

Dear City Manager Pasquale,

I attended the meeting about the Tobin school several weeks ago, and would like to share my thoughts with you.

My impression was that people weren't very happy with any of the three plans. Some felt that the plans were designed in secret and that even the teachers didn't have input.

The architects had many agendas, such as three physical buildings that had to have their own identities; sustainability; resiliency; a common area for the community; drop off places for student: and be architecturally appealing. Too many cooks spoiling the broth.

But the agendas the architects didn't seem to take seriously enough was the realities and needs of the community. My husband Alvin, whom you know, and I live on Concord Ave across from the Little League field. From what we hear, the neighborhood cares about traffic and green.

The architects didn't seem to differentiate between traffic on Vassal Lane and traffic on Concord Ave. They didn't seem to understand that entering the school grounds from Concord Ave had broad implications for traffic at the rotary and for miles around. You know this, but they don't seem to.

The little league field is a wonderful source of green and open space and joy for the entire neighborhood. Isn't there some way this can be preserved to some extent? In one design, there is a baseball field in the center of the court yard. But that doesn't provide green, open space, or a place for community socializing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Schenkel Helfeld