

October 21, 2015

To the members of ANC 4A:

Thank you for considering the changes sought by the Jewish Primary Day School-D.C. on 16th Street that would enable it to enlarge and modify its main campus. As president of the Shepherd Park Citizens Association, I ask that you look with favor upon this request.

The parents of the children who attend JPDS-D.C. are our neighbors. They contribute to a generations-long tradition of civic activism and betterment that makes Shepherd Park, Colonial Village, North Portal Estates and the surrounding neighborhoods better places to live.

As a parent of a former Shepherd Elementary School student and still active on its School Improvement Team to direct and guide the renovations process, I know from the experience gained over nearly four years what it is like to petition, advocate, cajole and otherwise hound the D.C. Council for the necessary funds to modernize our school without wasting money. Here, the JPDS-D.C. community has had a wonderful donation fall virtually into its lap. They have done the kind of due diligence that Shepherd's School Improvement Team has done to effect a positive change for students without foisting unintended consequences on either the school community or the community at large. Representatives from JPDS have addressed separately the SPCA's officers and an SPCA community meeting with details and architectural renderings of the plan, and answered all questions put to them.

I'm satisfied with the purpose behind the request, and the thoughtful effort made into fulfilling the needs of their growing student body. I can add that the other SPCA officers in attendance at our meeting also appeared to be satisfied, and nary a discouraging word was heard at the Oct. 20 Shepherd Park Citizens Association community meeting.

I hope you can see fit to approve the JPDS request. If you need to contact me, you can do so by phone during the day at 202-541-3263, or by email at pattison_mark@hotmail.com

 Sincerely,

Mark Pattison, president
Shepherd Park Citizens Association