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March 14, 2017

Mr. Jeffrey Wheeler, Senior Planner  
Belmont Office of Community Development  
19 Moore Street  
Belmont, MA 02478

RE: Comment Letters for Site Plan Review  
Belmont Day School  
55 Day School Lane  
Project No. 16-002

Dear Jeffrey,

On behalf of our client, Belmont Day School (BDS), Avalon Consulting Group is pleased to submit as part of the record the enclosed five letters in support of the construction of a new athletic and academic facility ("the Barn") and entrance driveway on the existing Belmont Day School campus.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions regarding this submittal.

Sincerely,  
Avalon Consulting Group

Kelly Durfee Cardoza  
Principal

Enclosures (5)

160031

To Whom It May Concern:

February 28, 2017

My name is Kathy Jo Solomon. This is my fifteenth year as a teacher at the Belmont Day School. I am an art teacher and also the sustainability coordinator there. While I live in an adjoining town I feel like Belmont is my second home. Not only do I work in Belmont, but I also walk here, cycle through and around the town, and eat and shop at the many stores and restaurants. I have recently joined a new group called the Belmont Food Assistance Group that has brought together people from various Belmont organizations such as the Belmont Food Pantry, the Belmont Food Collaborative, and Belmont Serves. I am committed to this town and community and will continue to view that as a priority as part of my job at the Belmont Day School.

Besides teaching art to in the elementary and middle school here, I also coordinate programs at our school that include recycling, composting, and a vibrant school garden. We use this as an outdoor learning space, where children not only experience nature and learn about food and how things grow but dig deeper to learn about nutrition, science, math, social studies and important topics such as food equity and cultural approaches to food. Our produce is used in our school kitchen for lunches. We also use our harvests to prepare meals for shelters in the area. During the summer months we donate our produce to Rosie's Place in Boston and to the Belmont Food Pantry. Last summer we donated over 400 pounds of vegetables to these two food pantries.

Belmont Day School is a special place where community is a great focus and of course the nurturing and education of children is our main priority! We are thrilled to be able to make more space for our programs and to have a more balanced middle school population by slightly expanding our student body to provide a richer and exciting program, and building a new space will make that all possible. That being said there is great concern about being respectful and aware of the surrounding green spaces and our Belmont neighbors. We have a plan in place to reuse some of the trees that we will be cutting down and planting new vegetation and trees in a thoughtful manner. We also are committed to our continuation to reaching out to the community as an active participant and will continue to invite our neighbors to many events and community activities.

All the Best,

Kathy Jo Solomon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Jo Solomon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Barbara Carey

126 White Street, Belmont, MA 02478

March 2, 2017

Dear Town of Belmont,

I am a resident of the Town of Belmont and a proud member of the Belmont Day School community. Having worked for the school for over 11 years and been affiliated with the school for over 15 – my daughter was a camper here and later an employee – I have watched the school support the Town as often as it can and in as many ways as possible.

I can confidently say that Belmont Day School is an integral part of the Belmont community. The school's community service day, held every year in May, is a primary example of this. On this day students of all grades make and deliver crafts and gifts to our surrounding neighbors and the larger community. In addition, parents are encouraged to make an extra effort to shop in all the local retail establishments to increase their revenue stream. Many parents begin their holiday shopping this early to spend as much as they can locally on this day. Students and neighbors feel a real connection, retail increases revenue while making a connection, and joy is shared all around.

Our after school program in years past reached out to the Belmont Food Pantry. Students collected donations and then spent an afternoon delivering these goods, stocking shelves, and preparing shopping bags for clients of the pantry. Our students took great pride in their work and the community at large benefited from the very generous contributions of parents. Truly a win-win for all involved.

The school also goes beyond its student population during the summer when we welcome families from Belmont (and surrounding towns) to our summer camp program. Town residents become part of this community first as campers, then as future leaders and counselors-in-training, and finally as employees. To be a place where young people learn and grow reiterates our purpose and confirms our sense of commitment to the larger community. It is nice that the school can fill the role of employer to the younger population of Belmont as well.

The school currently has plans to construct an additional driveway on the premises. This driveway will provide a second means of access to and from the school making access and egress much safer. It will also increase the flow of traffic and keep backup off Concord Avenue. We had an incident in the not too distant past where a tree fell across Day School Lane completely blocking cars from entering or exiting the school. This can be quite dangerous in a real emergency and highlighted our need for a second driveway. As a parent and an employee whose primary concern is always for the safety of our students and surrounding neighbors, I strongly support the construction of this new driveway. It makes sense for everyone involved.

Thank you for your consideration and for being such a great town to work and live in. I can be reached at 617-806-6829 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Barbara Carey

## Bradley & Kristen Lewis

70 Somerset St.  
Belmont, MA. 02478  
617-484-3104  
blew64@gmail.com

February 26, 2017

Jeffrey Wheeler  
Office of Community Development, Town Hall  
Belmont, MA. 02478

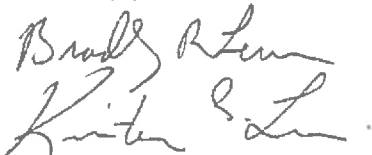
Dear Mr. Wheeler

We are writing to you as a Belmont residents and the parents of two Belmont Day School students in support of the school's proposal to build a new multi-use facility and driveway into campus. BDS has a long and successful history in Belmont. With this success have come opportunities to serve more children and provide more comprehensive programming to them. This proposed project does just that. The building will provide the school with the necessary space to offer a world class education to its students and the athletic facilities to fulfill its promise to educate the whole child. If BDS could achieve its goals without a new building, it would. However, the school has stretched its current facilities to their limit, and the need for new space is critical.

In addition to the building, we believe the new driveway is an essential element of this project. Our foremost consideration is the safety and well-being of the children. As the tree falling on Day School Lane a year ago made obvious, the school is in a vulnerable position from a public safety standpoint without a second point of ingress. Additionally, we believe a new driveway will help alleviate whatever traffic congestion the school's pick up and drop off procedures create on Concord Avenue

As residents of this terrific town, we believe that Belmont Day School adds tremendously to our community. It attracts families from all of the surrounding communities who develop ties not only to the school but also to the Belmont businesses that they frequent. We ask that the town quickly approve of BDS's application to build. This is a win-win situation for all. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Bradley and Kristen Lewis

Elizabeth C. McEvoy

15 Day School Lane  
Belmont, MA 02478  
617 899 6867  
eacmcevoy@gmail.com

February 24, 2017

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing this letter in support of Belmont Day School's proposed plans to construct an additional building on its campus located at 55 Day School Lane (referred to as the "Barn") and a new access road to the school from Concord Avenue. My family and I have lived on Day School Lane since February 2005. Belmont Day School has been a good and considerate neighbor for the past 12 years. The school has actively monitored traffic congestion and speed on Day School Lane in an effort to lessen the impact of school drop-off and pick-up times on its neighbors. Belmont Day School consistently engages in outreach to its neighbors and thoughtfully includes them in the school community.

Specifically with respect to the plans for the Barn and the new school access road, Belmont Day School's administration has provided its neighbors with consistent communication and opportunities for feedback. We feel that the school has been genuinely interested in our thoughts on this project and has responded in a timely and candid manner to our questions about the project.

We are looking forward to the construction of the new access road. We think this will lessen congestion on Day School Lane at certain times of the day. We also look forward to having the ability to access or exit the school (and our home) from 2 routes. Last winter we had a tree fall from our yard across Day School Lane that prevented us and the school community from getting to or from the school. An alternate entrance and exit to Belmont Day School would have been a welcome solution to that situation.

Belmont Day School has been an exemplary neighbor for our family. We look forward to seeing the school complete its current plans for expansion and wish the school much success with this project.

Best regards,

  
Elizabeth C. McEvoy

Nathalie et Roland Pellenq  
20 Richmond Road  
Belmont, MA 02478  
617 484 2015  
[npellenq@belmontday.org](mailto:npellenq@belmontday.org)  
[pellenq@mit.edu](mailto:pellenq@mit.edu)

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

To Whom it May Concern:

I have been a Belmont resident since 2008. When my husband and I moved from France to Massachusetts with our three kids, we were excited about the public schools' program in Belmont and decided to settle here. Later, I became a teacher at Belmont Day School, and was also able to appreciate the perks of independent schools' education and why people make that choice for their children. I believe Belmont's independent and public schools pull each other up, and that those strong education communities are appealing to new residents and are driving the town's economy.

At Belmont Day School, I appreciate that we are a community that takes care of each other and carries the values of the school into the broader world. We honestly examine data and make decisions as a whole. Last year, we decided that in the future we will increase the number of students in the middle school and have been reflecting on the implications of that decision. Among those implications, a decision was made to implement a new driveway for the school.

At the moment, Belmont Day School can only be accessed through Day School Lane. In the past, trees have fallen on the lane and evacuating the students was a one-of-a-kind experience. A second access to the school is a priority in case of any emergency, and an increased number of students is only going to reinforce that necessity.

I hope that you will be able to grant Belmont Day School their request.

Best regards,



Nathalie Pellenq