

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Kellee O'Rourke <
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 3:28 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment on Closed Session--Jefferson lease negotiations

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Please read into the record for closed session item on Jefferson lease negotiations:

My name is Kellee Backstrom, and I am a resident of the City of Pasadena, District 4. My children attend PUSD's Longfellow Magnet School, and **I am asking that you support Longfellow's relocation to Jefferson School because it's what's best for our children and school community.**

We are excited that Longfellow will undergo construction and modernization thanks to voter-approved Measure O. This major investment in our schools is great for Pasadena. Because the plans for the remodel are so extensive, Longfellow needs to be relocated. Initially PUSD proposed relocating Longfellow families to Allendale. More than 80% of Longfellow's students are from socioeconomically disadvantaged households (this is the term that the school district uses on reports), and Longfellow has nearly 600 children enrolled making it one of PUSD's largest elementary schools.

Moving to Allendale is not what is best for our kids and school community. It takes 20-30 minutes to travel to from Longfellow during peak travel times like the morning. Moving to Allendale will unduly burden families that need your support the most. It will mean that 4 and 5 year olds will lose an hour or more of precious morning sleep, and it will mean that families will have to travel across town for parent-teacher conferences or to pick up a sick kid to an area that is not well-served by public transportation. Allendale has not been operated as a regular PUSD school since 2005, and is in disrepair according to the District. Because of Longfellow's size, the only site that can work for families and can accommodate a school of our size is Jefferson.

Our school community organized and shared our concerns with the School Board who voted to instead relocate our children to Jefferson. **We ask that the City Council join the School Board in doing what is best for our children and supporting the relocation to Jefferson School.** It's not just for Longfellow, but also for other schools on the eastside that will be modernized in future years that will also need to relocate like Don Benito and Field. We understand that this creates challenges for the City, but are hopeful that with community-focused leadership at both the City and the District, the challenges can be met.

When the City and School District entered into the lease for Jefferson, it was with the understanding that District did not need the location to provide primary education to our Pasadena kids. The situation has changed. We ask that you honor the original intent of the contract which includes termination language for exactly this purpose--so that the needs of our kids could be met. The anticipated circumstances have now made it necessary to exercise the clause. With 18 months of notice, we hope our school and city leadership can work in tandem to continue to serve the best interest of our kids.

My kids were displaced from Jefferson when it was closed, then COVID disrupted their schooling for 2+ years, and now I'm worried they'll have to be sent to Allendale which won't work for our family and other families like us. Please join the School Board in doing right by our kids.

Thank you.

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Michelle Fenske .m>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 4:17 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment

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Hello,

I am writing with a public comment for the special city council meeting on February 5, 2024.

My comment regards the temporary relocation of Longfellow elementary due to construction. I am a parent of two children who currently attend Longfellow. I live in Pasadena District 2.

First of all, I am so glad that Longfellow has been selected to undergo modernization. The school building is definitely in need of renovation and repairs to equip it as a learning environment for the 21st century. We are also grateful that the school board listened to stakeholder concerns regarding the temporary relocation of Longfellow and approved the move to Jefferson for the 2025-26 school year.

I am asking the City Council to please work collaboratively with PUSD to facilitate the temporary move to Jefferson. It is truly the decision that is in the best interests of the students. So many families in our school community live right in the neighborhood. Many of us are within walking distance of Longfellow and/or Jefferson. (I'm sure that PUSD can provide you with precise numbers about where families live.) We ask that all of the elected and appointed leaders in our community please work together for the best interests of these young children, their families, and teachers. And also please be fiscally responsible and do not enter into any expensive legal battles. All of us taxpayers would definitely appreciate that!!

Thank you,
Michelle Fenske

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Cheryl Carandang Nocon
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 5:53 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Gordo, Victor; Williams, Felicia
Subject: Public Comment - Longfellow Elementary relocation to Jefferson

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Cheryl Nocon and I am a resident of the City of Pasadena, District 2. My child attends PUSD's Longfellow Magnet School, and I am asking that you support Longfellow's temporary relocation to Jefferson School in 2025. We are excited that Longfellow will undergo construction and modernization thanks to voter-approved Measure O. This major investment in our schools is great for Pasadena.

PUSD initially proposed relocating Longfellow families to Allendale during construction. More than 80% of Longfellow's students are from socioeconomically disadvantaged households (this is the term that the school district uses on reports), and is one of PUSD's largest elementary schools.

For many reasons, this proposal is not in the best interests of our kids. It takes 20-30 minutes to travel to and from Longfellow during peak travel times. Moving to Allendale will unduly burden families that need your support the most. It will mean that 4 and 5 year olds will lose an hour or more of precious morning sleep, and it will mean that families will have to travel across town to an area that is not well-served by public transportation. Allendale has not been operated as a regular PUSD school since 2005, and is in disrepair according to the District. Because of Longfellow's size, the only site that can work for families and can accommodate a school of our size is Jefferson.

Our school community organized and shared our concerns with the School Board last week who voted to instead relocate our children to Jefferson. **We ask that the City Council join the School Board in doing what is best for our children and supporting the relocation to Jefferson School.** It's not just for Longfellow, but also for other schools on the eastside that will be modernized in future years that will also need to relocate. We understand that this creates challenges for the City, but are hopeful that with community-focused leadership at both the City and the District, the challenges can be met.

When the City and School District entered into the lease for Jefferson, it was with the understanding that the District did not need the location to provide primary education to our Pasadena kids. The situation has changed. **We ask that you honor the original intent of the contract which includes termination language for exactly this purpose--so that the needs of our kids could be met.** The current circumstances have now made it necessary to exercise the clause. With 18 months of notice, we hope our school and city leadership can work in tandem to continue to serve the best interest of our kids.

Thank you for your consideration,
Cheryl and Robert Nocon

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: cityclerk
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 9:01 AM
To: Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John
Subject: FW: Message from District 2 Website

From: Williams, Felicia <fwilliams@cityofpasadena.net>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 9:01:15 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To:
Cc: Dyson, Darla <ddyson@cityofpasadena.net>; cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>
Subject: Re: Message from District 2 Website

Hi Dottie,
Great to hear from you and thanks for this helpful information. The item was added to our closed session agenda so there may not be an update today but I am copying the city clerk so your comments will go into the record. Stay dry!!

Felicia Williams, Councilmember
City of Pasadena, District 2
<https://www.cityofpasadena.net/district2/>
fwilliams@cityofpasadena.net
(626) 744-4742



From: City Web <cityweb@cityofpasadena.net>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 5:44 PM
To: Williams, Felicia <fwilliams@cityofpasadena.net>
Cc: Dyson, Darla <ddyson@cityofpasadena.net>
Subject: Message from District 2 Website

MESSAGE

Hi Councilwoman Williams. My name is Dottie Burkhart. and I am a resident of the City of Pasadena, District 2. My daughter attends PUSD's Longfellow Magnet School, and I am asking that you support Longfellow's relocation to Jefferson School because it's what's best for our children and school community.

We are excited that Longfellow will undergo construction and modernization thanks to voter-approved Measure O. This major investment in our schools is great for Pasadena. Because the plans for the remodel are so extensive, Longfellow needs to be relocated. Initially PUSD proposed relocating Longfellow families to Allendale. More than 80% of Longfellow's students are from socioeconomically disadvantaged households (this is the term that the school district uses on reports), and Longfellow has over 600 children enrolled making it one of PUSD's largest elementary schools.

Moving to Allendale is not what is best for our kids and school community. It takes 20-30 minutes to travel to from Longfellow during peak travel times like the morning. Moving to Allendale will unduly burden families that need your support the most. It will mean that 4 and 5 year olds will lose an hour or more of precious morning sleep, and it will mean that families will have to travel across town for parent-teacher conferences or to pick up a sick kid to an area that is not well-served by public transportation. Allendale has not been operated as a regular PUSD school since 2005, and is in disrepair according to the District. Because of Longfellow's size, the only site that can work for families and can accommodate a school of our size is Jefferson. Our school community organized and shared our concerns with the School Board who voted to instead relocate our children to Jefferson. We ask that the City Council join the School Board in doing what is best for our children and supporting the relocation to Jefferson School. It's not just for Longfellow, but also for other schools on the eastside that will be modernized in future years that will also need to relocate like Don Benito and Field. We understand that this creates challenges for the City, but are hopeful that with community-focused leadership at both the City and the District, the challenges can be met. When the City and School District entered into the lease for Jefferson, it was with the understanding that District did not need the location to provide primary education to our Pasadena kids. The situation has changed. We ask that you honor the original intent of the contract which includes termination language for exactly this purpose--so that the needs of our kids could be met. The anticipated circumstances have now made it necessary to exercise the clause. With 18 months of notice, we hope our school and city leadership can work in tandem to continue to serve the best interest of our kids. Thank you.

Select One

Contact District 2

Do you want us to contact you regarding your comment?

Yes - I would like to provide my contact information

NAME

Dottie Burkhart

EMAIL

PHONE

IP Address 23.114.247.77

User-Agent Apple Safari 17.2 / OS X
(Browser/OS)

Referrer <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/district2/contact/>

socioeconomically disadvantaged households, and Longfellow has over 600 children enrolled making it one of PUSD's largest elementary schools.

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Our school community organized and shared our concerns with the School Board who voted to instead relocate our children to Jefferson. **We ask that the City Council join the School Board in doing what is best for our children and supporting the relocation to Jefferson School.** It's not just for Longfellow, but also for other schools on the eastside that will be modernized in future years that will also need to relocate like Don Benito and Field. We understand that this creates challenges for the City, but are hopeful that with community-focused leadership at both the City and the District, the challenges can be met.

When the City and School District entered into the lease for Jefferson, it was with the understanding that District did not need the location to provide primary education to our Pasadena kids. The situation has changed. **We ask that you honor the original intent of the contract which includes termination language for exactly this purpose—so that the needs of our kids could be met.** The anticipated circumstances have now made it necessary to exercise the clause. With 18 months of notice, we hope our school and city leadership can work in tandem to continue to serve the best interest of our kids.

Additionally (though I recognize this is not your problem to solve at Monday's mtg), I think there are creative ways this can be handled—the library may be able to stay (win-win since it's a children's library!) Perhaps the fire dept training can relocate to another PUSD site for the years affected, or operate on weekends at the school (though that may not be safe or feasible depending on its activities). I hope there are ways, despite the need to break this lease, that the city and PUSD can work together to best serve our Pasadena community.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this and hope you stay safe in this storm!

Thank you,

Jackie Browne

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Darren Cooper
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 12:31 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment: Jefferson Elementary Lease Negotiations

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Hi,

I am writing with a public comment for the special city council meeting on February 5, 2024

My name is Darren Cooper and I am a resident of Pasadena City Council District 5. I am also a parent of two children at Longfellow Elementary School (with a third set to start in the 2025-2026 school year). I am writing to ask that you help PUSD, Longfellow, and the City of Pasadena work together to accommodate Longfellow Elementary's relocation to Jefferson Elementary for the 2025-2026 school year while Longfellow is undergoing much needed renovations.

As residents on the southeast side of District 5, we were thrilled to see the Jefferson Branch Library open so close to home. The kids love the library, and we frequented it over the summer. We also attended the Fire Service Days and Jefferson, which were also a big hit with the kids. We would be sad to see these services affected and potentially moved away, and I am not taking the ask to move Longfellow to Jefferson lightly. The Longfellow community would not be advocating for the decision to move to Jefferson if we did not believe it was a drastically better alternative for our students and families compared to what was originally proposed by PUSD to relocate to Allendale Elementary.

The Longfellow community is excited and grateful for the funding and opportunity to renovate and modernize our school thanks to Measure O. However, the relocation to Allendale Elementary during renovations would have more than tripled the commute time for most of the Longfellow students and families. For many at the school, it would have meant the difference between being able to walk to school vs. having to commute all the way across Pasadena during rush hour. This would have had real impacts on children's sleep schedules, caregivers' work schedules, and caregivers' ability to get to the school for teacher conferences, volunteering, sick children, etc. On top of that, a significant portion of the Longfellow families were already displaced once not too long ago with the closing of Jefferson Elementary, and this would be a major disruption to them once again. More than 80% of Longfellow students are from socioeconomically disadvantaged households; the move to Allendale would create additional burdens for many of the people in our community who can afford it the least.

My understanding is that the decision to use Jefferson as a relocation site has a positive impact beyond Longfellow Elementary as well, and this will not be a short-lived benefit to PUSD students. The district was also planning to use Allendale as the relocation site for other elementary schools even further north and east of Longfellow, which would have had an even larger impact on those schools. Jefferson provides a centrally located relocation site for those schools as well going forward.

I recognize that asking the city to vacate Jefferson at this point also creates a burden on the city and valuable city services. If there was another alternative, the Longfellow community would not be asking for this. However, with no other options available besides Allendale, this is the only option that we feel meets the needs of our students and community. PUSD's top priority should be educating and caring for our students, and we are asking them to make a tough decision in order to do that. We hope that we have provided enough advanced warning that the city and PUSD can come to an agreement that minimizes the burden on the city, and I ask that you support us in making that happen.


Thank you,

Darren Cooper

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Lovelyn Thiha
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 12:47 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Longfellow Relocation Public Comment

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My name is Lovelyn Thiha and I am a resident of the City of Pasadena, District 5. My child attend PUSD's Longfellow Magnet School, and I am asking that you support Longfellow's relocation to Jefferson School because it's what's best for our children and school community.

We are excited that Longfellow will undergo construction and modernization thanks to voter-approved Measure O. This major investment in our schools is great for Pasadena. Because the plans for the remodel are so extensive, Longfellow needs to be relocated. Initially PUSD proposed relocating Longfellow families to Allendale. More than 80% of Longfellow's students are from socioeconomically disadvantaged households, and Longfellow has over 600 children enrolled making it one of PUSD's largest elementary schools.

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Our school community organized and shared our concerns with the School Board who voted to instead relocate our children to Jefferson. We ask that the City Council join the School Board in doing what is best for our children and supporting the relocation to Jefferson School. It's not just for Longfellow, but also for other schools on the eastside that will be modernized in future years that will also need to relocate like Don Benito and Field. We understand that this creates challenges for the City, but are hopeful that with community-focused leadership at both the City and the District, the challenges can be met.

When the City and School District entered into the lease for Jefferson, it was with the understanding that District did not need the location to provide primary education to our Pasadena kids. The situation has changed. We ask that you honor the original intent of the contract which includes termination language for exactly this purpose--so that the needs of our kids could me met. The anticipated circumstances have now made it necessary to exercise the clause. With 18 months of notice, we hope our school and city leadership can work in tandem to continue to serve the best interest of our kids.

Thank you,
Lovelyn Thiha

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Ryan Thiha <ryan.thiha@pasadena.net>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 2:20 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Lovelyn Thiha
Subject: Public Comments to City Council Meeting 2-5-2024 regarding Lease Agreement for Jefferson Elementary

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Mayor Gordo and Honorable Council Members,

I am writing to you because we understand that the City Council will have a close-door discussion with PUSD (Dr. Elizabeth Blanco) regarding the lease of Jefferson Elementary School. My family lives in District 5 and our kids attend Longfellow Elementary. Last week us parents spoke to PUSD Board Members to reconsider the plan to temporarily relocate the students to Allendale Elementary. We recommended Jefferson Elementary as our choice of temporary relocation. The Board listed and voted to temporarily relocate the students to Jefferson between 2025 to 26.

We are excited that Longfellow will undergo construction and modernization thanks to voter-approved Measure O. This major investment in our schools is great for Pasadena. Because the plans for the remodel are so extensive, Longfellow needs to be relocated. Initially PUSD proposed relocating Longfellow families to Allendale. More than 80% of Longfellow's students are from socioeconomically disadvantaged households (this is the term that the school district uses on reports), and Longfellow has over 600 children enrolled making it one of PUSD's largest elementary schools.

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Our school community organized and shared our concerns with the School Board who voted to instead relocate our children to Jefferson. **We ask that the City Council join the School Board in doing what is best for our children and supporting the relocation to Jefferson School and modify the existing lease accordingly.**


Sincerely,

Ryan Thiha

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Louise Cosand
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 5:01 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment re: Jefferson

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Dear all,

My name is Louise Cosand and I am a Pasadena resident in District 5. When I use the find my district search on the City of Pasadena's website it can also tell me the school my home is assigned to...it says Jefferson Elementary. I'll take that as a sign that this discussion will go well!

We are so grateful to the city for the great services based at Jefferson— we loved the fire department open house and regularly visit the library. We hope the city knows that its citizens wouldn't ask for such a great resource to move if it weren't truly important.

We hope that you can work positively with PUSD to find a way to house elementary schools at Jefferson during renovations. It's the closest relocation option for many of the schools that will be closed.

Thanks,
Louise Cosand

LDC, mobile account

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Emily Eelkema Stough
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 5:06 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public comment on behalf of Longfellow Families about relocating to Jefferson during renovation.

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Hello,

I've been part of the Pasadena community since 1999, and a Longfellow Elementary parent for 8 years. I attended the PUSD school board meeting on Thursday 2-1-24, where several other Longfellow parents expressed their concerns with relocation plans for Longfellow for the 25-26 school year.

PUSD is facing declining enrollment. A committee has been formed to strategize how to keep current students and recruit new families. As we know, higher enrollment means more money for PUSD.

Longfellow families are facing a disruptive relocation for the 25-26 school year, and **PUSD stands to lose enrollment due to this change.**

We **MUST** make the change as painless as possible for our families. My son has been attending Blair for the last two years, so I know first hand the huge impact of adding this commute to the daily routine. It has been hard for our family, even though we have all the advantages of 2 parents, flexible jobs, and a reliable car. Many families will struggle with this commute, leading to more absences and tardies, and even worse traffic congestion in Pasadena and around the Blair & Allendale campuses.

I fully support using Jefferson Elementary as a relocation school for Longfellow. This will unfortunately disrupt the Firefighters and Library services that are currently located there. However, working adults will be better able to adapt to a new location and commute, and I'm sure they will be willing to make this sacrifice to help the hundreds of families enrolled at Longfellow, 85% of whom are socio-economically disadvantaged.

Jefferson also has the advantage of being centrally located, so that when other schools get remodeled, they will also have a shorter commute.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Emily Stough