

RE: Application from West Ada School District for Elementary School

City Council Hearing scheduled for February 4, 2025

Thank you for your attention.

We are writing with comments and requests for modification regarding the proposed elementary school situated off Pollard north of the current Star Middle School.

As neighborhood property owners it is not the need for the school that we question. Rather it is the placement given the state of Pollard. Pollard's width and lack of sidewalks is concerning and there is a notable lack of commitment from ACHD to address the concerns. Should you give approval to this application, we ask that you exert any and all pressure to have ACHD implement those improvements. It is the safety of the hundreds of very young children attending elementary grades that causes us grave concern. We truly are deeply concerned for the safety of the children.

To a few comments regarding the design itself:

We understand that engineering assessment is that there is sufficient radius for school buses to turn in the proposed drop off area. However, with only one way in and out, again our concern is for safety. What would happen in the event of need for rapid evacuation? Further, there will be numerous parents who will not use the drop off lane; rather, they will use the Middle School lot and walk their children across. For parents that do use the drop off lane, turning left to exit appears it will create quite a bottleneck? We have observed the situation on Star Road during morning and afternoon times at the elementary school and the congestion is intense, further causing safety concerns. We believe that piece of design needs to be reworked.

The proposed asphalt walking pathway north of the building to connect with existing sidewalks off Beacon Light (we believe that is the Rivercreek Subdivision) may alleviate some stress in the drop off area. However, it may not be a welcome addition in that subdivision.

The property on the west edge of the property line has requested that at a minimum the landscape buffer zone be continued north to the property line with tree and grass landscaping; it would match that of the existing Middle School buffer.

We appreciate the placement of the dumpsters to the east of the building. That will alleviate the difficulty with noise that we have experienced with pickup from the trash service done at the Middle School. Think if you will of each morning at approximately 4:15-4:30 AM the noise

of the truck beeps and the physical loading and dumping of the dumpster and yes, even the inadvertent dropping of the dumpster, as your-not-so- favorite alarm clock. Multiple requests to the trash service to alter the timing have netted no change.

Dividing up the outside play areas to the east as well as west will be useful for containing some of the noise. Those little ones have quite the lung capacity!

It appears that the drainage issue may not have been sufficiently addressed to the adjoining properties. We wish to know details of how this storm runoff will be contained. They are getting rid of a lot of existing land that would soak water up and replacing it with concrete. Should the neighbor properties be flooded, it would not only be with water but with whatever chemicals and garbage that is on school property.

We do ask for no excuse enforcement upfront for construction work, including dust control. This seems to be a chronic problem with the construction explosion around Star and neighbors should not need to endure noise or environmental hazards. Commitment to eight AM start with proactive dust control will avoid undue neighborhood impact.

We do have a positive comment for the architect's – Mr. Norskog - willingness to answer questions and meet with us over our concerns.

Thank you for your attention.

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