

**From:** Dawn Ream [mailto:dream7@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 26, 2016 8:21 AM  
**To:** PCD <pcd@bainbridgewa.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Madrona School Lowery Farm Property

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [dream7@comcast.net](mailto:dream7@comcast.net)  
**Date:** October 25, 2016 at 7:42:11 PM PDT  
**To:** [ped@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:ped@bainbridgewa.gov)  
**Cc:** Missi Goss <[mgoss@madronaschool.org](mailto:mgoss@madronaschool.org)>  
**Subject:** Madrona School Lowery Farm Property

October 25, 2016

Dear Mr. Machen,

I am writing in response to the community open comment period for the Madrona School CUP application at the Lowery Farm property on Madison.

I grew up on Bainbridge Island attending Blakely, Commodore and graduated from Bainbridge High School in 1980. I feel so privileged to have been able to move back to Bainbridge Island to raise my son who was born in 2005.

If you would have told me I would have a child in private school on Bainbridge Island I would have told you "never" as the public schools here on Bainbridge are some of the best in the state. But when my son was 18 months old a friend told me about Madrona's parent toddler program and she said she thought I would really like it. I signed us up and took my son to Madrona, he is now 11 and we have never left. He will graduate from Madrona's 8th grade in three years with his classmates and teacher he will have traveled 8 years with to graduation and some students longer from kindergarten, preschool and parent toddler program. I knew this was a unique and special education preserving our childrens childhood and nurturing them at developmentally appropriate stages so they are prepared to be released into the world to be exactly who they are meant to be.

When the opportunity came to invest in the property on Madison I knew my son would have left Madrona long behind by the time a school was built. I feel strongly about this education and this school having a permanent home and our family scraped together some money with several other families to purchase the Lowery property to give the school time to study and complete the permitting process. It is my dream for the Madrona School to have a permanent home at the Lowery property on Madison.

Waldorf education instills a deep sense of truth and beauty in our children by having them outdoors. Since acquiring the Lowery property I have watched our community grow together in this process of having a home to nurture our children in the out of doors. The garden at the Lowery property has been used on a daily basis by our students and my sons class has been on the property gardening, observing, attending festivals and caring for the land on a weekly basis since the purchase of the land.

I believe Madrona school on this property will benefit the surrounding neighborhoods and the Island as a whole by the very nature of Waldorf education. The land will be handled with care and preservation as part of a legacy to the children who attend this school in the future.

I live on Beachcrest Drive off of Madison so I am a neighbor of the Lowery property as well as parent at Madrona. Having been a part of the Madrona community for over 9 years, I know that we are committed to working together with the larger community to solve any issues related to the schools presence.

This school has been looking for more than ten years for a sight on which to call home, as you know it is difficult to find a sight that meets all the requirements for a school to be built. I believe this property is our chance to support Madrona school and make sure the school and the land is here for others in the future.

Thank you for taking time to read the letters coming your way in this process.

Respectfully,

Dawn Ream  
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