

Superintendent Gregory Thornton
Milwaukee Public Schools
5225 West Vliet Street
Milwaukee, WI 53208

Dr. Cynthia Ellwood
Milwaukee Public Schools
5225 West Vliet Street
Milwaukee, WI 53208

Vice-President Larry Miller
Milwaukee Public Schools
The Office of Board Governance
P.O. Box 2181
Milwaukee, WI 53201-2181

Alderman Nik Kovak
City Hall, Room 205
200 E Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

February 25, 2013

Dear Superintendent Thornton, Vice-President Miller, Dr. Ellwood, and Alderman Kovak,

Milwaukee Eastside Neighborhood Associations collaborate and advocate for our community members on issues in which we share common goal or vision. We understand that Maryland Avenue Montessori School has immediate and long-term space needs and that the school board is considering options that include maintaining the school at its current location as well as relocating the school community to Cass Street School.

We wish to express our support for maintaining the Maryland Avenue Montessori (MAM) program and school community at its current location within the Greenwich Village Neighborhood on the upper east side. The reasons for our wholehearted support of keeping MAM at its current location are several:

- This high-performing school attracts young families to the neighborhood and encourages them to stay. This positive pressure is critical to maintaining a healthy balance and diversity of neighborhood residents.
- The MAM faculty, staff, parent, and student community network is a sizable and thriving population whose interactions benefit the upper east side in multiple ways: (1) MAM community members who live in the surrounding neighborhoods tend to be engaged in the local community, improving neighborhood strength and cohesiveness; and (2) MAM community members living in areas other than the upper east side form important connections between the greater Milwaukee area and the upper east side.
- The MAM school community improves the vitality and supports the growth of small neighborhood businesses and other community institutions. In turn, these local businesses and institutions have consistently stepped up to support MAM in numerous ways.

We understand and respect that MPS's priority for communication has been with the MAM parent community, however, Maryland Avenue Montessori School is part of the fabric of our neighborhoods and this decision affects all east side residents. The Milwaukee Eastside Neighborhood Associations would be pleased to host a public meeting for all neighborhood residents to address questions and discuss growth scenarios with MPS and City representatives. If such a meeting is a possibility, please contact Steve Klebar, president of the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association to make arrangements.

414-737-2596

Respectfully submitted by the representatives of these Milwaukee Eastside Neighborhood Associations:



Cambridge Woods

Greg Baran



Greenwich

Michael Maierle

Mariner

Mariner

Bill Werner



Murray Hill

Steve Klebar



Riverside Park

Terri Kinis