
Feedback: I speak as one of the teachers at Tobin Montessori School. I have to admit, I feel blindsided. The approach that was taken during this process was very inclusive and I truly felt that our needs and desires for an optimal Montessori learning space was being heard. We are already only 1 of the 4 elementary schools in the district that is asked to share our space with a middle school population. We were only recently informed that the new school will require sharing with even more programs in the same space This is disheartening. Sharing space is a wonderful way to save money and resources. It also allows for wonderful cross program student experiences. The struggle, though, is that this limits a number of things that we are able to do in our program. The most impactful is the limit it puts upon our schedule flexibility. A Montessori program requires a 3 hour uninterrupted work period. This is not possible currently, for two of our levels due to the fact that we share our cafeteria with the middle school. I can't help think that additional programs means more sharing of space. I am writing to strongly encourage that whatever design is decided upon that it include a cafeteria that is separate from the other programs. The other issue I feel compelled to mention is parking. Unfortunately, most teachers cannot afford to live in Cambridge. Public transportation either does not exist for some of us OR adds a daunting amount of time to our commute. Add the fact that most teachers arrive with arms filled with supplies we have brought in from home to support our lessons - something that makes public transportation even harder. I hope that Tobin Montessori's unique pedagogy allows for a new school plan that supports what we need to do our best. And that we will not have the added stress of finding parking in an already crowded city.

Thank You

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