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By email: ozah@montgomerycountymd.gov

Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings
Montgomery County, Maryland
100 Maryland Avenue, Room 200
Rockville, MD 20850

Support: Special Exception Application of Holton-Arms School, Case No. CBA-1174-E

To the Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings:

We are writing to express our strong support for Holton-Arms School's request for a Special Exception Major Modification.

Our daughters, Leigh (3rd grade) and Sage (7th grade), ride the Holton bus every day to and from school. We live in Wesley Heights in DC and meet the bus at the stop near McArthur Boulevard and Arizona Street, which is about five minutes from our home. The transportation system has become an essential and very positive part of our daily routine.

One of the things that has stood out most to us is the sense of community that exists on the bus. Our driver has created a welcoming and safe environment for the students. We see him every morning, and there is open communication between him and the parents at the stop. In many ways, the positive culture that Holton promotes on campus extends naturally to the bus system.

When our daughters first started riding the bus, we were unsure how they would feel about it. Very quickly, however, it became something they genuinely enjoy. The bus allows them to spend time with friends across different grades and neighborhoods. In fact, they have formed friendships with older students, such as a pair of eighth-grade twins, that they likely would not have met otherwise. The

bus has helped expand their social circles and strengthened their connection to the broader Holton community.

The bus stop itself has also become a small community for parents. Families look out for one another, and over time we have gotten to know neighbors whose children attend Holton but whom we might never have met otherwise. Because Holton draws families from across the DMV, the bus system creates a valuable opportunity for families who live near one another to build relationships.

We moved to Washington, DC four years ago, and our daughters previously attended St. Patrick's School. Joining Holton has introduced us to a new community, and the transportation system has helped make that transition seamless. It has also made our daily schedules much more manageable.

Beyond transportation, we also support Holton's efforts to thoughtfully grow and activate its campus all year long. Our children participate in travel sports and spend time on many different school campuses throughout the region. We believe it is healthy for a school campus to feel active and alive with athletics, programs, and students using the facilities. Allowing appropriate use of fields and facilities by community groups can strengthen ties between the school and its neighbors.

We are also enthusiastic supporters of Holton's summer programming. Creative Camp and other summer programs are widely respected and incredibly popular. We know there are long waiting lists for these programs. Increasing the summer camp enrollment cap would provide a direct benefit to all families in the community who are looking for high-quality summer programming for their children.

Holton has the programming, facilities, and faculty to support this growth responsibly, and we believe these changes will benefit both the school and the broader community.

For all of these reasons, we respectfully support Holton-Arms School's request for a Special Exception Major Modification.

Sincerely,



Devon Caraher
Scott Caraher