

Riley, Kate

From: Kerry Tanwar [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 10:17 PM
To: Kerry Tanwar
Subject: Feedback on Tobin Montessori/VLUS project

Hello,

I am a parent of two students at Tobin Montessori School. My oldest has attended Tobin since 2014 and I worked at the school in the three-year-old program a few years back. I wanted to share my feedback before the meeting on Thursday:

1. Parking - the design options provide 52 parking spots. How many parking spots does the current lot have? If there are double the number of students at this site, will there be double the number of staff? I think it is important to provide parking for all staff members. It is great to encourage use of public transportation and bike paths for those who live nearby, but most of the staff commute from well beyond Cambridge.
2. Separation of programs - I think it's important to keep each school as separate as possible. It is difficult to provide feedback on the exterior without understanding how the interior schools would look and function. How would students and teachers get from each distinct school to the shared spaces and how long will it take? Would pre-schoolers and middle schoolers share hallways at certain times (best to prevent this as much as possible)?
3. Classroom size - Classrooms in the new school need to be as big as the ones Tobin currently has with closets for storing necessary Montessori materials.
4. Natural light in classrooms as much as possible and direct access to patio/green space from Children's House classrooms (3yrs-Kindergarten). Many of these classrooms venture out despite the weather, but it would be wonderful to have an area of patio that is covered to make this a little easier on rainy days.

Lastly, I have heard that there is a possibility the project may be delayed. Is there a chance Tobin/VLUS will remain at the current site for another year? When will families and staff know for sure that the project is moving forward?

Of the options presented, I think the Wings option looks best if available parking can be increased.

Thank you!
Kerry