

Riley, Kate

From: Alisa Khan [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 10:54 AM
To: Riley, Kate; City Manager
Subject: Tobin Renovation Feedback

Dear City Manager,

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

As a parent of two children at Tobin, I value Tobin's teaching staff over any feature of the building, grounds or its location. My biggest concern is retaining wonderful staff. To that end, a team of parents asked teachers what would be most helpful as you consider your final design. These items top the list:

1. Parking spaces (Our teachers have special qualifications and travel large distances to be a part of this unique public Montessori community. We absolutely need to accommodate them.)
2. Large classrooms (Imperative for the Montessori philosophy)
3. Storage for classrooms (Closets)
4. Separate cafeterias (Large open spaces with staggered lunch times add emotional stress of a loud environment and time-stress on an already crowded schedule.)
5. Natural light as much as possible (as artificial light can distract and stress children with sensory processing disorders)

We don't need informal open spaces in the hallway that can function as improvisational gathering spaces. We need functionality and a quiet learning environment.

Please help us support our teachers through this transition. They dedicate their lives to their work, and I, like many families, want to do anything I can to support them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alisa Khan, Cambridge resident and mother of 2 children at Tobin

