



CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Date: July 8, 2026

To: Mayor Arthur Bryant and City Council

From: John G. Kosanke, Director of Public Safety

Subject: Grosse Pointe Public School System Request to Open Wedgewood Stub Street

BACKGROUND

I have reviewed the plans submitted by the Grosse Pointe Public School System (GPPSS) requesting permission to construct a limited-access gate at the platted stub street on Wedgewood.

The school was completed in 1967 and has operated with its current traffic circulation pattern for nearly 60 years without utilizing the Wedgewood stub street. Under the proposal, the gate would be used only during the morning and afternoon dismissal periods to allow certain school buses to exit the campus and travel south on Wedgewood through the adjacent residential neighborhood.

This proposal is not new. Based on discussions with four former City of Grosse Pointe Woods Directors of Public Safety, this issue has been raised on multiple occasions over the past two decades, including more formal requests. Each of the former directors expressed strong opposition to opening the stub street, citing concerns regarding neighborhood impacts, increased noise, traffic safety, security, and the effect on adjacent residents.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS

The City has already experienced concerns associated with traffic generated by the school's existing pedestrian access on Wedgewood. During student drop-off and pick-up periods, increased vehicle activity has resulted in congestion, noise, and resident complaints. Opening an additional access point for buses has the potential to further impact the surrounding neighborhood. I also spoke with the two residents whose properties are immediately adjacent to the Wedgewood stub street. Both expressed significant concerns regarding the proposal and the impact that opening the stub street would have on their quality of life, including increased noise, traffic, and the overall character of the neighborhood as well as the impact it will have on their property values. They also voiced concerns about the effect the proposal could have on the surrounding residents.

SECURITY AND OPERATIONAL CONCERNS

In addition to neighborhood impacts, there are important security and operational considerations associated with creating an additional access point to the school campus. Limiting access to school campuses is a widely accepted security practice because it helps protect students, staff, and visitors while allowing the school to better monitor who enters and exits the property. While the proposed gate would be intended for limited bus use, several operational questions remain unanswered, including:

- Who will be responsible for monitoring the gate to ensure it is used only as approved?
- What procedures will be in place if the gate is inadvertently left open?
- How will access be controlled if the gate malfunctions in the open position?
- What safeguards will prevent unauthorized vehicles from entering or exiting through the gate?

Controlled access provides several important benefits, including:

- Enhancing campus security by reducing opportunities for unauthorized access.
- Helping protect students, staff, and visitors during the school day.
- Improving accountability during emergency situations by limiting entry and exit points.
- Protecting school property from vandalism, theft, and unauthorized use.

CONCLUSION

While I recognize the School District's desire to improve bus circulation and traffic flow, I also believe the concerns of the surrounding neighborhood deserve significant consideration. The proposed change would alter a traffic pattern that has existed for decades and directly affect nearby residents.

For that reason, I believe the support of the surrounding neighborhood should be an important factor in the Council's decision. If the affected residents are supportive of opening the stub street under the proposed limited-use conditions, I would be supportive of the request. However, absent that support, I have concerns regarding the potential impacts to the neighborhood and the long-term operational and security issues associated with creating an additional access point.

Ultimately, this request presents a policy decision that requires balancing the operational needs of the School District with the City's responsibility to protect the character, safety, and quality of life of the surrounding residential neighborhood. I respectfully submit this information for the Council's consideration as it evaluates the request.