

January 10, 2020

Dear Community Leaders,

We are current, former, and future Lafayette parents and interested community members who want to keep Lafayette Pre-K in our neighborhood.

DCPS is proposing to eliminate Pre-K at Lafayette Elementary School either by: (1) moving Lafayette Pre-K to 1375 Missouri Avenue; or (2) reducing and eventually ending Pre-K at Lafayette. They have said the decision will be made within the month. Why the hurry?

We believe families should have a Pre-K option in our neighborhood. We ask DCPS to call off this rushed process, return to the drawing board, and work with Lafayette families and community leaders to identify a solution to Lafayette's over-crowding that keeps Lafayette Pre-K at our neighborhood school.

Signed:

1. Seema Roper  
Washington D.C.

2. Stacy Beck  
Washington D.C.

*I am a current Lafayette parent and would like to see Pre-K stay in the neighborhood. DCPS should explore leasing or buying the Episcopal Center or other alternatives that have been suggested by Lafayette families.*

3. Jane Wilkins  
Washington D.C.

*It is important that the school grades be together and located in the neighborhood.*

4. Laurie Aladjem  
Washington D.C.

5. Rob Park  
Washington D.C.

6. Anna Park  
Washington D.C.

*I'm a current Lafayette parent with a rising pre-k child. It's important to me to have a public pre-k option in our neighborhood.*

7. Jamie Smith  
Washington D.C.

8. Riccardo de Marchi Trevisan  
Washington D.C.

9. Paul Wilkins  
Washington D.C.

10. Cecilia Paradi-Guilford  
Washington D.C.  
*My kids are future Lafayette students*

11. Elizabeth K  
Washington D.C.  
*Public prek is necessary for many families in our community. Multiple drop off points outside of the neighborhood is a hardship for many families.*

12. Jaime N  
Washington D.C.  
*As a current Lafayette parent and a parent of a rising PreK student I am concerned on the impact of multiple schools and drop offs on my family and others in similar situations. It is important to take the time to make an informed decision with community input.*

13. Joshua Novikoff  
Washington D.C.

14. Mona Benach  
Washington D.C.

15. Patricia Balestra  
Washington D.C.

16. Jonathan Haray  
Washington D.C.

17. Lauren Chiarello  
Washington D.C.  
*Moving kids out of the neighborhood requires a thoughtful analysis with community input. This decision has not been thoroughly vetted to implement in 2021!*

18. Brianne Burger  
Washington D.C.  
*I'm a current Lafayette parent with a rising pre-k child. It's important to me to have a public pre-k option in our neighborhood. I am also worried about the impact of multiple schools and drop offs on my family and others in similar situations. The city needs to make an informed decision with community input first.*

19. Ashley Zink  
Washington D.C.  
*I have a first grader and a two-year-old who will hopefully be in PK4 at Lafayette in two years. We are frustrated by the last-minute nature of this very important conversation and the seeming unwillingness of DCPS to explore other options.*

20. Jennifer Lanoff  
Washington D.C.

21. Jill Bohnenkamp  
Washington D.C.  
*I have a child currently at Lafayette Elementary and a rising Pre-K student. I urge Lafayette and DCPS to not move Pre-K to the 1375 Missouri location given the hardships on current families of two locations and the potential for this to actually exacerbate over enrollment. I encourage DCPS and Lafayette to spend the next year exploring all possible neighborhood options with community input.*

22. Margaret Irons  
Washington D.C.

23. Jane Davis  
Washington D.C.  
*I have a child in Kindergarten at Lafayette and a rising Pre-K student. I will not be able to manage drop off and pick up at two locations and will instead be forced to consider private Pre-K options closer to Lafayette. This decision should be pushed back by one year so that all options can be considered and shared with the community.*

24. Stacey Grant  
Washington D.C.

25. Rachel Poritz Mennen  
Washington D.C.

26. Parita Selfridge  
Washington D.C.

27. Eric M  
Washington D.C.

28. Arthur Mitchell  
Washington D.C.  
*My child is approaching pre-K. I want her near her neighborhood and home.*

29. Linda Ertz  
Washington D.C.  
*Neighborhood schools work best.*

30. Kirsten Keefe  
Washington D.C.  
*I'm a current Lafayette parent. I'm dismayed by the lack of communication and community engagement on this significant proposal, and hope DCPS and Lafayette will explore other viable alternatives.*

31. Michael Sonza  
Washington D.C.  
*Because pre-K at Lafayette is highly important for the children in the neighborhood*

32. Sarah Widor  
Washington D.C.

*This radical change to the Lafayette school community is a direct contradiction of DCPS' neighborhood school policy. DCPS and Lafayette have offered the community no analysis of alternative options and reasonable questions regarding implementation have gone unanswered. A temporary solution should be put into place until there is a full consideration of the available options. Lastly, the Brightwood community has equities and should be part of the discussion.*

33. Emma B  
Washington D.C.  
*I have 2 children at Lafayette. This decision is rushed, and at a time when there is no good will between parents and DCPS. The location is nowhere near Lafayette and inaccessible with the WMATA cuts. This should not be a rushed and forced choice. Let's take time for all options to be considered and parents included in the decision.*

34. Callie Castellani  
Washington D.C.

35. Ellen Vargyas  
Washington D.C.

36. Jenny Backus

Washington D.C.

*I am a former Lafayette Parent and former Lafayette HSA member (for 5 years) and I am confused and disturbed by the lack of transparency and the lack of public input around and this irregular and rushed policy decision that impacts hundreds of students, families and community members who pay the taxes that fund DCPS and Lafayette.*

*There appear to be many other ways to solve the problem that the school and the district are claiming we have. I live right across the street for the Episcopal Center - just three blocks from Lafayette and would love to see that used by the school if they need extra space.*

37. Tatiana Miro

Washington D.C.

*Neighborhood schooling is why many of us chose to live here. Better options exist.*

38. Leah Roberts

Washington D.C.

39. Ashley Alderfer

Washington D.C.

*We are in the neighborhood, are a current Lafayette family, and have a rising PK-4 student. Having a community built around a neighborhood school is what brought us to the neighborhood. Moving PK-4 will be a logistical burden for families and trying for young students, and could also encroach on other neighborhoods that have their own needs.*

40. Janine Finck-Boyle

Washington D.C.

41. Kristy Tillman

Washington D.C.

*Keeping PreK in the neighborhood is important because families need walkable options, especially for the youngest kids. Both of my children attended Lafayette preK and having the school within walking distance was why we chose our neighborhood. Such a significant change to the school should not be made without full community input. The rushed manner in which DCPS has proceeded thus far has not allowed for a full exploration of other alternatives.*

42. Thomas Sobocinski

Washington D.C.

43. Brendan Hart

Washington D.C.

*Moving Pre-k outside of the neighborhood makes it almost impossible to utilize the option logistically. I anticipate a much greater OOB enrollment, particularly once school year starts and IB families that were given a spot decide to not show up. This certain increase of OOB students in pre-k that will then track through Lafayette will undoubtedly compound the over crowding in grades K-5. It is unfair to provide access to the Lafayette community in Brightwood while denying the Brightwood community access. Parent of 2 current students, one incoming pre-k in 2021/22 and a fourth in 2023/24. Also alum, graduated Lafayette in 1992 along with 3 siblings. My parents had children in Lafayette from 1981-1997.*

44. Lori Finch

Washington D.C.

45. Erin Watts

Washington D.C.

homeowner / former pre-k parent (x2)

46. Lauren Zelin  
Washington D.C.  
*We live in the neighborhood and think there are better options than the two presented, so a deeper analysis is needed to find solutions that will work to address overcrowding in this school over the next 5-10+ years, not a short-term fix that doesn't work for the community.*

47. Sarah C  
Washington D.C.  
*Future PreK parent*

48. Cynthia Baker  
Washington D.C.  
*Important for our neighborhood to have Pre-k*

49. Rebecca Buck  
Washington D.C.

50. Nicole Majestic  
Washington D.C.

51. Julie Stewart  
Washington D.C.  
*Lafayette's pre-school should be at Lafayette - not in a distant neighborhood where children from that area could not even attend!*

52. Heather Kearns  
Washington D.C.

53. Lauren Roche-Garland  
Washington D.C.  
*Former Pre-K parent (x2). I agree that there are a lot of alternative options to consider before drastically taking the Pre-K out of the neighborhood.*

54. Mary Louise Mitterhoff  
Washington D.C.  
*It is critical to keep Lafayette Elem Pre-K in the neighborhood.*

55. Katie M.  
Washington D.C.  
*I have a child that will be in pre-k next year along with a one-year-old. Since I don't yet have kids in the school, I haven't had much experience with Lafayette or DCPS. I have to say, the first Zoom I attended was a terrible introduction leaving me with a lot of doubts about the school we moved to this neighborhood for. This shouldn't be a decision made quickly or without feedback from the community. The survey asks leading questions that look to deliver the answers the school wants. And the school officials said they aren't willing to share those findings publicly. On the Zoom, when the DCPS representative was asked what will happen to the building if Pre-K doesn't move there, she had no answer - showing that this appears to be a done deal, and the community feedback process is nothing more than checking a box. It's also troublesome that after nearly a \$100 million renovation, they were over capacity within a year. What is the long-term plan to handle growth at Lafayette? Far beyond just pre-k? No one seemed able to answer that question. Moving pre-k out-of-bounds is nothing more than putting a band-aid on what appears to be a gaping wound. Before choices are made, there needs to be a transparent process with exploration of various options that fit into a longer strategy on how to deal with growth at the school. Necessary in that process is robust solicitation of feedback from both current Lafayette families, but also those that will be attending the school in the coming years.*

56. Jon Zeitler  
Washington D.C.

*Pre K has been an important, integral part of the Lafayette experience. And the neighborhood nature of pre k is important!*

57. Mary Meagher Hunter  
Washington D.C.

*DCPS is based on a neighborhood school system. The PK4 option should stay in the neighborhood. Also, DCPS is either very bad at explaining itself, or its not being very forthcoming. There are a lot of headscratchers in how this is being rolled out to the the community. Which just leads residents to wonder if there are additional motivations to this move.*

58. Lise Tishman  
Washington D.C.

59. Philip Branton  
Washington D.C.  
*Former PK parent. Forcing parents to drive children off-site will increase use of fossil fuels (global warming) and increase congestion on already crowded streets). As all bus service to Chevy Chase will be terminated by metro (E4 and M4 lines) anything that can mitigate the looming traffice nightmare is wise.*

60. David Steinberg  
Washington D.C.  
*Future pre-K parent*

61. Katie Kennelly  
Washington D.C.  
*Needs to be walking distance and close proximity. With 4 kids all close in age - pre-k would not have been possible if it wasn't walking distance from my house/ or Lafayette.*

62. Jaime Shafter  
Washington D.C.

63. David Huhter  
Washington D.C.  
*Neighborhood schools should be accessible to kids in their own neighborhood. Space was brought up as not being enough years ago when Lafayette was remodeled. Figure out a way to keep kids together.*

64. Stuart Y  
Washington D.C.  
*Neighborhood schools are incredibly important to the community. Keep Pre-K in the community. There are better options available.*

65. Allyn Finegold  
Washington D.C.

66. Erica Singleton  
Washington D.C.

67. Alex Grahammer  
Washington D.C.  
*We have kids and we want to ensure our neighbors and future families can benefit from it.*

68. Michael Kearns  
Washington D.C.

69. Pamela Contreras  
Washington D.C.

70. Jessica Deahl  
Washington D.C.

71. Brittany Ell  
Washington D.C.

72. Brian Bohnenkamp  
Washington D.C.  
*We need an option that is within reasonable walking distance.*

73. Michael Shue  
Washington D.C.

74. Anne Bennett  
Washington D.C.  
*We moved to this neighborhood so that my kids could go to Lafayette pre-k. With both my husband and I working at the time the importance of the pre-k option was huge. It saved us almost \$30,000, we were immediately part of the community, and the teachers were great.*

75. Sally Gaffney  
Washington D.C.

76. Clare Sant  
Washington D.C.  
*I live in the neighborhood and having a walkable public option is why I moved here.*

77. Michael Alderfer  
Washington D.C.  
*Neighborhood continuity and worry about fuel drop-off/pick-up*

78. Kristin Willsey  
Washington D.C.

79. Allison Roeser  
Washington D.C.  
*I am a parent of an incoming pre-K 4 student, and another younger child, as well as a Lafayette kindergartner.*

80. Elizabeth Anker  
Washington D.C.  
*As a current Lafayette parent, I strongly encourage DCPS to look at the many other possible options for Pre-K before sending 4 year olds to a school in a different neighborhood. This decision was made with no consultation with the parent community until two days ago. DCPS/GSA already made one poor decision to renovate Lafayette without projecting neighborhood growth (something parents at the time had explained would increase, but were ignored.) Please do not make another decision like that -- one that refuses to take the community's knowledge and concerns into account, and then causes heightened problems for the school down the road.*

81. Dylana Blum  
Washington D.C.  
*I am the parent of a current Lafayette student and former Lafayette student. Lafayette Elementary School is a central part of our neighborhood. Our youngest learners should also be a part of that community. The decision seems hasty and not transparent. Surely there are creative solutions other than moving pre-K students out of the neighborhood or not having pre-K at all.*

82. Inga Smulkstys  
Washington D.C.

83. K P  
Washington D.C.  
*Pre-K should be in the neighborhood*

84. Daniel Tishman  
Washington D.C.

85. Gayle Moseley  
Washington D.C.  
*While my children have already benefitted from going to PK at Lafayette, keeping PK at our neighborhood school is a valuable asset.*

86. Gadi Dechter  
Washington D.C.

87. Brian Mc Breen  
Washington D.C.

88. Catherine Hannan  
Washington D.C.

89. Emmanuelle Salvatore  
Washington D.C.  
*Families will pay the consequences for lack of planning; this will ripple through the upper grades also. Especially for kids with siblings, managing multiple drop-offs and pickups will be unmanageable.*

90. Joanna Kerpen  
Washington D.C.

91. Joshua Knight  
Washington D.C.

92. Lindsey Adkins  
Washington D.C.

93. Anita Ponchione  
Washington D.C.

94. Judy Licht  
Washington D.C.

95. JoAnn Russell  
Washington D.C.  
*Pre-k is the start of a community experience with older siblings, friends and neighbors that is invaluable especially at this time of separation and isolation. Neighborhood schools are important throughout the city!*

96. Rachel Kleier  
Washington D.C.

97. H W  
Washington D.C.  
*Lafayette pre-K needs to stay walking distance to Lafayette*

98. Cassie P  
Washington D.C.  
*We hope DCPS will consider alternative options that are in walking distance. This will make it really challenging for my family to make it work. We had hoped for our two youngest to join their bigger brother. We think DCPS needs to come up with an alternative option besides saying this or nothing — oh and you have to decide this month. Plus the entire presentation makes it clear the decision was made for us. Making decisions with and not for communities is important and is not being done— either for Lafayette or Brightwood families. To provide two options- neither of which will work - is unfair. And especially on this timeline and with everything going on for the school and given it is not a new problem. Please come back with a different solution.*



99. Elizabeth Burden  
Washington D.C.

*We moved to CCDC to send our kids to Lafayette, our neighborhood school - we do not want to send our kids across town for one strange year and then have them come back to Lafayette. This also creates such a logistical nightmare for working parents with two kids. We joined the community to use the school - we want the school to stay with the community.*

100. Amy Murphy  
Washington D.C.

*As a former Lafayette parent, I remember how important the pre-k program was for our family - some of my closest friends to this day are the ones I met as a pre-k mom - waiting outside to pick the kids up, coffee after after drop off, walking both boys to school and having them at the same school for a full day. We intentionally purchase our home in order to be able to attend, and walk to, Lafayette. Beginning at the Pre-k level allowed us to save money on attending preschool elsewhere and solidified our place in the broader Lafayette community. Because it was close to home, I was able to volunteer frequently, even beginning at the pre-k level.*

101. Eleanor Correa  
Washington D.C.

102. Lisa Pyle  
Washington D.C.

103. Sara Snider Papademetriou  
Washington D.C.

104. Robin Kanegis  
Washington D.C.

*Parent of Lafayette student, neighbor of Lafayette*

105. Nicole Islinger  
Washington D.C.

106. Mark Angehr  
Washington D.C.  
*We are current Lafayette parents and parents of a pre-K student next year. We much prefer to keep PreK within walking distance in the neighborhood, and believe the district should look seriously into leasing the Episcopal Children's Center. This decision is rushed, has not taken into account the appropriate and reasonable neighborhood feedback, and does not responsibly take into account the future ramifications of such a move.*

107. Ashley Lamade  
Washington D.C.  
*Children will be attending the school*

108. Heather Halifax  
Washington D.C.

109. Mark Roche-Garland  
Washington D.C.

110. Matthew Roper  
Washington D.C.  
*My children are future Lafayette students — there has been a complete lack of community input on this issue and the unwillingness of DCPS to engage is frustrating. Please do not move or end Pre-K at Lafayette.*

111. Kerry Murray  
Washington D.C.  
*Past and future Lafayette parent . The school should stay in the neighborhood*

112. Kim Schaich

Washington D.C.

*Live one block from Lafayette Elementary School and future Pre-K SY2021 and then SY2024.*

113. Lauri Putt Needleman

Washington D.C.

*As a future and former Lafayette Pre-K parent, I expect to have access to free high quality elementary education, inclusive of the Pre-Kindergarten programming, within the Chevy Chase DC community. Our decision to move to this neighborhood eight years ago was based on Lafayette ES programming and test scores. This was a significant investment and long-term commitment for our family. Access to this program is essential for many families in our neighborhood. Relocating or removing the program will create logistical and financial hardship for our family and for many others. DCPS should focus on ensuring stability in programming for in-bound families and expanding Pre-K across the city in other schools. Additional investment in our children must start early and is imperative to positive learning outcomes.*

114. Elizabeth Engel

Washington D.C.

*My kids attended Lafayette. It is important to keep all Lafayette students together in the same building, part of the same school community, and within walking or biking distance from their homes. Adding a longer commute for young students and separating elementary aged siblings undermines any benefit that a separate campus might offer.*

115. Paul Needleman

Washington D.C.

*It's important to keep affordable childcare options for families, especially those close to home, and with other family members already attending the school. Taking the school out of the neighborhood will cause financial and household burden on families.*

116. Sophie Hanrahan

Washington D.C.

*There has not been enough thought and research don't into this large change. We need discussion and thoughtful understanding. This is rushed and feels like an end run around the neighborhood with no ones best interest at heart.*

117. Christina Scher

Washington D.C.

118. Alanna Hart

Washington D.C.

*The community needs more time to vet all options thoroughly and have a chance to provide feedback in order to best identify the long term solution for overcrowding at Lafayette. This is not only a pre-k issue and it feels like DCPS is rushing a very important decision without proper community involvement and thorough analysis of all potential options. Additionally, this is happening while dcps and Lafayette administration are trying to work on reopening the school for the first time. Too much at once for 2 very pressing concerns.*

119. Mary Kavanaugh  
Washington D.C.  
*I strongly recommend that DCPS keep pre-k 4 in the neighborhood especially if the small area plan in ward 3/ ward 4 brings even more families to the neighborhood. This is not the time to move schools out of the neighborhood.*

120. jerry malitz  
Washington D.C.  
*the rush to a decision and the lack of real community engagement in the process is stunningly arrogant.*

121. Astrid Ruggeri  
Washington D.C.

122. Lauren B Kootman  
Washington D.C.  
*This is an important decision that could have collateral consequences that have not been fully considered. Rushing into this decision without allowing time for the community to be fully informed and to consider all the potential consequences is reckless and unnecessary. This is particularly true at this time, in this year, when DCPS has not even been able to communicate a plan to get our kids back in school. The potential long term impact on enrollment caused by the extended virtual learning should be a factor in the decision regarding Pre-K 4 at Lafayette.*

123. Hanna Jang  
Washington D.C.  
*Future Parent. We moved to this area because of Lafayette and it's pre-K option.*

124. Jan S  
Washington D.C.

125. Lily B.  
Washington D.C.  
*DC, we know you're not talking to us, but are your agencies talking to each other? You purchased a building in another neighborhood for \$8MM supposedly for Lafayette without talking to Lafayette's principal or community in an attempt to address overcrowding largely due to your poor enrollment projections? At the same time you are proposing a development project in the same Chevy Chase neighborhood to increase housing density which will only increase school enrollment? At the same time you are cutting the E4 east west bus line that families will need to travel to the new Pre K school in Brightwood?*

126. Grace Smith  
Washington D.C.

127. amy harper  
Washington D.C.

128. Sarah Shah  
Washington D.C.  
*It's important to keep our neighborhood school in our neighborhood! Especially for our youngest students. What about the former Episcopal School as a location?*

129. Mary Kate Cranston  
Washington D.C.

130. Page Kennedy  
Washington D.C.  
*As a former Lafayette parent, our pre-K experience was such a highlight. From staying out all night to get a slot, to meeting all the other parents at pick up and drop off to the graduation ceremony, it really made us and our kids part of the community*

131. Jessica Leinwand  
Washington D.C.

132. Sarah Mullen  
Washington D.C.  
*Live in the area with pre k school aged children*

133. Elana S.  
Washington D.C.

134. Mary Robinson  
Washington D.C.

135. Anne Dechter  
Washington D.C.

136. Abigail Donovan  
Washington D.C.

137. Matt Scherer  
Washington D.C.  
*Please keep pre-K in the neighborhood and look at the many other options available -- including leasing ECC right next to Lafayette. Moving kids to a school 10-15 minutes away in each direction presumes that parents can shuttle their little ones to a distant school while having other students at Lafayette, which may not be possible during the weekday scramble for families with only one parent or two working parents. ECC is a huge space that can be renovated to house many students with a great outdoor space, and is right near Lafayette. There are many other creative options suggested by the community too. Please take them into account and slow down this rushed process.*

138. Ann Hawkins  
Washington D.C.

*I am 80 yrs. old. As a young mother, I enjoyed walking 6 blocks to Lafayette with my children. My husband needed our car to go to work. I would not have been able to use the car to take them to a pre-K program miles away. Pre-K in the neighborhood is a gentle first step to prepare a young child for the elementary school years.*

139. Elizabeth Worden  
Washington D.C.

*The process and communication around this pending decision is troubling. There needs to be more time and consideration for community feedback. All stakeholders have a voice in this decision! DCPS should not push through an policy that impacts so many families without considering and discussing openly all the viable options.*

140. linda haslach  
Washington D.C.

*Children need to go to their neighborhood school. Transporting children AWAY for pre-K causes unnecessary traffic congestion at a time of day that already sees crowded and precarious traffic situations.*

141. Catherine Bye  
Washington D.C.

142. Julie Shroyer  
Washington D.C.

143. Erica Green  
Washington D.C.  
*As a neighbor and parent of 2 kids who have gone through Lafayette, keeping this option in the neighborhood (in a walkable location) is crucial*

144. Darcy Buckley  
Washington D.C.

*I recognize the enrollment and space issues put DCPS, Lafayette, and the community in a hard position. I believe the Military Road school is a fine short-term solution but it is not a good long term solution. The capital investment seems high for an imperfect short-term solution outside of the neighborhood that cannot be walked to. I'm concerned about longer-term issues that PK-4 at this location may create and they were not addressed adequately at the outreach meeting. There are likely to be 150 PK-4 spots at this location. Let's say that 1/3 of in-bound families choose to keep kids in private pre-school for PK-4 rather than travel outside the neighborhood. That would mean 50 spaces for out-of-boundary students. That's great - but it would theoretically lead to a K class 200 when in-boundary students are added the next year. These numbers are just examples- but even 10 additional kids could mean need 8 (rather than 7) K classes. How is DCPS addressing this?*

145. Pauline Crane  
Washington D.C.

*Having access to preK is essential to a child's education and is a policy goal at the local and national levels. I would encourage DC as a whole as well as our neighborhood to be very ambitious when it comes to early childhood education. As a result, we should aim to have access not only to universal preK-4 but also preK3, early intervention programs and special needs classrooms for the youngest members of our community, all within neighborhoods and ideally walking distance.*

146. Haley Chetrit  
Washington D.C.

147. Celeste Regan  
Washington D.C.

*As parent of former Lafayette student, it doesn't seem sensible to split the pre-K from the neighborhood school. Agree with Matt S that, if it were feasible, the now-vacant Episcopal Center for Children seems like a viable option. All of the choices, I imagine, have downsides yet I hope keeping the kids in the neighborhood remains a priority.*

148. Georgia S  
Washington D.C.

*Keep Lafayette Pre-K in the neighborhood! It's what the Chevy Chase residents want!*

149. Paul Stanchfield  
Washington D.C.

*I have a daughter who is entering pre-K at LaFayette in the next year so keeping pre-k in the neighborhood is very important to us!*

150. Jennifer Grayson  
Washington D.C.

151. David White  
Washington D.C.

*We have two infants -- 4 months and 18 months -- and recently purchased in Chevy Chase precisely because we were so excited about them going to Lafayette Elementary, both for pre-K and elementary school. Juggling two drop offs (one across the park!) combined with both working full time just doesn't seem tenable or fair to the neighborhood.*

152. David S  
Washington D.C.  
*I can't imagine under what circumstances this is a good idea. There is value in the slow progression, in one place, from preK to 5th grade. No to mention the smaller carbon footprint of walking your kids to school rather than creating additional congestion in some other neighborhood. In addition, the city and this neighborhood just made a large investment in upgrading this building to prevent such a thing from happening. It appears to be a big disconnect between DCPS HQ and this community.*

153. Elder Witt Wellborn  
Washington D.C.  
As a former Lafayette parent and a current Lafayette grandparent, I would like to see another site within the general boundaries of the neighborhood, like, for example, the Episcopal School at Nebraska and Utah Avenues.

154. P Harasty  
Washington D.C.

155. Matt W  
Washington D.C.

156. Lisa Gore  
Washington D.C.  
Once again, another District agency/entity is failing to allow proper community engagement on important decisions that impact their lives. The community deserves to weigh in on this decision.

157. D Zach  
Washington D.C.

158. Kate Mazza  
Washington D.C.  
*Walkable neighborhood schools are vital to communities and should be protected and encouraged. This seems like a very rushed and logistically challenged plan.*

159. Tatiana C.  
Washington D.C.

160. Nicholas C-P  
Washington D.C.

161. Phyllis Myers  
Washington D.C.  
*Lived here for 50 years plus. Lafayette school critical to the outstanding quality of this community. Let's raise and strengthen cohesiveness not do things to erode the very qualities that make this an enviable place to live.*

162. barbara suter  
Washington D.C.  
*good quality program for young children which has been in the neighborhood forever. was psych consultant to program for many years in the 70's do not take this program away from the many supportive families who have used it.*

163. Elizabeth Struse  
Washington D.C.

164. Alexander Kullar  
Washington D.C.  
*We have a two-year old who we want to attend pre-K at Lafayette. Moving the pre-K to Military Rd across the park makes me question whether we will do so. A walkable school is better for the kids, the neighborhood, and the environment.*

165. Ben Boerum  
Washington D.C.

166. Jessica Lee  
Washington D.C.

167. Juan S Lleras  
Washington D.C.  
*We are the parent of a 2 year old whole will be applying to the pre K lottery. The possibility of of Lafayette pre K was one of the reasons why we moved to the neighborhood 1 month ago.*

168. Rebecca Baker  
Washington D.C.  
*I am a resident of the Lafayette school district with young children. PreK should help children learn about school community, including the building, walking from home, and customs of the school where they will be elementary students. It is an important part of our community and should not be moved to a separate location.*

169. Eric Stanchfield  
Washington D.C.

170. April Rosenbaum  
Washington D.C.  
*We have two young children, ages 18 months and newborn in the Lafayette neighborhood. We are opposed to this proposal to move Lafayette PreK and prefer strongly to keep the school in the neighborhood. We are concerned about the potential to worsen overcrowding at the school and long term impacts to the viability of Lafayette as a neighborhood school, which certainly affects our young children and our property. Thank you.*

171. Caroline Bressler  
Washington D.C.  
*Additional slots are very important to us but we feel more time is needed to properly vet options.*

172. Claudio Saban  
Washington D.C.

173. Mary Oster  
Washington D.C.  
*My children went there and it was great and in our neighborhood. I could walk them home.*

174. Avra Siegel  
Washington D.C.

175. Carole Evans  
Washington D.C.

176. Michele Monteilh  
Washington D.C.  
*I'm a former Lafayette parent of 2 who both attended the Pre-K program. I too remember the sleeping out to get a spot in Pre-K. I believe it is imperative to keep the Pre-K program if not at Lafayette, then within the neighborhood.*

177. Katie L  
Washington D.C.  
*I'm a current Lafayette parent. I have concerns about having a satellite campus in an out of boundary neighborhood. There are options for maintaining pre-k within the boundaries of Lafayette. There are also a lot of unanswered questions about how Brightwood residents feel about this proposal - it does not seem fair they would not be given in-bounds access. This is also a temporary solution to a growing problem. Crowding at Lafayette and Deal is known, and will only continue to grow.*

178. Ed Pagano  
Washington D.C.

179. Elyse Wasch  
Washington D.C.

*I am a current Lafayette parent whose child went to pre-k at Lafayette. We think the proposal to move the pre-k to a school that is not within walking distance of the neighborhood is a terrible solution. The renovation of Lafayette was done in the most shortsighted manner with abysmal planning. Families shouldn't suffer as a result. A solution should be found on campus even if that means another round of renovation or at the Episcopal school, which is in the neighborhood.*

180. Ben Goldberg  
Washington D.C.

*It is unacceptable to have pre-K kids so far away from their siblings and main school site. As a current Lafayette parent, neither parents nor little children should be punished for DCPS and Lafayette administration failures to foresee enrollment growth.*

181. Christine Bedoret  
Washington D.C.

182. Jared Cohen  
Washington D.C.

183. Anu Mullick  
Washington D.C.

184. Sarah Wessel  
Washington D.C.

185. Sirine Shebaya  
Washington D.C.

186. Rachel Zuraw  
Washington D.C.

*This is a significant change to the school and the community and the lack of communication and transparency is concerning. These decisions impact all of us in some way and the community should be part of an open and honest discussion. Be clear about what options were considered and why others were ruled out.*

187. Alex Y  
Washington D.C.

*Not only do we need to save our PreK, but why are we not able to have a PreK 3? The upper NW quadrant has been ignored for years. This is detrimental to special needs kids. DCPS should be looking seriously at the episcopal school which can accommodate far more students than the old LAMB school.*

188. Robert Doubek  
Washington D.C.

189. Kevin Walsh  
Washington D.C.

190. Jennifer Gootman  
Washington D.C.

*PreK located within the school community with (during normal times) access to the same \specials\" teachers*

191. Tabitha E  
Washington D.C.

*I support increasing opportunities for PreK throughout the district but believe moving Lafayette's PreK program to the LAMB site needs further evaluation and input from both the Lafayette and Brightwood communities.*



192. Shu Yu

Washington D.C.

*We have two kids who would be entering Pre-K next year and the year after. We do not own a car and were considering Lafayette as our preferred school when moving to the community last year. Such a re-allocation plan seriously shocked us! We do not drive and will not be able to drive in the near future. Walkability is really important for us!*

193. Jennifer Knoll

Washington D.C.

*It's obvious preK should be part of the community and school*

194. Matthew De Jesus

Washington D.C.

195. Beth O'Brien

Washington D.C.

196. Elizabeth Kumbhari

Washington D.C.

197. Gisele Hanson

Washington D.C.

198. Laura Phinizy

Washington D.C.

*We should keep preK on site. We could be creative here. If we went to a 1/2 day program, we could accommodate all in-bounds families. The students here for the most part do come to preK with exposure to print and numbers at home, have food at home, have medical insurance, etc. I understand that working parents may prefer a full day, but a half day of school plus half day of play with mom or caregiver is reasonable for 4 year-olds, and most children in this attendance zone would still arrive in kindergarten ready to learn with prerequisite skills. We don't want to have an offsite campus that sets a precedent for sending our neighborhood kids to a school out of walking distance. I am also suspicious of the language in the budget proposal to justify this purchase to 'relieve Ward 4 overcrowding.' By opening up another campus*

199. Margarita Prieto

Washington D.C.

200. Benjamin Wallace

Washington D.C.

201. KATHRYNE DICKERSON

Washington D.C.

*Among other concerns, I will have two children at Lafayette next year; having to get their younger sibling across the park to pk4 would be challenging.*

202. Lara Hawketts

Washington D.C.

*We have a 3rd grader in the school and moved here so they could be in the same school together. This would be incredibly disruptive to our family.*

203. Betsy Hart  
Washington D.C.  
*Parent of 4 graduates, grandparent is 2 students, former HSA president, neighbor. The school is the heart of our neighborhood and community.*

204. Mary Garber  
Washington D.C.  
*Please keep this program in the neighborhood to maintain and strengthen the community.*

205. Ann Sun  
Washington D.C.  
*We are parents of a young child not yet at Lafayette elementary school. We feel strongly about keeping the location of the school in the neighborhood. We urge DCPS to press pause on this proposal, keep PreK at Lafayette on Broad Brach Road next year, and take 12-18 months to come up with a better long-term solution in the neighborhood.*

206. Kerianne Piester  
Washington D.C.  
*Getting public pre-K at Lafayette was a hard fought battle. I recall the days when we had to camp overnight to get a spot. Many had to pay elsewhere. Our tax \$ should be used to support free pre-K in the neighborhood.*

207. Kate Kelly  
Washington D.C.

208. Amy Tanen  
Washington D.C.

209. Michael Keefe  
Washington D.C.  
*This decision to move pre-k is a short term solution that does not address the overall issue of overcrowding. If anything, it may exacerbate it.*

210. Pamela Wye  
Washington D.C.

211. Mariano Pelliza  
Washington D.C.  
*Location: The Episcopal Center school (5901 Utah Ave NW) is a 2mn drive or 10mn walk from Lafayette, providing administrators, teachers, students and local families a much more convenient and easy to administer location potentially having a lease to buy arrangement with ECC vs acquiring the LAMB location would be a more fiscally conservative approach.*

212. Jennifer Younger  
Washington D.C.  
*Neighborhood schooling is the backbone of our community. Moving Lafayette pre K is a terrible idea and one developed without any input from the families affected.*

213. Anne Carstenn  
Washington D.C.  
*Home value and important part of why people choose to live in the neighborhood*

214. James Breeden  
Washington D.C.

215. Amy Markopoulos  
Washington D.C.

216. Elizabeth Ellikidis  
Washington D.C.  
*Many of us moved to this neighborhood for access to Pre-K within the bounds of the neighborhood.*

217. Jordan Angel  
Washington D.C.

218. Lauren Burgess  
Washington D.C.  
*I support increasing opportunities for PreK throughout the district but believe moving Lafayette's PreK program to the proposed site needs further evaluation and input from the communities involved.*

219. Ana Fullmer  
Washington D.C.

220. Cheryl Palmeri  
Washington D.C.  
*PreK needs to stay in the neighborhood it is meant to serve. Moving it to the old LAMB building would put an enormous burden on families who have children in both preK and other grades at Lafayette. The Episcopal School on Utah and Nebraska is the correct choice as it is walkable from Lafayette.*

221. Matthew Windsor  
Washington D.C.

222. Rick Tempchin  
Washington D.C.  
*Neighborhood pre k is key to a strong city*

223. Elizabeth Davis  
Washington D.C.

224. Nicole Shepardson  
Washington D.C.  
*I have two older kids at Lafayette, so it will be difficult to have my youngest child attend pre-k so far away.*

225. Laura Shull-Chandler  
Washington D.C.

226. Anil Niraula  
Washington D.C.  
*My 3-year child is about to be ready for pre-k and Lafayette pre-K is close to us.*

227. Elena Zavyalova  
Washington D.C.  
*Family from that area near it*

228. Brigitte Dusseau  
Washington D.C.  
*There is no good reason to move it. It is better for young kids in this very friendly neighborhood*

229. Libbey Sheldon  
Washington D.C.  
*I live near the school & would like to see all grades remain together. All of my boys went to Lafayette. It would be an unnecessary logistical burden to place on my neighbors who have both younger & older children at Lafayette.*

230. Teresa Puretz  
Washington D.C.

231. Catherine Fish  
Washington D.C.  
*We were hoping that our son could attend the pre-k program at Lafayette, which we can walk to and is the heart of our community!*

232. Rowena Stuart  
Washington D.C.

*It is good for the Pre-K to become acclimated with the school before kindergarten*

233. Robert Smith  
Washington D.C.

*DC invested a huge amount of money in renovating this school just 3 years ago. It's a gem of the neighborhood. Why drive families away now by reducing this vital service?*

234. Katherine Fliflet  
Washington D.C.

*We moved to this neighborhood for the school and would like our two kiddos to go to this program (2 y/o and baby coming soon)*

235. Nathaniel Huber-Fliflet  
Washington D.C.

236. Corinne White  
Washington D.C.

*lots of kids in the neighborhood. they need to go to a school close by.*

237. Anslie Milligan  
Washington D.C.

*Lafayette families should be able to send their kids to PK4 in the same building as the rest of the school. DCPS should reduce the number of out-of-bounds kids as needed.*

238. Richard Teare  
Washington D.C.

*My children attended Lafayette and my wife and I were active in the Home & School Ass'n. We believe strongly in neighborhood schools and don't believe the youngest children should be sent elsewhere. It is not clear that alternatives have been examined sufficiently, or at all.*

239. Virginia Khoury  
Washington D.C.

240. Kevin Morison  
Washington D.C.

*This is a critically important neighborhood resource that belongs IN the neighborhood.*

241. Annalisa S  
Washington D.C.

*As a member of the Lafayette community with a toddler who I hope will attend PK at Lafayette, I urge the school to work with the community to come up with solutions that keep PK in the neighborhood.*

242. Helene Kenny  
Washington D.C.

*It is my neighborhood although I am in Ward 4. I believe in neighborhood schools. Why not convert the new Lafayette Rec Center near tennis courts to Pre-School?*

243. Julia Ager  
Washington D.C.

*We just moved to this neighborhood because of the school, and pre-k was a big reason we moved. We hope to send our future kids there! Please reconsider and look at other options.*

244. Margaret DeBoer  
Washington D.C.  
*Community needs prek*

245. Jessica Brand  
Washington D.C.  
*Walkability. The city has set a net zero target. We won't get there by putting more cars on the road.*

246. Derrick Olson  
Washington D.C.  
*Plea to keep one of the few (only?) PK program for families in the neighborhood. Moved here for this school.*

247. Ian Meyers  
Washington D.C.  
*We will be taking up slots in communikids if this goes forward and it's already hard enough to find pre-k programs*

248. Margarita O'Donnell  
Washington D.C.  
*I am a parent of a 1st grader and a rising Pre-K 4 student. This solution does not address the significant overcrowding at Lafayette which DCPS apparently has been unable to plan for. We need a long term solution to overcrowding not a short term fix that has difficult consequences for others. The failure of DCPS to engage with the community with sufficient notice is very troubling.*

249. Anna Dynan  
Washington D.C.

250. Ava Lujan  
Washington D.C.

251. Clara Graham-Martinez  
Washington D.C.

252. Michael Willis  
Washington D.C.

253. Ellen Carrier  
Washington D.C.

254. Vance Gootman  
Washington D.C.

255. Henry Lynch  
Washington D.C.  
*First grade parent and rising pre-k student.*

256. John Reeder  
Washington D.C.  
*Property values*

257. Kristi Teems  
Washington D.C.  
*A huge draw to this neighborhood is the ability to walk to school - all of the kids, Pre-K through 5th.*

258. Kimberly Cestari  
Washington D.C.  
*People moved to this neighborhood for Lafayette Elementary school and for its full day pre-K program. It is a vibrant an important part of our school and neighborhood community.*

259. Molly Lawrence  
Washington D.C.  
*Think of the children!!!*

260. Allison Finielli  
Washington D.C.

261. Luis Fernandez de Castro Diaz  
Washington D.C.  
*I have an eligible daughter*

262. Caroline Jensen  
Washington D.C.

263. Fabio Cortes  
Washington D.C.