

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT



**BZA Application No. 21400**  
**Aidan Montessori School**  
**2700 27th Street, NW (Square 2109, Lot 92)**

**HEARING DATES:** February 11 and February 25, 2026<sup>1</sup>  
**DECISION DATES:** February 25 and March 11, 2026

**SUMMARY ORDER**

**RELIEF REQUESTED.** The application requests the following relief in order to construct a two-story front addition, to an existing, detached, four-story plus penthouse, private school building in the R-3 zone:

- Special Exception under the private school use requirements of Subtitle U § 203.1(m), pursuant to Subtitle X § 901.2
- Area Variance from the lot occupancy requirements of Subtitle D § 210.1, pursuant to Subtitle X § 1002 (*40% maximum permitted; 44% existing; 47% proposed*)

The zoning relief requested in this case was self-certified. (Exhibit 38 (Final Revised).)<sup>2</sup>

**PRIOR APPLICATION.** In Order No. 7184, issued in 1963, the Board of Zoning Adjustment (the "Board") approved a private school use at the subject property, subject to a maximum enrollment of 240 students. (Exhibit 6, Tab B.)

**PARTIES.** The parties to this case were the Applicant and Advisory Neighborhood Commission ("ANC") 3C, the "affected ANC" pursuant to Subtitle Y §§ 101.8 and 403.5(b) of the Zoning Regulations (Title 11 of the DCMR, Zoning Regulations of 2016, to which all references are made unless otherwise specified).

**NOTICE OF THE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC HEARING.** The Board referred the application to the appropriate agencies and provided proper and timely notice of the public hearing in accordance with Subtitle Y § 402.1.

**ANC REPORT.** The ANC's report indicated that at a regularly scheduled, properly noticed public meeting on December 15, 2025, at which a quorum was present, the ANC voted to support the application. (Exhibit 15.) The ANC report raised no issues or concerns.

<sup>1</sup> The public hearing was administratively rescheduled from the original hearing date of February 4, 2026.

<sup>2</sup> The application was amended to add special exception relief under the private school use requirements of Subtitle U § 203.1(m).

**OFFICE OF PLANNING (“OP”) REPORT.** OP submitted a supplemental report recommending approval of the application. (Exhibit 41.)

OP’s first report, dated January 22, 2026, recommended approval of the originally requested relief. (Exhibit 24.)

**DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (“DDOT”) REPORT.** DDOT submitted a report indicating that it had no objection to the application because it concluded that the relief would not result in any adverse impacts to the District’s transportation network. (Exhibit 26.)

**PERSONS IN SUPPORT.** The Board received four letters in support of the application. (Exhibits 27, 30, 31, 33.)

Daniel Widome testified at the February 25, 2026 public hearing in support of the application.

**PERSONS IN OPPOSITION.** The Board received six letters in opposition to the application. (Exhibits 17, 20-22, 28, 36.)

Jennifer Jessup testified at the February 25, 2026 public hearing regarding her concerns about the application.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

Pursuant to Subtitle Y § 604.3, the order of the Board may be in summary form where granting an application when there was no party in opposition. As a summary order, it does not constitute binding legal precedent on the Board and shall not be considered by the Board in evaluating future applications.

Based upon the record before the Board, and having given great weight to the appropriate reports and recommendations filed in this case, the Board concludes that the Applicant has met the burden of proof that the requested special exception and variance relief can be granted because:

- It is in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning Regulations and Map;
- It will not tend to affect adversely the use of neighboring property;
- Pursuant to Subtitle X § 901.2(c), the relief satisfies the specified conditions for special exception relief;
- There exists an exceptional or extraordinary situation or condition related to the property;
- The exceptional condition creates a practical difficulty, in the case of an area variance, or an undue hardship, in the case of a use variance, in complying with the Zoning Regulations;
- The relief can be granted without substantial detriment to the public good; and
- The relief can be granted without substantially impairing the intent, purpose, and integrity of the zone plan as embodied in the Zoning Regulations and Map.

### **DECISION**

Based on the case record and the testimony at the hearing, the Board concludes that the applicant has satisfied the burden of proof for the requested relief:

- Special Exception under the private school use requirements of Subtitle U § 203.1(m), pursuant to Subtitle X § 901.2
- Area Variance from the lot occupancy requirements of Subtitle D § 210.1, pursuant to Subtitle X § 1002 (*40% maximum permitted; 44% existing; 47% proposed*)

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that the application is **GRANTED** consistent with the plans shown in Exhibits 19A1, 19A2 of the record, as required under Subtitle Y §§ 604.9 and 604.10, subject to the following **CONDITION**:

1. The number of students shall not exceed a maximum enrollment of 180.

**VOTE: 3-0-2** (Carl H. Blake, Brittney Drakeford, and Robert E. Miller to APPROVE; two Board seats vacant)

**BY ORDER OF THE D.C. BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT**

A majority of the Board members approved the issuance of this order.

**ATTESTED BY:**

  
SARA A. BARDIN  
Director, Office of Zoning

**FINAL DATE OF ORDER:** March 17, 2026

PURSUANT TO 11 DCMR SUBTITLE Y § 604.11, NO ORDER OF THE BOARD SHALL TAKE EFFECT UNTIL TEN (10) DAYS AFTER IT BECOMES FINAL PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE Y § 604.7.

PURSUANT TO 11 DCMR SUBTITLE Y § 702.1, THIS ORDER SHALL NOT BE VALID FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS, UNLESS, WITHIN SUCH TWO-YEAR PERIOD, AN APPLICATION FOR A BUILDING PERMIT FOR THE ERECTION OR ALTERATION APPROVED IS FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECURING A BUILDING PERMIT, OR A REQUEST FOR A TIME EXTENSION PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE Y § 705 IS FILED PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD AND THE REQUEST IS GRANTED. PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE Y § 703.10, NO OTHER ACTION, INCLUDING THE FILING OR GRANTING OF AN APPLICATION FOR A MODIFICATION PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE Y §§ 703 OR 704, SHALL TOLL OR EXTEND THE TIME PERIOD.

PURSUANT TO 11 DCMR SUBTITLE Y § 604, APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION SHALL INCLUDE APPROVAL OF THE PLANS SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BUILDING OR STRUCTURE (OR ADDITION THERETO) OR THE RENOVATION OR ALTERATION OF AN EXISTING BUILDING OR STRUCTURE. AN APPLICANT SHALL CARRY OUT THE CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, OR ALTERATION ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLANS APPROVED BY THE BOARD AS THE SAME MAY BE AMENDED AND/OR MODIFIED FROM TIME TO TIME BY THE BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT.

PURSUANT TO 11 DCMR SUBTITLE A § 303, THE PERSON WHO OWNS, CONTROLS, OCCUPIES, MAINTAINS, OR USES THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, OR ANY PART THERETO, SHALL COMPLY WITH THE CONDITIONS IN THIS ORDER, AS THE SAME MAY BE AMENDED AND/OR MODIFIED FROM TIME TO TIME BY THE BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT. FAILURE TO ABIDE BY THE CONDITIONS IN THIS ORDER, IN WHOLE OR IN PART SHALL BE GROUNDS FOR THE REVOCATION OF ANY BUILDING PERMIT OR CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS ORDER.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE D.C. HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 1977, AS AMENDED, D.C. OFFICIAL CODE § 2-1401.01 *ET SEQ.* (ACT), THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED: RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, AGE, MARITAL STATUS, PERSONAL APPEARANCE, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION, FAMILIAL STATUS, FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES, MATRICULATION, POLITICAL AFFILIATION, GENETIC INFORMATION, DISABILITY, SOURCE OF INCOME, OR PLACE OF RESIDENCE OR BUSINESS. SEXUAL HARASSMENT IS A FORM OF SEX DISCRIMINATION WHICH IS PROHIBITED BY THE ACT. IN ADDITION, HARASSMENT BASED ON ANY OF THE ABOVE PROTECTED CATEGORIES IS PROHIBITED BY THE ACT. DISCRIMINATION IN VIOLATION OF THE ACT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. VIOLATORS WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION.