

Dear Superintendent Boasberg

On behalf of the Mayfair Park Neighborhood Association and community, we are delighted that Denver Public Schools is considering locating the Denver Green School at Whiteman Elementary School. We have met with Mimi Diaz and Allen Potter, and we are excited about their plans and support their effort to elevate the Denver Green School to Innovation School status. We feel that they have the dedication and the talent to make this school a success and that the new K-8 school, with its emphasis on sustainability, would be a good fit with our neighborhood.

Below are some of the reasons it makes sense to locate the Denver Green School at Whiteman which is located in the most sustainable neighborhood, the one that best exemplifies sustainable principles of neighborhood development.

- Mayfair Park is bounded by Lowry on the east and the future Buckley Annex (presently the Defense Accounting Office) to the south. Both Lowry and the Annex exemplify sustainable land planning - planning that integrates the very best features of traditional urban life, public spaces and parks, homes, businesses and community centers; while, at the same time, preserving natural habitat.
- Mayfair Park has benefited from its proximity to a sustainable community. Now, not only is Mayfair Park walk able, with good transportation connections (6 bus stops) within a ¼ mile but it is within walking distance of the diverse housing types available in Lowry West and Mayfair Park. The housing inventory includes 800 square foot ranches, upscale 2 story dwellings, town homes, condos, and duplexes.
- Crest moor Park, located at First Ave. and Monaco, provides community access to a group picnic area, baseball and soccer fields and tennis courts.
- Whiteman School is located within the heart of our community. In the past, our community used the auditorium for neighborhood meetings and the lobby as the precinct poll. Ice Cream Socials happened on the west lawn. Today, children play all summer in the playgrounds because the school grounds are still the closest play area.
- Mayfair Park has always been supportive of Whiteman School. The Board obtained grants to help fund the new, state-of-the-art, Learning Landscapes playground (designed by UCD with community input). The community held fund raisers to benefit the school, including a spaghetti dinner. During construction, the community installed all the grass sod for the playground.
- The school is central to the community and located less than a half a mile from the Schlessman Branch Library and the Lowry Town Center. The Town Center is a popular gathering place for folks of all ages, and includes basic services, such as Albertson's grocery, tailor shop, hair salon, card shop, computer store mail store, ice cream shop, coffee shops(3), along with a good selection of restaurants. There are many potential sustainable student projects in this area. Many of the homes are not energy efficient and in need of affordable retrofit energy upgrades. Many members of the community are gardeners and we could all

benefit from interaction with students. Although we don't have a community garden, we have heard from Jim Hartman, Architect, LEED AP, Harvard Communities, that there is a community garden in the planning stages at Lowry. There may be opportunities for the Green School to get involved in this and other sustainable activities at Lowry as well.

- Whiteman School has some future potential for a solar or photovoltaic retrofit. There is also the potential for retrofitting energy efficient lighting. These projects could be tools for teaching children conservation.

Respectfully,

Kathleen Ruby, President and Elaine Carr, Secretary

cc: Denver Board of Education President and Members

Councilwoman Marcia Johnson

Will Lee-Ashley

Yana Smith

Mimi Diaz

Allen Potter

I am a member of the Mayfair Park Neighborhood Association Board of Directors. I would like to recommend the designation of Whiteman Elementary School for the proposed Green School.

I am an avid gardener and look forward to working with the school and my other gardening neighbors in its activities. I believe the "human resources" we could bring to this school would be invaluable to the students and to the neighborhood.

I also believe our neighborhood is strategically located to be an effective location. We are close to the Schlessman Library, the Montclair Rec Center, Crestmoor Park and the wonderful parks at Lowry. We have few busy streets to cross to access all these facilities.

I encourage your attention the proposal to place the Green School in Whiteman School for the benefit of the children of Denver and for the benefit of our neighborhood and the city.

Cindy Ward