

4340 Verplanck Place NW  
Washington DC 20016  
202 9660816  
February 14, 2022

Dear Chairman Hill:

I am providing comments in support of Maret School's application No. 20643. My name is David Burton, I live at 4340 Verplanck Pl NW DC, 20016, have two children at Maret, and am a member of its Board of Trustees.

The field project will not only meet Maret's long-term need for regulation size athletic fields, essential for the viability of its athletic programs, but also confer benefits on the wider community. In particular, the project would:

--support, through its lease payments, the long-term viability of the Episcopal Children's Center (ECC) and its mission as a therapeutic school serving children with emotional disabilities and their families, allowing the ECC to resume operations.

--help address an unequivocal need throughout the District for access to quality playing fields—it is envisaged that the fields would be available to ECC and DCPS students during the day, and to DC youth sports organizations at other times;

--give access to neighborhood residents to the fields for recreational use.

--provide a stormwater management system for the site designed to a 25-year standard.

Maret has sought to be responsive to the concerns of neighbors, including through reducing the hours of proposed field use by DC youth sports organizations, adjusting aspects of the design to meet community concerns, and proposing strategies for traffic mitigation. In addition, no amplified sound equipment will be allowed on the field, the field will not be lit, and heritage trees will be preserved.

All told, it is difficult to imagine a better use for the site from a community-wide perspective.

Yours sincerely,

David Burton

