

## Riley, Kate

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**From:** RUTH & IRVING ALLEN <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 15, 2019 11:46 PM  
**To:** Riley, Kate  
**Cc:** City Council; schoolcommittee@cambridgema.gov; City Manager  
**Subject:** Tobin VLUS project concerns

My name is Ruth Ryan Allen.

I have attended the two of the meetings for the Tobin VLUS Project. The first meeting never told us about losing our community resource...aka the green space, and fields.

I was beyond shocked to find out in the past meeting that not only are they not included in the plan, but after finally getting a look at the plan, we then need to decide on these plans by December!

The process is very flawed! The fields are a resource for the entire city and neighborhoods! We need more green space not less. Once lost we can never get it back!

Along with finding out about the green space field loss... we are told that the School has an additional Pre-k school attached which is separate from the Tobin. This was another surprise. The project team then inferred that the school committee, city council, and teachers were a part of the process. This came as a shock to some city council, and school Committee members who were there. This was also the first look at the school from the teachers. They were brought in to give input as to what they wanted in their classrooms, but not the flow of the rooms or the outside fields which the children utilize.

Nothing about the building was included.

We are paying a lot of money to these architects, and project managers! We should see more options to include our green fields, and sport fields! We are not a cookie cutter community.. we have to plan outside the box on this. This should have planned with more input on all accounts!

We were not given any drawings of the inside of any of these building or why they need so much space. We need full compliment drawings so more input could be taken in. These 3 options are not enough nor is the time table. This process was not community friendly at all. They kept saying the Campus of the school... but this area is far more than just the schools! It is the neighborhood and the community! No other updated school has lost any green space or fields.

I have looked at the recent King Open school. It is a beautiful building. My concern is that we did not consider more function of a Elementary school or middle school building! There is a lot of glass, large halls, Touch screens, and wasted space. We need more storage and usable space.

We need to learn from each school!

I urge you all to look and slow down this process.

I urge you to make the project team and architects develop more creative plans which take in the flow and the function of what we really need in this school. Perhaps more floors, and still keep the school entrances separate, which seems to be a big push from the principals.

I urge you to save the fields and green space or even make them larger. The children need outside space for social and emotional well being! AS does the community!

I would be happy to discuss further, and look forward to the next meetings! But please slow this train down, and take in more community input, and concerns into the plan.