

Riley, Kate

From: Tara LaRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 4:49 PM
To: Riley, Kate
Subject: Parent Feedback for Tobin/VLUS project

I am writing to give feedback on the design plans for the upcoming Tobin/VLUS building project as a parent and a lifelong Cambridge resident.

I myself attended Tobin as a child and know that the building and campus is in desperate need of an overhaul. I have 2 children in Tobin and 1 in VLUS. What's most important to me is that our staff is happy. Our excellent Montessori teachers come from all over and parking is incredibly important for this staff. Sure, in a perfect world we'd all take public transit, but most of our teaching staff are parents themselves and our unreliable and broken T would add hours to their commutes. To assume people don't need parking, or that we don't need extra parking, is ridiculous to me.

I also think we need to be sure to protect each school as a stand-alone unit. The Tobin should have a separate building/entrance from VLUS, and the preschool.

I know this is going to bring a lot of congestion to the already busy Fresh Pond rotaries with a Concord Ave entrance. I think that point needs to be seriously reconsidered.

I also know that residents in the neighborhood are upset about more construction. It's valid and should be heard, but their voices should not be louder than any other resident has been allowed for the other two school buildings. We've been hearing that this could cause a delay in construction and does that mean our kids will sit in less-than ideal swing space while nothing happens on the Vassal Lane campus? I truly hope that this project can either move forward as we've been told or if it goes on hold, our children can remain in the Tobin/VLUS building for another school year.

Thank you,
Tara LaRosa