

Rynnie Cotter and Scott Cotter

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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 RE: 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 support for Holton-Arms School's request for a Special Exception Major Modification and to share our family's experience with the school's transportation and dismissal systems.

Our daughter, Poppy, is in the third grade at Holton. Each morning we participate in a neighborhood carpool with another family whose daughters also attend Holton. We alternate driving responsibilities, typically arriving on campus between 7:30 and 7:45 a.m. The carpool works extremely well for our families and allows us to reduce the number of individual trips to campus.

The morning drop-off process at Holton is smooth, efficient, and very well organized. Staff members guide cars through clearly designated drop-off areas, keeping everything moving quickly and safely. It is evident that the process has been thoughtfully designed and consistently managed.

In the afternoons, we coordinate pickup and aftercare depending on our schedules. The school's SchoolPass app system plays an important role in making this process seamless. Through the app, we can update the school if Poppy's dismissal plans change, whether she is attending extended day, being picked up, or going home with another family. The system also allows families in our carpool

to coordinate plans and ensures that the school always knows where each child is supposed to go.

Holton also uses clear visual signals for pickup. At the start of the year families receive laminated dashboard signs indicating their child's grade. When we arrive for pickup, the sign alerts the staff assisting with dismissal that our daughter is ready to be called. Combined with the SchoolPass system, this creates a very efficient and organized dismissal process.

Beyond the logistics, the carpool has also become a special part of our daily routine. Those ten minutes in the car together have become meaningful time to talk with the girls and help them start the day in the right mindset for school.

Our family lives in Bethesda near the Washington, DC line, and shared transportation options like carpools make attending Holton manageable for families coming from a range of neighborhoods. From our experience, the school's carpool system is well planned, clearly communicated, and consistently run.

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rynnie Cotter  3/18/26
Scott Cotter  3/18/26