

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES**



Letter of Support for Ross Elementary School

April 9, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Department of General Services, I would like to express our support for the Ross Elementary School modernization, as shown in the drawings provided to us by the project's Design-Build team, Chiaramonte-Shinberg/Levinas. The scheme proposes a new elevator to be located at the rear of the existing historic 1888 structure, hidden from view, and visible only from the alley. The proposal is a big asset to the school and the community, providing ADA access to students and staff throughout the existing structure. At the same time, the proposal is respectful and deferential to the existing historic building and the neighborhood. We support DCPS' effort with this modernization.

Brian Butler  
Program Manager  
DC Department of General Services -DGS  
Capital Construction Services - CCS  
1250 U Street, NW- 4th FL  
Washington, DC 20009  
202-727-7227 Desk  
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[Brian.Butler@dc.gov](mailto:Brian.Butler@dc.gov)

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES**



May 22, 2020

Board of Zoning Adjustment  
of the District of Columbia  
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 210S  
Washington, DC 20001

**Re: Second Letter of Support for Ross ES / Expedited Application Process**

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Department of General Services, this letter serves as a follow-up to our first Letter of Support dated April 9, 2020. We cannot overstate our enthusiasm for this opportunity to modernize the school building and enhance the overall experience for students and staff at Ross Elementary School. Given the importance of the project, we respectfully request that the application is processed and reviewed in expedited fashion. Upgrading the school is of the utmost priority, and we are under a strict timetable to deliver a modernized building – complete with the ADA-accessible elevator – by the 2021-22 school year. We would be most appreciative of an accelerated process and efficient approval.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Brian Butler  
Program Manager  
DC Department of General Services – DGS  
Capital Construction Services – CCS  
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May 27, 2020

Board of Zoning Adjustment  
of the District of Columbia  
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 210S  
Washington, DC 20001

**Re: Ross Elementary School / Expedited BZA Application**

Dear Members of the Board:

On behalf of the District of Public Schools (DCPS), I would like to express our strong support for the Ross Elementary School modernization, as shown in the drawings provided to us by the project's design team, Chiaramonte-Shinberg/Levinas. The scheme proposes a new, ADA-accessible elevator to be located at the rear of the existing building, which will serve as a major asset to the school and to the community at-large. The elevator addition will also not negatively impact neighboring properties or compromise the integrity of the historic structure.

We cannot overstate our enthusiasm for this opportunity to modernize the school building and enhance the overall experience for students and staff at Ross Elementary School. Given the importance of the project, we respectfully request that the application is processed and reviewed in expedited fashion. Upgrading the school is of the utmost priority, and we are under a strict timetable to deliver a modernized building – complete with the ADA-accessible elevator – by the 2021-22 school year. We would be most appreciative of an accelerated process – and timely approval, especially when considering how the ongoing coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic has impacted our students and staff.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

*Nicholas Williams*

Nicholas Williams

Director, DCPS Facility Planning and Design.



Thursday, April 23, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the District of Columbia Public Schools, I would like to express our support for the Ross Elementary School modernization, as shown in the drawings provided to us by the project's Design-Build team, Chiamonte-Shinberg/Levinas. The scheme proposes a new elevator to be located at the rear of the existing historic 1888 structure, hidden from view, and visible only from the alley. The proposal is a big asset to the school and the community, providing ADA access to students and staff throughout the existing structure. At the same time, the proposal is respectful and deferential to the existing historic building and the neighborhood.

We appreciate your support for DCPS' on-going modernization program.

Sincerely,

*Holly M. Searl, Principal*

Ross Elementary School

Holly.searl@k12.dc.gov

## Letter of support for modernization at Ross Elementary School

Debra Olson <debraolson2@yahoo.com>

Thu 4/23/2020 4:06 PM

To: Sanin, Camilo (DCPS) <Camilo.Sanin@k12.dc.gov>

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Thursday, April 23, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Ross Elementary School LSAT, I would like to express our support for the Ross Elementary School modernization, as shown in the drawings provided to us by the project's Design-Build team, Chiaramonte-Shinberg/Levinas. The scheme proposes a new elevator to be located at the rear of the existing historic 1888 structure, hidden from view, and visible only from the alley. The proposal is a big asset to the school and the community, providing ADA access to students and staff throughout the existing structure. At the same time, the proposal is respectful and deferential to the existing historic building and the neighborhood.

We appreciate your support for DCPS' on-going modernization program.

Debra L. Olson, Chairman  
Ross Elementary School LSAT

## ADA compliance at Ross

Dr. Judith Klavans <dr.judith.klavans@gmail.com>

Thu 4/23/2020 6:10 PM

To: Sanin, Camilo (DCPS) <Camilo.Sanin@k12.dc.gov>

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To the appropriate DC authority,

I am a community member living just behind the Ross Elementary School, an LSAT member, and I am a third generation DC native. To have a non-compliant school is a real mark against our DC schools overall. On behalf of the Ross Elementary School LSAT, I would like to express support for the Ross Elementary School modernization, as shown in the drawings provided to us by the project's Design-Build team, Chiamonte-Shinberg/Levinas. The scheme proposes a new elevator to be located at the rear of the existing historic 1888 structure, hidden from view, and visible only from the alley. The proposal is a big asset to the school and the community, providing ADA access to students and staff and parents throughout the existing structure. At the same time, the proposal is respectful and deferential to the existing historic building and the neighborhood.

My back windows look out onto the location of the new elevator, and I fully support this design.

We appreciate your support for DCPS' on-going modernization program.

Judith L. Klavans, Ph.D. Community LSAT Member  
Ross Elementary School LSAT

[Dr.Judith.Klavans@gmail.com](mailto:Dr.Judith.Klavans@gmail.com)  
<https://www.drjudithconsulting.com>  
240-893-9981

## Letter of Support from Ross PTA Board

Kate Gardner <kateemurphy@gmail.com>

Thu 4/23/2020 7:25 PM

To: Sanin, Camilo (DCPS) <Camilo.Sanin@k12.dc.gov>

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Thursday, April 23, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the District of Columbia Public Schools, I would like to express our support for the Ross Elementary School modernization, as shown in the drawings provided to us by the project's Design-Build team, Chiaramonte-Shinberg/Levinas. The scheme proposes a new elevator to be located at the rear of the existing historic 1888 structure, hidden from view, and visible only from the alley. The proposal is a big asset to the school and the community, providing ADA access to students and staff throughout the existing structure. At the same time, the proposal is respectful and deferential to the existing historic building and the neighborhood.

We appreciate your support for DCPS' on-going modernization program.

Sincerely,

Kate Gardner, Ross PTA President  
On behalf of the Ross PTA Executive Board, 2019-2020