

July 27, 2009

To: The Denver School Board

From: The George Washington Homeowners Association

RE: Location of Denver Green School at Fallis Elementary School Building

The Fallis Elementary School Building is near the center of our neighborhood and is central to the community around it. The absence of a school, since its closing last year, is of a great concern to the community. However we are very excited as well as enthusiastic about the possible placement of the Denver Green School (DGS) in our neighborhood.

Because of our concern regarding an empty school building, representatives from our community attended the June Denver Public School Board (DPS) meeting with an interest in learning about the various proposals for new schools. The Fallis School Committee of our neighborhood association has been in contact with DPS representatives and their activities regarding new schools as well as representatives of new school proposals including the Denver Green School (DGS). After learning about their approval at the June DPS meeting we contacted them to discuss their future plans.

Mimi Diaz and Allen Potter, representatives of DGS, agreed to meet with our committee on July 7th. Prior to the meeting all committee members read their RFP and submitted questions to them so that the meeting would center around the needs of both parties. We had a stimulating and interactive conversation about the Denver Green School and Fallis. In the RFP, the Denver Green School states, "Community is the thread that runs through all aspects of DGS." We believe that our neighborhood's active interest in placing a new school in the Fallis building reflects the vibrancy of our residents and the diverse depth of talent and education of its citizens. Our community members at the meeting consisted of current and former educators, environmental advocates, and knowledgeable professionals, all of whom are committed to regaining a neighborhood school and pledging community support to DGS. We believe that Mimi and Allen were enthusiastic about the committee's responses and commitments.

What we, the neighborhood, bring to this school is a community of 500 homes with increasing numbers of young children in walking or biking distance to the Fallis building. Our location is strategically situated near George Washington High School, numerous business, religious institutions, retirement communities, parks and open space- all of which can support and benefit the concepts proposed by DGS.

The Fallis School Committee has invited Will Lee Ashley and Jeannie Kaplan to our next meeting on August 24th where we will continue to develop our plan for working with the Denver Green School. Our neighborhood association has invited representatives of the DGS leadership team to attend our annual ice cream social on August 30. We will provide them with a tent and table so they have a place to distribute information about DGS as well as an opportunity to meet families and talk about their school program.

The interest in the Denver Green School is rapidly gaining momentum in our neighborhood, and the George Washington Homeowners Association urges the Denver School Board to approve the Fallis Elementary School building as the site for the Denver Green School.

Sincerely,

Jim Mauck, President

George Washington Homeowners Association