larger building.

In addition, the footprint of the current remodel does not allow for local neighborhood common space. There is a local co-op preschool that has been in place for over twenty years that will no longer be able to use the common outdoor space of LHE. The church and the neighbors use the common outdoor space when school is not in session. The current footprint would prevent this outside usage of space and reduce the amount of common neighborhood interactions. As a culture, we are only just beginning to recognize the value of common shared areas for the benefit of neighborhood health and well being.

Lastly, as a recent resident of 25th Ave NW and as a mother of three, I personally believe the benefit of common space accessible outside of school hours is an asset that must not be overlooked.

I kindly request that you forward my email to the Departures Committee. I am sure that with more reflection and feedback it will become clear that a new plan for remodel is needed quite urgently.

Sincerely,
Rev. Dani Forbess

Dani A.Forbess
Northminster Presbyterian
7706 25th Ave NW
Seattle WA 98117
206.783.3402
www.northminsterpres.org

A village church in the city

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 2:13 PM
To: 'Tim Waldron'
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Tim,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan
Major Institutions and School Coordinator City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

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

From: Tim Waldron [mailto:tjbwtb@mac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 2:00 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>; Nyland, Kathy <Kathy.Nyland@seattle.gov>
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Dear Maureen, Kathy, and other to whom it may concern:

I am a parent of three kids at LHE. I want to express my concerns for the design of the new school as it stands now. My first concern is the size of the building and lack of playground. The building itself does not fit into the space we have for the school. It is too large. It is obvious by the amounts of departures being asked to build it. It also takes away the very important playground area outside. I believe there is just as much learning on the playground as in the building. We learn needed social skills that will carry us through life. I see this in my own children. The kids need exercise and a chance to run around, without injury. Giving them times to run throughout the day helps them to better sit and listen during lessons.

I am also concerned about adding so many students and a preschool to this new building. That amount of increase in traffic will clog up the small streets and could bring injury to those walking and driving everyday.

I ask that you go back to the drawing board and redesign the remodel to reduce the size of the building, increase our playground size, and remove the preschool from the program.

I ask that you forward this email to the Depatures committee so they will understand my concerns for this school remodel.

Thank you.

Jennifer Waldron

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 12:42 PM
To: 'Stephanie Jansson DeGeeter'
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights - please rethink the plan

Stephanie,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: Stephanie Jansson DeGeeter [<mailto:sdegeeter@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 8:42 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>; Nyland, Kathy <Kathy.Nyland@seattle.gov>
Subject: Loyal Heights - please rethink the plan

Hi Maureen and Kathy,

I am strongly opposed to the plan to turn Loyal Heights into such a large school. Loyal Heights is widely considered to be one of the best schools in the district and I'm deeply upset at the prospect of changing it so dramatically. The lot simply is not large enough to accommodate such a big school and I believe there are schools on larger lots that would be better candidates for expansion. I'm concerned that the proposed plan will set a precedent for reducing outdoor play spaces, which are more important than ever given obesity rates in this country. I'm also concerned that the school will not fit into the surrounding residential neighborhood and will create significant parking and traffic challenges in what is currently a quiet, peaceful neighborhood.

Please take the plans back to the drawing board and start with a more realistic size for the school. I believe with a smaller number of students, it would be possible to combine the cafeteria/auditorium and eliminate some of the flex classrooms so that the footprint can be smaller and allow the community to continue to benefit from Loyal Heights' amazing playground. I also see no reason to put a preschool at Loyal Heights given that there are numerous options already in the neighborhood.

In summary, I strongly oppose every single departure. I sincerely hope that this entire plan can be reconsidered so that the community will embrace rather than oppose the remodel.

Please forward this email to the Departures Committee.

Thank you,

Stephanie DeGeeter
mom to Jake DeGeeter (2nd grader at Loyal Heights)

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 12:43 PM
To: 'Zanna'
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Zanna,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: Zanna [<mailto:zannasatterwhite@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 8:47 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>; Nyland, Kathy <Kathy.Nyland@seattle.gov>
Cc: ICE Stuart Taylor <stootaylor@yahoo.com>
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Dear Seattle Department of Neighborhoods,

The current plan for the Loyal Heights Elementary remodel does not provide adequate outdoor space for open air education, special school events, exercise, or safe play. As designed, the building is too large for the lot. We need a new plan that respects the needs of our students, teachers, staff, and community. Please forward my message to the Departures Committee.

Sincerely
Zanna Satterwhite
Loyal Heights parent

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 2:35 PM
To: 'Kristen Helton'
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Kristen,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: Kristen Helton [<mailto:kristen.helton@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 2:32 PM
To: Nyland, Kathy <Kathy.Nyland@seattle.gov>; Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Dear Seattle School Leadership-

On behalf of my family and my community, I'm writing to share with you my concerns with the current remodeling plan for Loyal Heights Elementary School. The current design is unacceptable and frankly unsafe. First on the issue of safety, because of the large building size and small lot, there is not adequate room for the entire building to evacuate safely on the property. There have been inadequate assessments regarding safety and traffic congestion at appropriate times of day. Furthermore, the current design does not allow for adequate outdoor play and educational space. There is also the potential loss of an incredibly important communal gathering and outdoor event space. Events like our annual Jogathon fundraiser would be compromised, after-school programs are at risk and several other events and enrichment programs are in danger. I implore you to consider a new design that takes in to account the safety and educational needs of our children. Please also respect the input and requests of our community by forwarding this email on to decision makers who can change course on this very important decision.

With respect and urgency,

Kristen Helton

(Mom to current 4th and 2nd graders and a 3rd, future Loyal Heights student)

To the Development Standards Departure Advisory Committee for Loyal Heights Elementary School:

As the staff here at Loyal Heights, which includes office staff, teachers and support staff, we thought it necessary to voice our support for the current renovation project. First, we would like to thank the architects and the design team that put in countless hours looking at other school projects and doing an amazing job of meeting the needs of our current number of students, while thinking ahead to the future of growing trends of families in the neighborhoods.

Looking at the departures at hand, we would like to address the topic of lot coverage. If you ask any staff member what is needed most in the new building, almost everyone would say "SPACE!" Classrooms are jam packed, many not having enough space for meeting room areas. The following are bulleted, specific groups that need more space to better meet the needs of our students:

- No more portables! We currently have seven portables outside to house our growing population. Classrooms need to be in the same building. These portables have no restroom facilities, no running water, and are detached from the main building. In addition, these portables pose several safety issues. Young students are asked to run back and forth to use the restroom and get drinks unsupervised. Over the weekends and in the evenings, transients and teenagers often use the porches. The custodians and the teachers have often found empty and broken beer & alcohol bottles, drug paraphernalia, used condoms, and graffiti on the walls and doors. During school hours, students are not allowed to run around these portables for safety reasons, but after school hours, students are often running in and out of the portables, which can provide many hiding spots where parents and caregivers are unable to see what is going on.
- The OT/PT (occupational & physical therapists) who are at our school currently share a closet off the staff room – they need more space to work with their students and to do all of their paperwork
- The Special Education program shares a small classroom with two instructors. This shared space cannot be used for two different lessons by the teachers – pushing one teacher and her students into the hallways
- Instrumental Music takes place on a small stage in the cafeteria, where the instructor has to leave for almost two hours in the middle of the day due to the student lunch schedule. PTA is helping to fund a position that can't have the space to teach for the entire day due to space!
- Tutors are forced to work with students in the hallways – there is no classroom space of any size available to them to use. Students needing extra attention are forced to share space with classes walking by, parents & younger siblings in the hallways. Not only is this distracting,

but also causes social anxiety with the students, especially as they get older.

- Speech Therapist & school psychologist share the same desk in a small office. A small table can barely fit in there – the space does not allow these people to work in a comfortable space with their students who have serious needs that need to be met
- School Counselor is in an office that also is used as a storage area for math materials. She can also barely fit a table in her space for small social groups that meet each week.
- Assemblies are jam packed – there is barely room for all the students – they take up the entire floor space, not including parents who would like to attend assemblies. This is also a safety issue to have so many students and staff in a small space like that.
- The annual school play that boasts a large student participation rate struggles to find space for practices. PTA pays for performances to be held at Ballard High School. For many months, both before and after school, teachers give up their classrooms, the PE teacher gives up her gym & the library are all spaces used for practice.
- After school clubs also struggle to find space – leaning on teachers to give up their rooms to host these clubs.
- The office is much too small to house an administrative assistant, two support assistants and the principal of a school of our size– boxes are constantly piled up, students and parents are constantly in and out of that area.
- The nurse’s office is barely a short hallway – if there is more than two students who need care (which there often is), those sick kids are forced to sit in the office on a bench. This also inhibits the nurse to have very much privacy with students who need it.
- The Art Docent program is housed in a closet in the hallway – volunteers need more space for planning, meeting times, supplies, drying areas, etc.
- PTA has a small area in the corner of the staff workroom – this organization is a big part of the LH community – they should have space to meet other than outside the office and classrooms.

We realize the playground is becoming smaller, and there is no teacher at this school who would deny that play is important. As a staff we believe the students should have the space they need to grow and learn and thrive. Providing ALL students with a safe environment and the tools they need to become strong community members is a high priority for the staff. Outside of the school day there are several playgrounds and parks where families could go to play (LH Community Center, Ballard Community Center, Salmon Bay Playground, Sunset Hill Park, Golden Gardens Park & Playground are all located within a few miles of the school, some within blocks).

Safety has been brought up many times – we have often heard a smaller playground will not be safe for students; they will bump into each other while playing. As a staff we feel having all the students in the same building, getting rid of all the hiding spots the portables provide, being able to see students as they play in the playground, and providing students with a safe, comfortable spot to meet all their needs (i.e. counseling, tutoring, nurse visits, speech, Special Education time, etc.) is more of a priority than a larger play area, for which currently the District allots thirty minutes of the students' six hour day.

The Design Team thought long and hard about all of these issues and voiced their concerns to the architect team. We feel the team found a creative way to fit everything in. We are getting rooms so that all students, no matter their abilities, can be served in Ballard. We teach in a public school where ALL students are guaranteed an education. Our neighborhood is thriving, which leads to growth. We need to think about generations from now – not just our current situation. It is LH's turn to build a school that better meets our growing population of students, if we don't take advantage of this, generations to come will suffer. Portables will once again be plopped down on the playground. As a staff (consequently, several of the staff are also parents of students), we are thinking of the future, not for the next five years.

As a staff we strongly believe the Departures should be approved to provide all students – current and for generations to come, a safe, comfortable building where they can grow and learn and develop those life skills necessary to become respectful members of our community.

Brandery Vaagpland



Andrea Colewell

Andrea Wilson

Kathy Kutz



Julie Kaloper

Ellen Gantz

Collette Blays

Joy Duke

Mimi Walker

Jenny Bill

Patricia Cedronas

Julia M. Lipse

Amymik

Andrew Krent



Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 2:47 PM
To: 'Michelle Mayo'
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Michelle,

Thank you for your letter. The committee will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: Michelle Mayo [mailto:mayo_michelle@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 2:36 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>; Nyland, Kathy <Kathy.Nyland@seattle.gov>
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Please consider making changes to Loyal Heights Elementary remodel. I am not agreement with the size of building or taking the playground space from future students.

Please forward my message to the Departures Committee.

Thank you,
Michelle Mayo

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Sheehan, Maureen
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2015 9:23 AM
To: 'John Gieser'
Cc: Moore, Steven E.
Subject: RE: Loyal Heights Elementary School Project

John,

Thank you for your letter. The School district will take this in to account.

Maureen Sheehan

Major Institutions and School Coordinator
City of Seattle [Department of Neighborhoods](#)
O: 206 684-0302 | maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov

From: John Gieser [<mailto:johngieser@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 8:37 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen <Maureen.Sheehan@seattle.gov>
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary School Project

Hi Maureen,

My name is John Gieser, I live at 7754 25th Ave NW. I am writing to you today about the proposed redevelopment of Loyal Heights Elementary School. While I understand the need for updating and expanding the school, I along with my fellow neighbors believe that what is being proposed is way out of proportion in size and costs.

I realize that with the influx of people moving into the city that schools must be made larger and remodeled but to try and make 1 school accommodate so many more students at the risk of the neighborhood is simply unfair.

What is being proposed;

Increasing the building coverage from 35 to 50%, not allowed by city code.

Building that is taller then code allows, 60ft as opposed to 35ft

Reduced setbacks, in some place 0ft, again not within city code

Eliminate off-street parking

Allow continue on-street parking for bus loading

All these reasons add up to a behemoth building out of place while basically screwing over the people who live within the neighborhood.

We will experience a loss of light in the afternoon (east of the building), loss of parking spaces (already getting hard to come by), increase in trash (I know my kid doesn't litter), and loss of green space.

I am asking for a reconsideration on this plan, to be more in scope with the grounds and neighborhood. There are 2 schools within a mile of here that are 1 story buildings with much bigger lots to which expansion could easily be done to without 1 school baring the all the growth. There is another school, Viewlands a very short distance north that could also expand with ease.

All these reasons and I'm sure there are ones that I'm not aware of, such as construction trucks and workers plugging up my neighborhood for 2 years (larger school, longer time to complete). All we, the neighborhood, are asking for is something that fits in and doesn't destroy our neighborhood. This isn't South Lake Union, this is where people live 24/7.

Thank you for your time

John

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Mindy Thomas <mindyethomas@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 3:32 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen; Nyland, Kathy
Cc: glenthms@msn_com
Subject: Loyal Heights Remodel

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Loyal Heights Elementary School

Dear Maureen and Kathy,

I am writing as a concerned parent of a 4th and 1st grader at Loyal Heights Elementary.

I am frankly appalled at the design plans for the planned remodel. Simple reason is this is a giant monstrosity of a building going on a tiny lot, allowing for WAY too many kids to attend. We are a small neighborhood school, and while I understand that we are in a growing community, this plot of land is not meant for 660-900 kids. Other alternatives need to be explored. This design is taking away our children's playground and outdoor playspace and it is unacceptable. It is putting our children at risk for injury as has been seen at Adams Elementary where kids were literally running into each other due to lack of space. More kids + less space to play? This does not add up. Play is essential to kids development, not only during the school day but also after school where kids play for hours on regular basis. This is all going away and it is heartbreaking. In face it's devastating for our kids and the community.

I'm asking that you please consider a new design. One that is realistic for our kids and neighborhood. It must allow for more outdoor space!

Thank you,
Mindy Thomas

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Glenn Thomas <glenthms@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 8:57 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen; Nyland, Kathy
Cc: Mindy Thomas
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Loyal Heights Elementary School

To whom it may concern,

I am a father of 2 children attending Loyal Heights. I am greatly concerned about the design put forth to upgrade our school. The idea that leaving ~10,000 square feet to a courtyard area that won't be used for much of anything at all seems rather silly. Common sense comes to mind. With Seattle square footage at a premium and the need for additional space, why would you leave 10,000 sq feet to a courtyard???? I am adamantly opposed to the current design plans put forth. The requirements being put on the architecture firm by SPS do not match the needs of our area. Our kids need play space outside. Additional play space of 10,000 sq ft can be provided (this would help solve parent pushback) if you move the Gym or Cafeteria to the courtyard area. Noise and light can be resolved with creativeness and ingenuity by the architecture firm. There are ways to fix those issues. As one parent put it on October 5th, they work in an office with a Gym above them and have no issues with noise while they work. So how is it that SPS and architecture firm can't come up with a solution for noise and light if the Gym or Cafeteria are butted up against classrooms??? I want to be clear, I am not opposed to the upgrade. I am wholeheartedly opposed to the current design though. We can do better. SPS needs to be flexible in their requirements and architecture firm can be more creative in their design. We can do better than this. Too many red flags. Our kids will need play space 50 years from now too. Please don't ignore that request from our community.

Glenn Thomas

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Stefanie <somethingold@earthlink.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 9:10 AM
To: Sheehan, Maureen; Nyland, Kathy
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Loyal Heights Elementary School

Dear Ms. Sheehan and Ms. Nyland,

I write with great concern about the unsuitability of the current plan for the Loyal Heights Elementary School re-model. I am upset that the plan has come this far when the proposed plan CLEARLY is too large for the lot and the surrounding community.

I am concerned about the safety of our children playing, and the potential loss of outdoor space for special events. Unfortunately, it seems that there was a mistake early on - for planning for TOO MANY students and therefore, all the space/building foot print/land the new school will need. I understand having to re-design the building is a loss of time and money - however, our children and the community that supports this school deserve our utmost consideration. If projected numbers of students is of concern, and having schools to house them - might I suggest the city move to planning a large school on the enormous lot where Olympic View stands and revisit Loyal Heights for a future renovation.

I respectfully request that you forward this email to the Departures Committee.

I look forward to future involvement of the re-planning of a new Loyal Heights Elementary School.

Sincerely,
Stefanie Arneson

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Laurie Gold <goldl@uw.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 9:18 AM
To: Nyland, Kathy
Cc: Sheehan, Maureen
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Loyal Heights Elementary School

Dear Ms. Sheehan,

I am writing to ask you to please reconsider the Loyal Heights Elementary remodel. I currently have a kindergartener at the school and I also have a 3-year-old who will attend LHE in 2017. I understand that the neighborhood surrounding LHE is growing rapidly and we need more classroom space to accommodate the additional children. The part of the plans that concerns me the most is having a pre-kindergarten program at the school. The mission of Seattle Public Schools is to provide education to grades K-12, not children who have not entered kindergarten yet. Many daycares and pre-schools exist in the area around Loyal Heights and I completely disagree with devoting precious playground space to a pre-k program when those children could easily receive care and education at another site.

Thank you for your consideration. Please forward this email to the departures committee.

Best,

Laurie Gold

Laurie Gold, PhD
Research Scientist
School of Pharmacy
University of Washington
14-303 UW Tower
4333 Brooklyn Ave NE
Box 359455
Seattle, WA 98195-9455

Phone: 206-543-2749

Fax: 206-543-8609

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Frank Swart <Frank.Swart@PREMERA.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 10:02 AM
To: Sheehan, Maureen; Nyland, Kathy
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Loyal Heights Elementary School

As a parent of a Loyal Heights Elementary student, I strongly oppose the remodel as it is currently designed, for the following reasons.

1. The school lot is very small and cannot handle the building as it is currently designed. **We need a larger playground** for the kids and as an after-school gathering place for families.
2. The decision to **build for 660 children** seems to be coupled with the massive expansion of the attendance boundary for the school.
 - a. You will have to **bus kids from up to 1.9 miles away!** Most of them have other elementary schools much closer to them. This is insane! Build out those schools (they have bigger lots), so they too can have a true community school and not be forced to bus to a faraway school.
 - b. Since 95% of the current school boundary/neighborhood is zoned single family, we are simply not experiencing the growth that other nearby elementary schools are, and our current, reasonable boundaries **will never generate 660 students.**
 - c. Please don't use the peak enrollment of 750 students in 1959 as a comparison. That was at the height of the baby boom, when average family sizes were much bigger.
3. The extra rooms you propose are not needed:
 - a. No need for **preschool space** (there are plenty in the neighborhood already),
 - b. No need for **computer labs**, because every kid will have their own computer in a very short time,
 - c. The **music/art/other rooms**, while nice, are a massive expense when you can't even afford to pay for music and art teachers and we have to run fundraisers throughout the year to pay for them.
4. The **center courtyard**, designed to light to some rooms, **will become a "dead" space**, where kids are not allowed to play (because it would disrupt students in the adjacent classrooms), and will not be accessible after school hours.
5. A school of this size will cause **massive traffic problems**, likely more than the traffic study indicated, because it is very likely that the extra rooms (see #3) will be converted to classrooms, you will redraw the boundaries and expand the student population even further.
6. Since there is a good chance the **teacher-to-student ratio** will change in the near future, you should strongly consider building flexible classroom sizes, that can contract, for example, to 17 students if need be. Building for 25/class, especially the current configuration, will likely lead to costly remodels.
7. I question the architect's contention that even smaller school for 450 would have almost the same footprint, because the cafeteria and gym would have to be the same size. Of course the cafeteria, at least, could be smaller if it's for 30% fewer children.
8. I know this is a historic landmark, but would it be possible to remove the circa 1950's building and leave the older building intact? It seems that would eliminate a lot of the trouble architects had in melding the old and the new into an efficient and more space. You could then eliminate the courtyard and have the gym in the center and all the classrooms around the outside to get their nature light.

If given a choice, **I would rather have the school remain as-is**, with portables and all, than have the **massive soul-sucking, neighborhood-destroying school** currently being proposed.

Thank you for your involvement in this process. I know that with a true partnership, we can arrive at a better solution for all involved.

Frank Swart

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Jessica Munns <jessicamunns@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 12:21 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen; Nyland, Kathy
Subject: Loyal Heights Remodel

Categories: Loyal Heights Elementary School

Please vote to recommend against all departures because the current plan for the Loyal Heights Elementary remodel does not provide adequate outdoor space for open air education, special school events, exercise, or safe play. The setbacks are unsafe as they reduce space and visibility.

As designed, the building is too large for the lot. We need a new plan that respects the needs of our students, teachers, staff, and community. Please recommend the school district revisit the requirements for this site. This lot is too small for the number of students and the area it serves. Please do not add additional students from other areas as this will only compound the problems the current site is facing. We don't just want these departures voted down, we want a new plan and we need that to get in the report this committee

Please forward my email to the departures committee.

Jessica Munns
Loyal Heights parent and neighbor

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Jolyn Mason <jolynmason@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 1:24 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen; Nyland, Kathy
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Categories: Loyal Heights Elementary School

I am unable to be at the meeting tonight, but ask that you forward my comments to the Departures Committee.

As a long time resident of the Loyal Heights neighborhood and the parent of two current students and Loyal Heights Elementary, I respectfully request that the variances Seattle Public Schools are seeking NOT be granted.

While I agree that the school needs many updates, the existing lot is not well sized to support the remodel as currently planned. SPS doesn't offer a one size fits all approach to education. In their educational models, the district embraces multiple approaches to engage students in the way they learn best. I hope by not granting SPS the variances they are seeking, the Departures Committee and the City of Seattle tells the SPS that a one size fits all approach to school redesign and remodels does work either.

As the city of Seattle grows, open space like the playground will serve as an even more important and precious community gathering space. This is the back yard for so many families in our neighborhood. I find the courtyard idea nice, but a ridiculous use of the limited space on the lot. Perhaps a bigger lot, like North Beach, has 6,000 square feet to waste, but our lot does not.

With Webster coming back on line as a school and a lot the size of North Beach with a tiny school ripe for remodel, it seems like the district can provide for the students that are part of the proposed LHE service area. Since many of those students are outside of the walk zone and would require bus transportation, it would be a matter of shifting the location of a bus stop.

As an area resident, we've been coming to this playground for years. It's been such a welcoming play space for children of all ages in no small part because of the variety of places children can play and the types of play they can engage in. When my sons went through the list of creative play options that would be gone with the proposed new playground, it broke my heart.

As a district, SPS has committed itself to increasing the amount of recess offered to students - which seems to be an indication that they understand the value of free play. The remodel plan as shown at our last meeting does not provide adequate outdoor space for open air education, special school events, exercise, or safe play.

I'm concerned about the increase of traffic to the area and the fact that the parking studies seemed to be conducted outside of school peak parking hours. Parking around the school at 1 in the afternoon, is VASTLY different than parking on a rainy day at pick up or drop off. Further, I find

it troubling that the traffic impact studies did not take into account earlier elementary school start times that will put LHE families on the road with commuters.

The building is too large for the lot. Tell the district a one size fits all approach to school design isn't going to work. Do not grant the requested variances. Send this back to SPS and ask them to provide a neighborhood school for the neighborhood - not the modern monster they are proposing.

We need a new plan that respects the needs of our students, teachers, staff, and community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jolyn Mason

Loyal Heights Resident and Loyal Heights Elementary Parent

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Pietro Potestà <ilgrande@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 4:01 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen; Nyland, Kathy
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

Categories: Loyal Heights Elementary School

The public participation process for the LHE Remodel is a farce.

While the community is invited to toy with details of the school design, the real issues the whole neighborhood and school parents are discussing are off the table.

1. The district forcing an expansion of the Area of Service on a school with a very compact lot, and an already unfavorable open space per kid ratio. All without any regard to the impact on the educational value of the school grounds on kids and teachers.
2. The added area is considerably far from the school and will add vehicle traffic to an already congested and unresolved situation. Parking, access and circulation are wished away from the new plan, as if the school existed in a vacuum.
3. The school open space is used and loved by the entire community, although small (already) it is a vital open area in an otherwise underserved area; the new design would take all of that space away.

Force feeding design matters when the real important arguments are left behind our back is more the equivalent to **rubber-stamping**, than the (already questionable) attempt at **consensus building**.

The decisions made in the smoky room are making it very difficult for the community and for the professionals invited to participate in such farce, to work together toward an acceptable, if not ideal, final product.

We **strongly question the premises** and the rules of engagement (really? we are going to have 1 minute to speak? with such pressing matters to resolve?) that you are forcing on this community and this strongly involved Loyal Heights group of parents.

It is not too late to do the right thing; zoning departures should be a moment to question the wisdom of a decision clearly born in a bureaucratic fashion (rather than matured within and with the local community). This moment should help all underlining the issues that this plan is laying upon the educators, the children, the local residents, and even the designers. The weak link is the planning, not the approval and validation of the solution.

Thanks

Pietro Potesta

PIETRO POTESTÀ
8023 26th Ave NW Seattle WA 98117
Home 206 297 6935
Cell 206 660 6818
ilgrande@comcast.net

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Lauren Tozzi <teacherlauren350@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 7:17 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary School remodel

Categories: Loyal Heights Elementary School

Dear Maureen,

I am writing to you to express my sadness regarding the remodel plans for Loyal Heights Elementary School. The plans do not seem to understand what children need to thrive. Children need space to play, climb, run and enjoy the outdoors.

Why are the plans devoid of play areas? Have you all forgotten what it is to be a child? Concrete is hard, ugly and unsafe.

Children need physical activity and nutrition. They need places that are open and inviting and fun. The current plan is plain lousy.

I find it outrageous that children get 20 minutes to eat..and recess time is decreasing!!

And why a Preschool? There are so many in the neighborhood already.

Frankly, I think you should work with the children. They have great ideas and can show you what it means to have a school that values them- they could teach you ALL a few things!

Sincerely,

Lauren M. Tozzi
Teacher at Crown Hill 3-5's Cooperative Preschool

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Darrell Toland <tolandcreative@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 9:07 AM
To: Doherty, Erin
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary School

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Ms. Doherty,

My name is Darrell Toland. I live in Loyal Heights. I have two daughters, ages 14 and 10. The oldest spent K-5 at Loyal Heights Elementary. The youngest is currently there attending 5th grade. She also started at this school in Kindergarten. LHE is a very successful school. It has a solid staff but mostly it has a solid community of parents and neighbors that give their time and energy to make the school the success it is. This model works because as parents, we constantly mingle and share on the playground before and after school. This BUILDS community. This is not a commuter school.

When I heard there was going to be a remodel/addition I thought, "fantastic". I imaged a design that improves what we have. A design that is environmentally sound and integrates seamlessly with the neighborhood respecting the neighbors, fauna, and community. What we got was a Costco.

What this project is, is a very poor attempt to correct past short sighted planning with a "fix all" monstrosity. This design is simply too big for this space. The variances being asked for offer an obvious clue to how wrong this is. No setbacks? Commercial height allowances.

The "traffic study" was a joke. More importantly than that is the lack of green space. This isn't a High School or Middle School. It's an ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. These kids need to run and move and play. Besides this being a potential a toe hold for developers to change our zoning for future development, Image waking up every morning to a massive wall. That's what the neighbors on the West side will experience. Especially with 90% of the mature tree canopy removed. The scale alone disregards and ignores the very community it's supposed support. It's an insult.

Why is the district attempting to bus kids past three perfectly good schools in order to bring them to Ballard? The Nordic Heritage Museum is moving making Webster available. North Beach has much more open space for an expansion. I suggest the district goes back and start over with a smaller, smarter plan.

Regards,
Darrell Toland
206-383-0445
tolandcreative@me.com

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Brian Utting <brianutting1mp@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 6:05 PM
To: Doherty, Erin
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary School Construction Zoning Waivers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Erin,

I live at 7511 25th Ave NW, about a block from the Loyal Heights Elementary School, a designated historic landmark. My grandparents moved into this neighborhood in 1924, and my mother attended Loyal Heights Elementary School. I've visited and stayed with my family here since the 50s, and have lived on this block for 20 years. Having been part of the neighborhood for so many years, I have a pretty good instinct about what this neighborhood needs, and what it can handle.

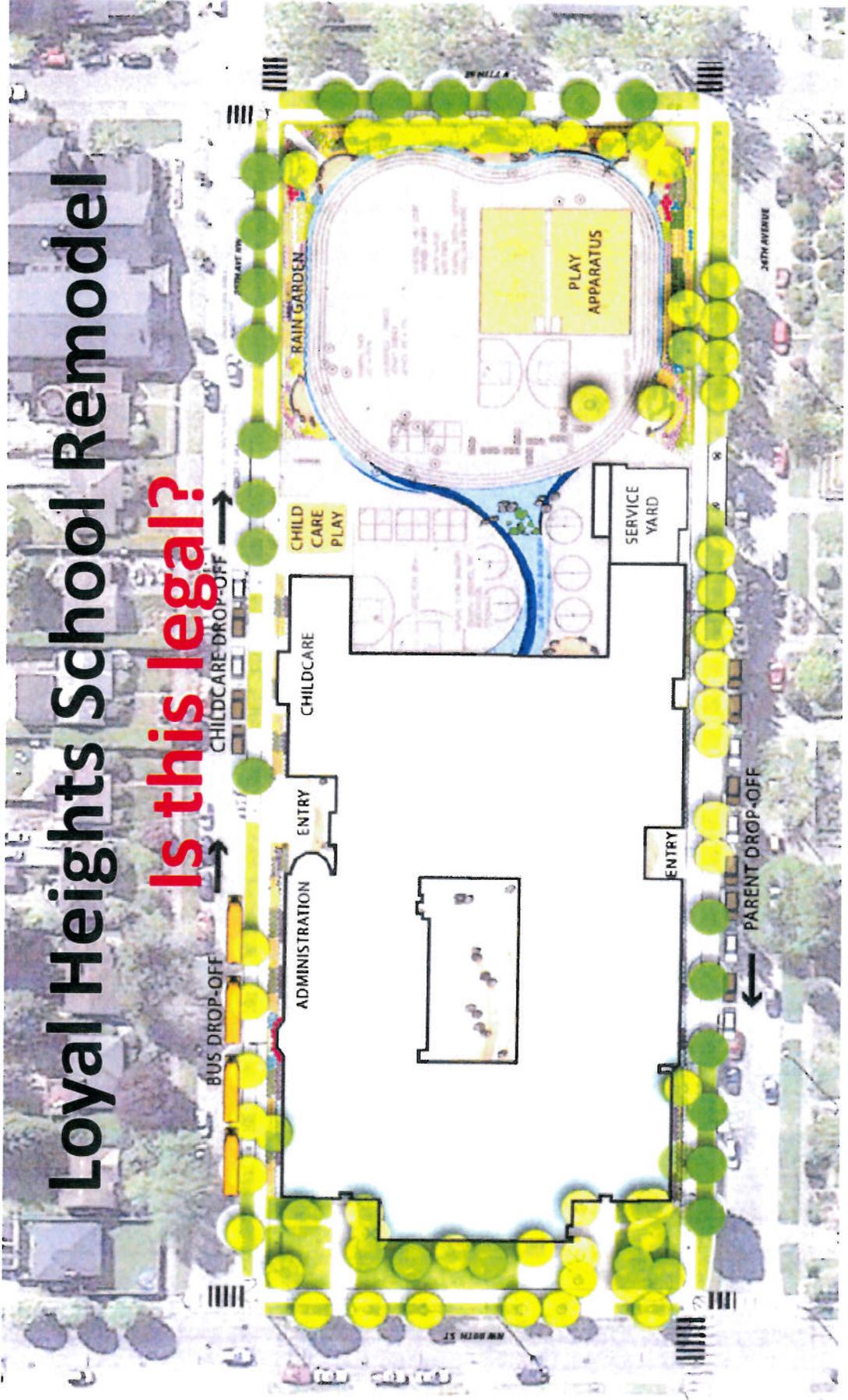
I want to formally state that I am absolutely opposed to the proposed enlargement and construction zoning waivers/departures for Loyal Heights School. Besides radically changing this historic landmark, the footprint of the school simply can't absorb that much building, that many students, or that much traffic. Furthermore, it would destroy the planting and play space that the neighbors have worked so hard to build. I think it's also significant that 90 neighborhood people showed up at the last Loyal Heights meeting to comment on the proposal, and 85 out of 90 objected to it.

I'd also like to go on the record as opposing the Seattle School District's proposal to increase the capacity of the school in the first place. This small parcel (one of the smallest elementary school parcels in the city) simply can't absorb 200-300 more students, and it makes absolutely no sense to import children from other neighborhoods, especially given that some of the other schools have additional capacity, as well as being located closer to the students who live in those areas. This "one size fits all" approach of assigning 600+ students to each campus is ill-conceived and short-sighted, and really doesn't take the character of individual neighborhoods and schools into account. I know that's not your realm of influence, but I think it's the source of the problem.

Thank you,
Sincerely,
Brian Utting

Loyal Heights School Remodel

Is this legal?



Does it meet SPS requirements?

Generic Educational Specifications for a Four-Section Elementary School*

The school site must provide adequate areas for entering and leaving, parent pick-up and drop-off, **parking, and play fields.**

The site should include:

- Outdoor learning area:** “At least 1 area for a class of 30 students to gather [with] growing beds, compost area and circulation.”
- Structured play area: “Grades K or 1 through 5 play area to consist of all-weather surface play area (typically asphalt) and a minimum of one age-appropriate play structure for 5 to 12 year olds.”
- Grassy Activity Area:** “Ideally, one 360’ x 250’ field for soccer (or as large as can be accommodated).”

NO! There is no space for an outdoor learning area nor a grassy activity area. There is no room for parking. Three of the general site requirements are not met!

*Written for Seattle Public Schools June 2012: <http://bex.seattleschools.org/assets/bulkUpload/Generic-Educational-Specifications-for-Four.pdf>

Is an on-site bus loading departure needed?



Seattle Municipal Code 23.51B.002 - Public schools in residential zones

I. Bus and Truck Loading and Unloading.

1. Unless subsection 1.4 of this section 23.51B.002 applies, an off-street bus loading and unloading area of a size reasonable to meet the needs of the school shall be provided and may be located in any required yard. The bus loading and unloading area may be permitted in landscaped areas provided under subsection 23.51B.002.F.1.b if the Director determines that landscaping around the loading and unloading area softens the impacts of its appearance on abutting properties.
[...]

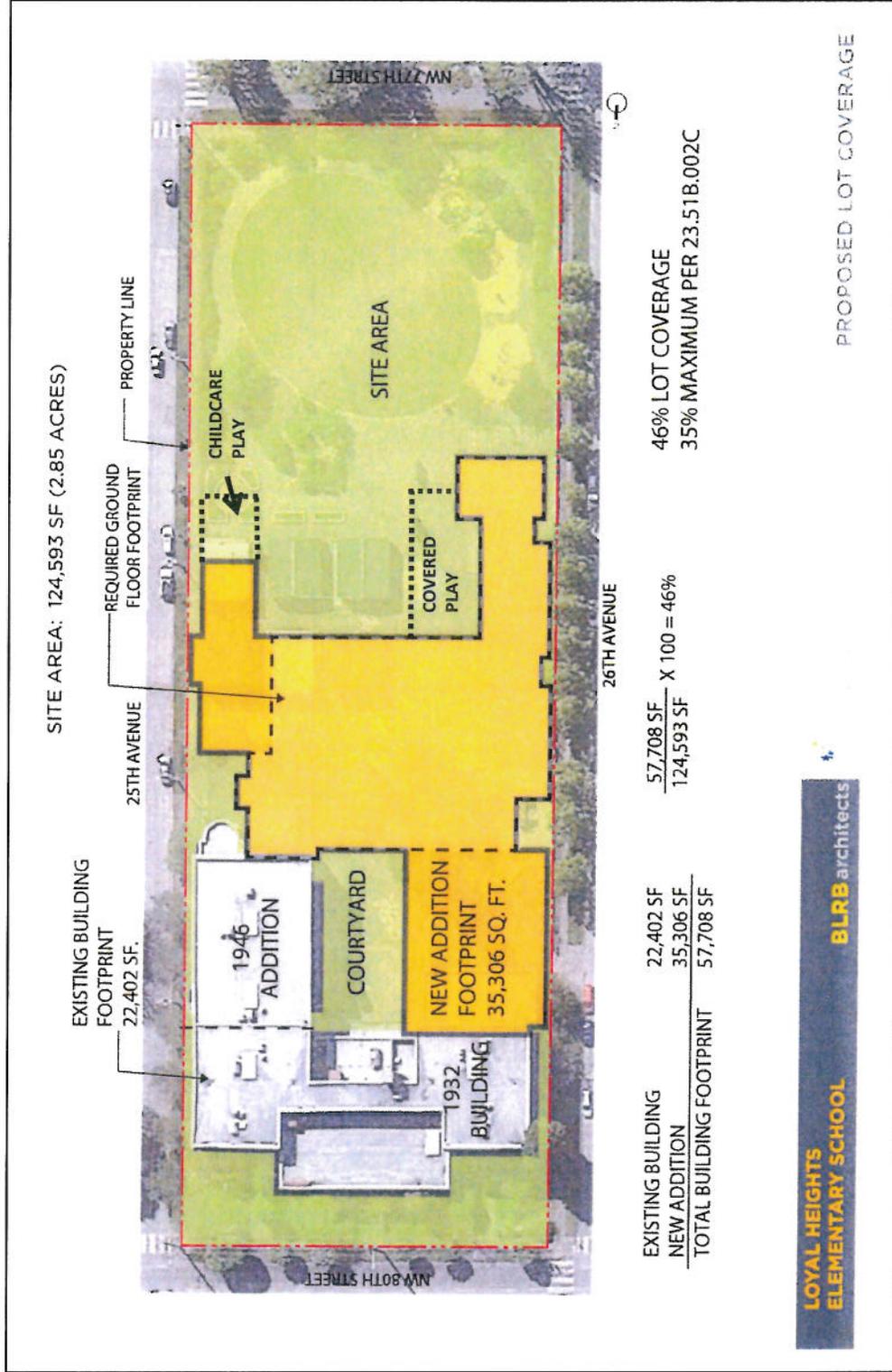
4. When a public school is remodeled or rebuilt at the same site, an existing on-street bus loading area is allowed if the following conditions are met:

- a. The school site is not proposed to be expanded;
- b. **The student capacity of the school is not being expanded by more than 25 percent;** and
- c. The location of the current on-street bus loading remains the same.

YES! The capacity of the school is 359 students and has been so since 1946, when the east wing was added. The temporary addition of middle school students during the renovation of Whitman in 1959 did not change the capacity of the school.* Locals even believe that the elementary school students and middle school students attended the school in morning and afternoon shifts such that they did not overlap.

*http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=10548

Proposed LHE Lot Coverage



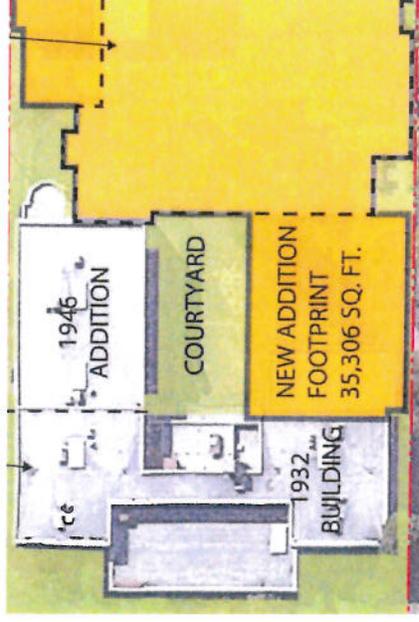
Does the courtyard count towards lot coverage?

Seattle Municipal Code 23.86.018 - Open space

Certain zones require a minimum amount of open space to be provided on the lot. For those cases where open space is required, the following provisions shall apply:

In order for a portion of a lot to qualify as open space, *the ground's surface shall be permeable*, except for patios, paved areas designed for recreation, and pedestrian access which meets the Washington State Rules and Regulations for Barrier-Free Design. *The area shall be landscaped with grass, ground cover, bushes and/or trees.*

NO! The courtyard cannot be accessed from the exterior of the school, will be covered in cement, is not landscaped, and is not designed for recreation!



Is the MAXIMUM allowed lot coverage requirement exceeded?

Seattle Municipal Code 23.51B.002: Lot Coverage in Single Family Zones

1. For new public school construction on new public school sites the maximum lot coverage permitted for all structures is 45 percent of the lot area for one story structures or 35 percent of the lot area if any structure or portion of a structure has more than one story.
2. For new public school construction and additions to existing public school structures on existing public school sites, the maximum lot coverage permitted is the greater of the following:
 - a. The lot coverage permitted in subsection 23.51B.002.C.1; or
 - b. The lot coverage of the former school structures on the site, provided that the height of the new structure or portion of structure is no greater than that of the former structures when measured according to Section 23.86.006.F, and at least 50 percent of the footprint of the new principal structure is constructed on a portion of the lot formerly occupied by the footprint of the former principal structure.
3. *Departures from lot coverage limits may be granted or required pursuant to the procedures and criteria set forth in [Chapter 23.79](#). Up to 55 percent lot coverage may be allowed for single-story structures, and up to 45 percent lot coverage for structures of more than one story.* Lot coverage restrictions may be waived by the Director as a Type I decision when waiver would contribute to reduced demolition of residential structures.

YES! The architects are asking for 46% lot coverage. Including the interior paved courtyard, the actual lot coverage is 50%. This not only exceeds the recommended lot coverage, it exceeds the maximum allowed lot coverage *through departures* for a school in a residential neighborhood.

Did the Department of Neighborhoods contact the community as required?

Seattle Municipal Code 23.79.006 - Notice provided for development standard departure

A. If notice is required pursuant to this [Chapter 23.79](#), except mailed notice as defined in [Section 23.84A.025](#), it may be provided by electronic means if the recipient provides an e-mail address to the Department of Neighborhoods (DON). Notice to City agencies may be provided through the City's interoffice mail or by electronic means.

B. Notification of the application and formation of a Development Standard Advisory Committee and the first meeting of the advisory committee shall be provided by the DON Director in the following manner:

1. Mailed notice;
2. Inclusion in the Land Use Information Bulletin;
3. **Posting one land use sign visible to the public at each street frontage abutting the site except**, when there is no street frontage or the site abuts an unimproved street, the DON Director shall either post more than one sign or select an alternative posting location so that notice is clearly visible to the public;
4. Through the regular processes of a parents' organization, if one exists; and
5. Provision of notice to community organizations known to the DON Director as representing the local area, and to other organizations that have made a written request for notice and provided an address for notice.

NO! No land use signs were posted at the school advising the community of the departures meetings or on the application or formation of the committee.

Do we need this capacity?

Rooms	Students	Source
24 classrooms	640	Architectural Plans (4 classrooms per grade)
2 SPED rooms	20	Architectural Plans
3 Flex rooms	80	"We have seen in other schools how quickly these spaces are used to absorb population bubbles" – Dr. Herndon*
2 Daycare rooms	53	"Daycare is not the primary role of SPS. But these rooms can easily be converted to kindergarten rooms" – Dr. Herndon*
2 Computer rooms	53	"If the computer rooms become obsolete, we can convert that space into classrooms" – Mr. Best**
2 Art rooms	53	Like computer rooms, art rooms can be used as classrooms when needed
Total:	899 students	Based on school district numbers; 26 students per class for grades K-3 28 students per class for grades 4-5; 10 students per SPED classroom

SPS cannot predict our school population in 5 years. This year they predicted an increase of 1100 students, and the actual increase was only 411 students*.**

BEX V will be presented to Seattle voters in 3 ½ years – which will provide SPS the opportunity to remodel and expand other schools in our neighborhood. The responsibility to house any population increase does not need to reside with LHE alone.

*Source – Meeting on 2/24/15 with: Eric Becker, Capital Sr PM, SPS; Flip Herndon, Assistant Superintendent, Capital, Facilities & Enrollment Planning, SPS; Richard Best, Director, Capital Projects and Planning, SPS

**Source – SPS Community Meeting on 3/12/15 with: Eric Becker, Capital Sr PM, SPS; Richard Best, Director, Capital Projects and Planning, SPS

***<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/education/seattle-teachers-to-be-reassigned-amid-lower-than-expected-enrollment/>

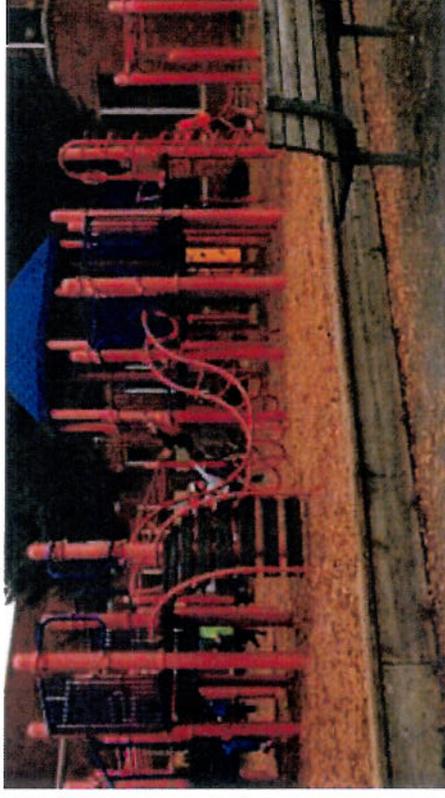
Why does this matter?

These municipal codes were designed with the health and safety of our schools and our community in mind. Each departure granted and each rule ignored and broken puts our students, our schools and our community at risk.

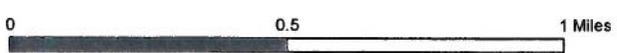
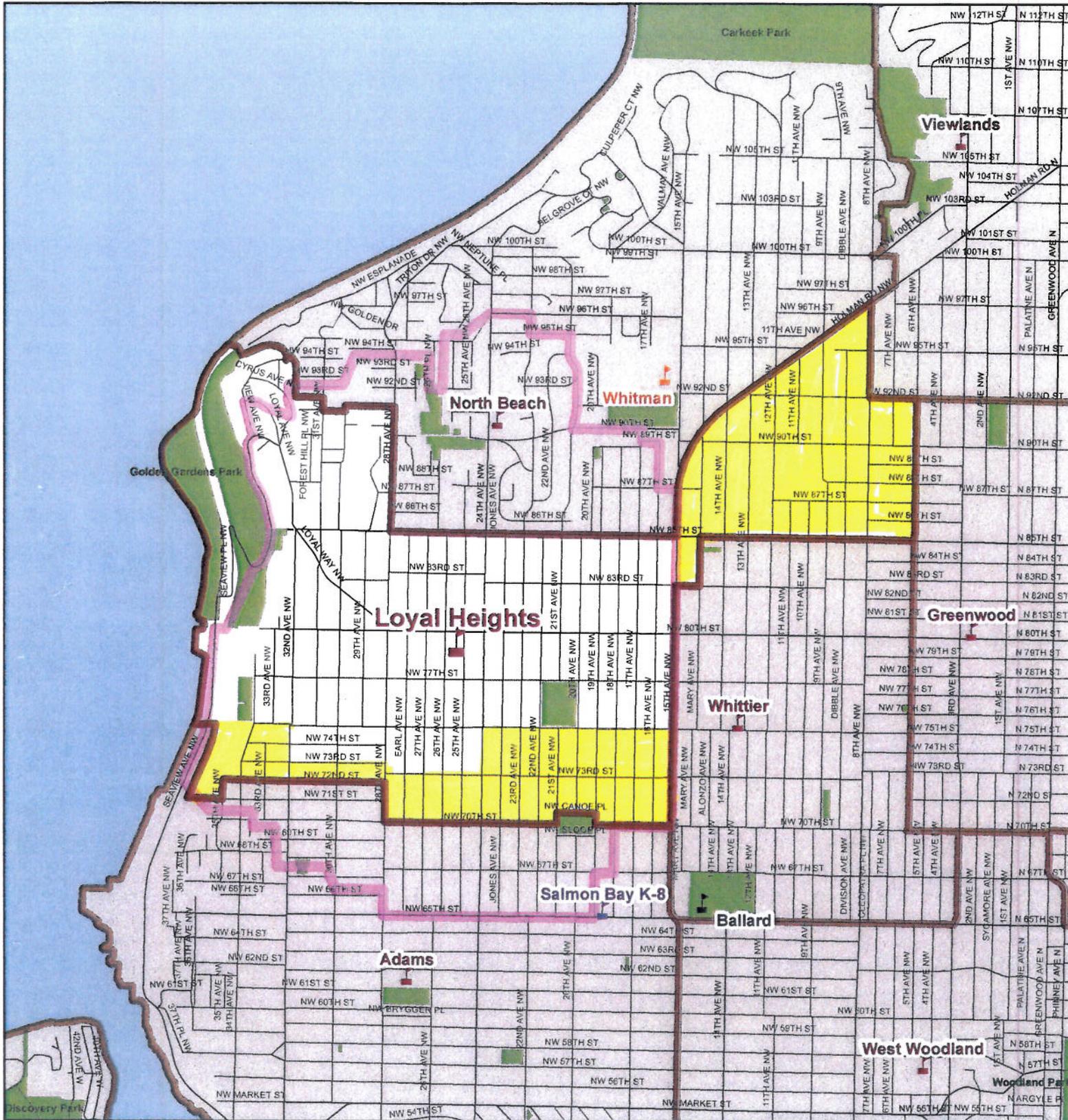
The Loyal Heights Elementary remodel will set a precedent for future elementary school construction. If this remodel is allowed to go ahead as planned, other small schools on small lots can be mega-sized as well. This will result in the loss of valuable open space and will impact the learning environment, health and safety of students across the district.

“Playgrounds are an important component of our educational environments, to support physical, social and emotional development of all children, but we’ve also seen them become a gathering space outside of school hours, where we see adults drinking coffee or tea and chatting, getting to know each other while supervising their children. You not only have a beautiful playground when you’re done, but all the people involved have a strong connection to the school. It really makes a difference.” –DeDecker, SPS Program Manager, Oct 2015.

<http://www.districtadministration.com/article/seattle-school-playgrounds-become-community-gathering-spots>



GIVE US A BETTER PLAN!



- Attendance Area
- Walk Zone
- New Area
- AA Elementary School
- Option Elementary School
- AA Middle School
- AA High School
- Option High School
- Service School

Map data: Future Growth Boundaries and Sites. Approved Nov. 20, 2013. Map last updated: 3/12/2015

The names on this map are not intended to reflect the official name of any school building. They are instead intended to ensure better public understanding based upon familiar reference, particularly in situations where program and school building names differ. This information has been compiled by SPS staff from a variety of sources and is subject to change without notice. SPS makes no representation or warranties, expressed or implied, as to accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or rights to the use of such information. SPS shall not be liable for any general, special, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages including, but not limited to, lost revenues or lost profits resulting from the use or misuse of the information contained on this map. Any sale of this map or information on this map is prohibited. MapFile: AA_ES_2020_20150311_1152

October 5, 2015

File: loyal heights departures statement

My name is Chris Jackins.

(Box 84063, Seattle 98124) (521-3288)

I am the coordinator of the Seattle Committee to Save Schools.

Eight points:

1. I oppose all of the proposed departures from City zoning code on the Loyal Heights project. The project is too large for the site.
2. The proposed departures from Code are too large, they would harm the neighborhood, and the impacts on the neighborhood are out of balance with the need for the departures.
3. The school does NOT "need", and the neighborhood does NOT "need", a 10,000 square foot SMALLER playground.
4. Lot coverage is too large, building height is too tall, building setbacks are too small, on-site parking is inadequate, and allowing school buses to load on the street instead of on-site is less safe.
5. The project should not be a mega school. It should instead focus on upgrades to things like plumbing and electrical systems, and making educational improvements.
6. Once the Departure Committee recommends that the departures be rejected, the City Department of Planning and Development (the DPD) is unlikely to approve the construction permits, which means that the project would have to be redesigned.

7. The District's proposal is bulging at the seams. Any change in one place makes it bulge out in another place. Providing more parking would squeeze the buildings higher. The District's recent move to reduce the height of some of the buildings made the buildings bulge out and take up more of the playground. These are signs that the project is too large for the site.

8. We need a new plan. District staff should go back to the Superintendent and School Board, and recommend a smaller school.

Please reject ALL of the departures.

Thank you.

Loyal Heights Elementary School Construction Project

(2511 NW 80th Street, Seattle, WA 98117)

Please Attend a Public Meeting on Construction

Zoning Waivers --- Monday Oct. 5, 2015 --- 6:30 PM

At the Lunch Room at Loyal Heights Elementary School

The School District plans to make Loyal Heights a large 660-student mega-school. The playground would shrink by 10,000 square feet and the grass would be removed. There would be increased impacts from traffic and parking. *(Note: The plans were recently updated – see “NEWS” below.)*

The School District does not plan to meet City Code on the new construction, and is requesting waivers (“departures”) from City Zoning requirements on the proposed Loyal Heights school construction project. According to previous City notices:

1. The school would have greater lot coverage (50%) than is allowed by City Code (35%).
2. The school buildings would be taller (60 feet) than is allowed by City Code (35 feet).
3. The school buildings in some places would have zero (0) setback which is not allowed by City Code.
4. The school would provide less on-site parking than is required by City Code (zero on-site parking).
5. School buses would violate City Code requirements to load and unload on-site, and instead load and unload on the street.

A “Departure” Committee will take public input on zoning waivers, which can be approved, denied, or approved with conditions.

The meeting is being run by the Department of Neighborhoods (DON). The Chair and contact for the Committee is Maureen Sheehan. Written comments can be sent to Maureen Sheehan, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, 700 5th Avenue, Suite 1700, P.O. Box 94649, Seattle WA 98124; 684-0302; maureen.sheehan@seattle.gov. The rules allow at least 3 public meetings.

WHAT WE RECOMMEND: The departures should NOT be approved. We believe that the proposed departures from Code are too large, they would harm the neighborhood, and the impacts on the neighborhood are out of balance with the need for the departures. The school does NOT “need”, and the neighborhood does NOT “need”, a 10,000 square foot SMALLER playground. The project is too large for the site.

--- The project should be redesigned away from being a mega school and should instead focus on upgrades to plumbing, electrical systems, educational improvements, etc. Once the Departure Committee recommends that the departures be rejected, the City Department of Planning and Development (DPD) is unlikely to approve the construction permits, which means that the project would have to be redesigned.

NEWS! On Monday September 28, 2015, parents and community members testified at a hearing on the appeal we filed to ask for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Hearing Examiner indicated that she will issue recommendations to the Superintendent on our appeal by November 2, 2015. At the hearing, the District divulged brand NEW plans which included: (1) a 2-story building instead of a 3-story building; (2) the same 660-student size; (3) an expanded footprint, shrinking the playground by at least another 1,000 square feet beyond the previous 10,000 square foot loss.

The environmental Checklist describing the Loyal Heights school construction project is posted on the District website at <http://sepa.www.seattleschools.org> The Checklist describes the OLD plans, NOT the new, changed plans, as follows:

Loyal Heights is a 660-student mega-school project, which would be an increase of 46% from the current 450 students. [page 30, Environmental Checklist] The project would occur from August 2016 to June 2018. [page 1, Checklist] After removal of the existing portables, the school would more than double in size, creating a 91,000 square foot school building by adding a three-story 356-seat building on the south side of the existing 304-seat 37,841 square foot building. [DNS and pages i, 2 Checklist] “The grassed play field would be converted to impervious surface” and “the outdoor area would be approximately 10,000 square feet smaller than the existing play area”. [pages 9, 21, Checklist] Approximately 30 trees total would be removed. [page 10] With new additions, event seating will be 755 people. For large events, “the parking overflow would be noticeable and would likely be congested along the roadways closest to the school.” [page 27, Appendix D, Transportation Technical Report] “A solar evaluation was conducted and 26th Avenue NW would be shaded longer than it is currently, but by mid to late morning (depending on the time of the year) it would be in sunlight.” [District response to comment #11, page 9, Attachment E]

Chris Jackins, Coordinator, Seattle Committee to Save Schools, P.O. Box 84063, Seattle WA 98124 (phone: 206-521-3288)

SEATTLE WA 98100

OCT 2015 PM 7 L



Delivered to U.S. Bank in error.
Please forward.

Attn: Maureen Sheehan
Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
P.O. Box 94649
Seattle, WA 98124-4649



Date: October 5, 2015

To: The Departure Committee
CC: Seattle School Board
RE: Loyal Heights Elementary Remodel

We are writing as concerned future parents of Seattle Public Schools and Loyal Heights Elementary students:

- Because recess time is learning time.
- Because children need time and space to exercise in order to learn properly.
- Because a plan that would dramatically reduce playground space would jeopardize the safety and health of our children.

We ask the following:

- That the plans be altered to restore outdoor playground space footage per child that is equal to the average space per child in the area.
- That the planned pre-school building and connected play area be removed to provide more play space. There is already an abundance of pre-schools within a mile of the school and at least 75% of them are currently under enrolled.
- That providing adequate outdoor play space be made a priority of this project as a show of respect to our children and the educators and staff who work with them every school day.

We know that children without space to play do not get adequate exercise. They often become injured trying to move around in the space allotted to them. This has happened in schools like Adams Elementary and it will happen at Loyal Heights if a change is not made.

We need a better plan!

Thank you for your respectful attention to our concerns.

Crown Hill Cooperative Pre-School

Erica Prentice (Chair)
Teacher Lauren Tozzi
Treasurer
AKIKO YABUKI Parent Coordinator
ANNA WINTER
Alrianna Hulscher

Naomi Scoggin
Sarah Mann
(Secretary)

Shelly Fyfe
Stanwood
(over)

Janyia Kwon
Handwritten signatures

Brian Moynihan
Brian Moynihan (Co-chair)

Sheehan, Maureen

From: Kurt Esveldt <kurte@TridentSeafoods.com>
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 12:59 PM
To: Sheehan, Maureen
Subject: FW: Loyal Heights Elementary School Design

Categories: Loyal Heights Elementary School

From: Kurt Esveldt
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 12:53 PM
To: 'Kathy.Nyland@Seattle.gov'
Cc: 'erin.doherty@seattle.gov'
Subject: Loyal Heights Elementary School Design

10/16/2015

Ms. Nyland and Ms. Sheehan:

As Ballard residents and parents living since 1979 less than 100' south of the Loyal Heights Elementary School, my wife (Kay Wilson) and I have watched with increasing concern the confusing intended construction of a school addition at Loyal Heights that is too large for this site.

A significant majority of local residents, parents, and the Loyal Heights Standards Departure Advisory Committee have reviewed and repeatedly stated the proposed design is inappropriate for this location.

The extensive zoning variances required for this design clearly confirm a proposed structure well out of step with existing building and education standards. Despite glib and often arrogant assurances of architects and Seattle school representatives, this majority of residents, parents, and the Committee recognize the substantial negative impacts this design will impose on the community and children attending this school.

As a professional capital construction project manager I all too often see rushed and ill-conceived projects fail to address their intended functions. Sleek architectural renditions will not compensate our children for a poor learning environment and our community for an immense box structure of negative aesthetic and environmental value.

I ask you to join and support the Advisory Committee in their suggested community design review to consider school addition designs in concert with our children's educational needs and the community they inhabit.

Best regards,

Kurt Esveldt and Kay Wilson

7554 26 7u Ave NW

206 331 0664

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