

**From:** Leah Boyan [mailto:leahboyan@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 25, 2016 9:52 AM  
**To:** PCD <pcd@bainbridgewa.gov>  
**Cc:** Missi Goss <mgoss@madronaschool.org>  
**Subject:** Supporting Madrona School's New Campus at Lowery Farmers

Dear Mr Machen,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter to you in support of the Madrona school at Lowry farm.

As a volunteer at Madrona School, it may not surprise you that I support the Conditional Use Permit for locating a school at this property. I could easily write about how the school is more than its staff, teachers parents and students, that the school is a community of dedicated educators who know their students are part of the fabric of this island. They know their students engage, observe, learn and lead.

But I understand there is opposition to permitting this space as a school, and those opposed to having neighbors that are dedicated, conscientious members of this island are understandably more concerned about traffic and other logistic issues. As I sit here learning more about the CUP process, I am impressed with the thoughtfulness and understanding the school administration has for their future neighbor's concerns. They have considered staggering start times to offset the back up of traffic on Madison (caused, no doubt, by neighbors driving their own children to school). They have arranged offsite parking and shuttle options for the quarterly events already held at the location. Parents already carpool as part of the school culture. The administration is absolutely dedicated to being good neighbors, to honoring the open space, the green buffer, the standing trees, and turning the farm into a community center than enhances the value of the entire neighborhood.

Thank you,

Leah Boyan

On Oct 21, 2016, at 10:26 AM, Madrona School <[office@madronaschool.org](mailto:office@madronaschool.org)> wrote:

Write to the City of Bainbridge Island in Support of Madrona School!

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# MADRONA SCHOOL

## WALDORF EDUCATION

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Dear parents and friends of Madrona School,

Do you love the outdoor experiences at Lowery Farm that your child has enjoyed this year? Would you like to see our program there expand, deepen and become a permanent part of our school? **To help secure our future at the farm, we need your help now!**



Today, we are half way through the two-week written comment period for our CUP application, which closes on Friday, October 28. **Here are three things you can do THIS WEEKEND to help.**

**1)** Your voice NOW in support of this project is important! Please write a letter to the City of Bainbridge Island telling them why you think they should grant Madrona School a Conditional Use Permit. In addition to the benefits of giving a Waldorf education to our children, some important points you may want to cover include:

- Having a broad array of educational choices - excellent public, independent prep, Catholic, Carden, Montessori and Waldorf schools - makes our island more culturally vibrant and an attractive place for families to raise children which keeps more families rooted here.

- Madrona School offers place-based outdoor learning which instills in children a deep love and sense of responsibility for their island home.
- Having a larger, rural campus will help us more fully realize our vision of a lively, hands-on Waldorf education with room for children to move their bodies, work in the garden, tend forest paths, play, explore and be happy.
- Madrona School has a track record of being a responsive and courteous neighbor. Our school culture is to work collaboratively to solve issues that arise. We are pro-actively planning how to be a good neighbor and have created a traffic, parking and lighting plan in response to concerns that were raised at a public meeting in July. At our recent Michaelmas Festival we accommodated 90 cars in the meadow and not one car parked along the shoulder of Madison or Windsong Loop. We had new signage and backup plans for overflow parking off site with a shuttle were in place but not used.
- City regulations require that we keep 92.5% of the property in open space! If this project does not go forward and the land is sold (likely for housing subdivision) a much greater portion of the land will be covered with buildings and driveways.
- Our plans call for conserving all of the major trees on the site, with only a minimal number removed for the exit drive. The existing vegetation along Madison will be maintained as a visual screen.
- A project such as this is subject to a higher level of scrutiny and accountability than housing subdivisions, thus ensuring that the public's voice is actively considered.

**2)** Ask a friend who lives near Lowery Farm to write a letter of support. Feel free to forward this email to help give a sense of what might be addressed. Letters from nearby residents are weighted more heavily in the city's review process.

**3)** Do you know a city council person, a past mayor, a prominent business person, a respected educator in our community? Ask one of our civic leaders on Bainbridge to write a letter of support.

**Join us on Tuesday morning in the Fellowship Hall for a letter writing party at 9:00am.** We will have sample letters for inspiration, stationary & pens for those who prefer the old-fashioned way, as well as yummy treats. Bring your laptop if you prefer to send an email. Or stop by just to chat and look at plans of the project.

Written comments should be sent to: Josh Machen, [pcd@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:pcd@bainbridgewa.gov). Remember to include your name and address. (I would appreciate it if you would also cc me, too.)



**Thank you so very much for your support. Truly, your action now could make a big difference in our school's future.**

Sincerely and gratefully,

Missi, on behalf of the board, the campus committee, the teachers and the children

P.S. To those of you who have already sent letters to the city, THANK YOU



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