

**Riley, Kate**

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**From:** Kirsten Wright-Cirit [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2020 9:18 PM  
**To:** City Manager; Riley, Kate  
**Subject:** TOBIN/VLUS Building Project Feedback

Dear City Manager,

I am writing to give feedback on the design plans for the upcoming Tobin/VLUS building project.

As a new parent (child is in her 2nd year at Tobin) I am extremely grateful and appreciative of the Tobin Montessorie education and the opportunities it has provided our daughter and our home from the connections made, the quality of education and the immersiveness of the teaching staff. I'm happy to see a renovation project, but am extremely dismayed if it comes at the cost of affecting our teachers and staff who are a large part of what makes Tobin so impactful. I spoke with other parents and teachers as to what would be most helpful in feedback for the design that would ultimately affect their teaching capabilities and thus our children.

- 1) Parking spaces for teachers as otherwise they have to commute hour(s) via public to be at the school affecting their quality of life. I hate parking lots, but with fresh pond nearby and other green spaces it's important for our teachers to be able not have the stress of either HOURS commute or scrambling to find parking (in a place they won't have parking permits)
- 2) Enough adult bathrooms.
- 3) Separate cafeteria for the Tobin Montessorie - having such younger children exposed to the volumes of bigger kids is a stressful situation for the little ones especially as they need more assistance maneuvering and using the newly learned life skills.
- 4) Garden beds outside each classroom as in current situation so the children can continue the Montessorie practice of incorporating nature into all aspects of learning.

Light is important however, too highly designed open air spaces aren't functional for school children when they have different needs than many working adults. They need quiet learning environment, spaces to play, improvise and call their own.

Please help us support our teachers through this transition. They dedicate their lives to their work and we want to do what we can to support them.

Thank you accepting this at the 11th hour!  
Best regards  
Kirsten Wright-Cirit  
Cambridge resident and parent of Tobin Montessorie child

