

March 2, 2022 Input for Special BOE Meeting

Andrea Gloria <andreags06@gmail.com>

Mon 2/28/2022 9:44 PM

To:

- input, public <publicinput@hamden.org>

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Dear Hamden Board of Education,

As parents of a Church Street School student and neighbors, we are asking the Hamden Board of Education to keep Church Street School as one of Hamden's elementary schools, and keep this valuable property for all of Hamden. Our school is a lifeline for many families in our neighborhood, and we would like to see it continue to grow.

Church Street School is a fundamental part of our community, where our children learn, make friends, play, grow, are fed, and feel safe. It is also a place for our community to come together. During the afternoon and weekends, it is a place where little ones gather at the playground, where older children practice their bicycle tricks, and where teenagers have conversations in a safe environment. Church Street School is more than just a school to all of us who live nearby. It is a community center where connections happen.

Our neighborhood would take a big hit by losing Church Street School. Property values for our neighborhood would likely drop if the school building becomes vacant. We believe it should be kept and enhanced as a public asset, where our children can thrive and our community can come together in a central, accessible, respectful, and diverse environment.

Thank you,
Andrea Gloria-Soria and Nathan Havill
48 Church St. Hamden

Brandi Fuhr <bfuhr@att.net>

Tue 3/1/2022 9:22 AM

- To: input, public

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To whom it may concern

I am a parent for a student at church street.

I beg you not to close our neighborhood school!

My son has been at church street since pre-K and is now in 3 rd grade (6 Years). We live on Chester street and can see the school from our house.

We enjoy being able to walk and being apart of our very close church street community. It would be Devastating to so many families who don't have vehicles and can't afford to worry about how their children will get to and from school !

Please keep us open!!!

Thanks

Kristin Havill <kristinph@sbcglobal.net>

Tue 3/1/2022 11:41 AM

To:

- input, public

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello,

I am writing to you as the grandmother of a Church Street School second grader. I am writing to you remembering being a young mother of 3 young children in elementary school in Michigan. I remember how important it was to me to participate as a room mother, to have a particularly good relationship with the engaging kindergarten teacher, and to meet other mothers and families who lived in the same community. I remember living in Bridgewater, CT when there was, thankfully, an unsuccessful attempt to close down the only local school. Both of these experiences confirmed in me the value of schools in the framework of a community...a sort of glue holding it together as well as a very important entry point for parents engagement in the town.

I moved to Hamden 3 years ago from Woodbury, CT. One of the profound differences in the two towns is the diversity of the population here compared to Woodbury. I believe It is one of the most important advantages of living here for me, a more realistic, modern and open community. My extended family now includes grandchildren, nieces and nephews with one parent of first generation Americans of Polish, Pakistani, Muslim, and Mexican heritage. It is the future.

I am struck with a plan to close the most diverse school in Hamden. The message sent to me is that this neighborhood is not of value to the town, is somehow not desirable. I sadly noticed when planning to move here that real estate markets also seemed to steer clear of recommending the school as well. That somehow closing this particular school is part of a plan to right the lack of diversity in other schools baffles me. Instead of celebrating its uniqueness, Hamden appears to be planning to deprive the Church Street School community of a school that acts as a glue and to seemingly punish it for its diversity rather than support the realities of the families of the Church Street School children.

I am proud of my son and daughter-in-law, both PHd scientists, who live in the Church Street School neighborhood. They are working very hard to support their daughter and her school, using their talents and love of their child, my granddaughter, to bring together support for the school's continued existence and to act as a bridge from the community to the town. Clearly education is important to both of them. They have devoted considerable time and talent to

helping to found and chair the new PTA and CAFE (Church St. School Alliance for Family Engagement). Whereas other schools have PTAs that generate considerable money to offer extra advantages to their students, Church Street School is now beginning a process to right that discrepancy and to draw attention to the roots of the differences that perpetuate the issues. It is, I believe, a process that will take time to mature and needs the town's support to grow. Hamden has an opportunity to build the Church Street School community into a confident valued one. My hope is that it will make this choice.

In addition, before Covid precautions settled in, I very much enjoyed participating in the creation of a mosaic celebrating Church Street School diversity, thanks to the efforts of the principal and art teacher who was able to secure a grant for the project. I imagine, now, that it must be difficult for the teachers to do their jobs, with not only Covid considerations, but with once again trying to work under the cloud of the uncertainty of losing their jobs because of the possible school closure.

I also noticed unfortunate publicity that stated that Church Street School was in need of major repairs. My understanding is that is untrue and not grounds for closing this school.

Thank you for this opportunity to be a Church Street School advocate.

Best regards,
Kristin Havill

365 Mather St.
Lake Whitney Glen

Kelli Bray <kelli@wboliver.com>

Tue 3/1/2022 6:07 PM

To:

- input, public

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Hello,

My son is in Kindergarten at CSS and loves it! I love the family feel and that I have personally engaged with teacher, the family liaison, and the principal. Everyone I've come across so far has been very personable and caring and we need schools like this for our children!!

Sent from my iPhone

christina jagrosse <refreak18@yahoo.com>

Tue 3/1/2022 6:08 PM

To:

- input, public

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To whom it may concern I have been living in Hamden since I was 9 years old. I went to church street school when I was younger and so did all my siblings and now 11 year old is currently enrolled in church street as well unfortunately this will be his last year as next school year he'll be starting middle school. With that said I have a 2 year and a newborn and I would love to see them be able to go to church street school as well. I know most of not all of the teachers there through either having had them myself or my son having them. I really love the teachers there and honestly feel as though they really do care about the children who attend the school and that as a parent makes me feel not only comfortable sending my kids there but lucky as well. I also enjoy the events and activities the school does for the students after hours as well. It brings the students and parents closer together as a small little community and I really enjoy that.

Sincerely, Christina Jagrosse
106 church street Hamden ct

Melissa Soto <melimel2079@gmail.com>

Tue 3/1/2022 6:17 PM

To:

- input, public

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I am begging please do not close down the school. I have 2 daughters one of them graduated from church st school and my little one is currently in kindergarten now. Both of my girls love church st. School. My oldest had trouble reading and thanks to church st teachers they were able to make her feel comfortable enough for her to read fast. They taught her so well in all subject and helped her brake out the shy shell she was in. As for my little now in kindergarten she is also learning very very fast and it amazes me everyday how smart my baby girl is. Church st is a great school and also very close for parents to actually be able to walk their kids to school especially the ones with no vehicle. If the school were to close down its going to be very hard for alot of parents to transport their kids to school. Even in a case of an emergency its going to be hard for parents to make it to another school for their kids. Church st has an amazing staff and teachers and it would be so sad to close a school down where everyone is like family to each other. Mentally i dont think alot of kids are going to be ok with the school closing down its hard for alot of students to understand that something they love so much might be taken away from them. As for my daughter she isnt happy at all she over heard a conversation i was having with my neighbor about the school and she started to cry because she doesn't want the school to close down. Please please i am begging you to please keep the school open 🙏🙏🙏

Janira Alers <jalers19@gmail.com>

Tue 3/1/2022 6:41 PM

To:

- input, public

Good evening,

Church Street School has been a safe and nurturing environment for my 3 children, 2 of which graduated from Hamden High and my son who currently is in the 3rd grade at church street school. During my extremely busy workdays, I have a peace of mind knowing that my son will be greeted kindly, will feel confident in advocating and communicating his needs with staff, as well as being taken care of by nursing whenever he is feeling ill or having an asthma episode. Church street school is a "Home away from away". Most importantly my child is excelling, the teachers are great and their patience with our children are extraordinary. Please keep church street school open and avoid yet another disruption in their education like the effect from the COVID 19 pandemic.

Janira Gonzalez
83 Dix Street
Hamden CT 06514

Nicole Lees <nicole.lees@aol.com>

Tue 3/1/2022 7:14 PM

To:

- input, public

Dear Board,

In a world where everyday life is changing more rapidly and eradicate then ever expected; we ask for stability from Hamden Public Schools for the sake of our children.

The email we received today regarding the possible closure of Church Street is unexpected and heartbreaking.

Church Street is not our original home school, but we call it home now! My children are craving stability through all of these life changes that are out of our control (possible war a head, school closures, covid restrictions, severely inflated economy). This doesn't even begin to touch on personal life struggles the past few years. Moving schools yet again would upset their lives and ever changing routines. In early spring we had many issues with our enrollment at Helen Street and decided we needed to make a change for the better for our family.

We found the Church Street community and have since fallen in love. We adore the atmosphere, always smiling faces, one on one time we get with the teachers, endless communications, and more. We have found Church a great fit for our family needs. We were welcomed with open arms and haven't looked back since. We were looking forward to when Covid restrictions became lightened, and we could begin resuming school events and other activities.

We see our future with this school! My oldest Carmela is in Mrs.Cavanagh Kindergarten class and Camila is in Pre-K at Church Street with the Hamden Early Learning program. We planned for her to transition to Kindergarten when her time comes to graduate from the program. Due to Covid restrictions over the years; my children have moved daycares and/or schools several times. We admire the consistency Church offers. It helps build a healthy routine for Carmela and Camila; with positive role models they look up to and know they can always lean on. It takes a Village to raise a child and having stability is a key factor. It would crush Carmela if she needed to placed in a new school again.

Carmela struggles with distraction, and we are getting in a great groove with Mrs. Cavanagh.

The program in place is working fabulously and we are eager to see her thrive more. Carmela is getting her voice these days and we are excited to see her improving daily with the help of her teachers and Church Street Community.

We understand the labor shortage is a struggle (as is it in my industry as well) but if we consolidate schools; the children will get less one on one learning time, I fear they will become a number in the statistics, and not get the time and attention they need to blossom into great students and individuals in our community.

Please reconsider closing Church Street

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns

Thank you kindly for listening,

Nicole and Eder Mendieta
31 village circle
Hamden ct 06154

raquie corona <raquiecorona81@gmail.com>

Tue 3/1/2022 7:22 PM

To:

- input, public

We need your help please, the closure of the school affects us a lot, including my work. God bless you all

Marisa Corona <marisacorona7@gmail.com>

Tue 3/1/2022 7:33 PM

To:

- input, public

dear committee of public schools thank you for your time we beg you please do not close the school the main cause of the emotional impact it would have on my children, it also has very good teachers, it is very close to home among many other things please do not close the school thanks

Farid Khan <fardin1409@gmail.com>

Tue 3/1/2022 8:34 PM

To:

- input, public

We don't want the school to close because there are a couple of schools in Hamden

The kids are satisfied at the school and with the school staff

So please don't close the school and keep our promise

Thanks

Farid khan

Carmen Sampedro <casadiaz2171@gmail.com>

Tue 3/1/2022 8:43 PM

To:

- input, public

Our community has to retain Church Street School because of the innumerable values and strong reasons,

Union

Love

Service

Discipline

Efficiency

Capability

Enthusiasm and harmony.

My son reflects, loves, imitates and preserves the teachings of all the stupendous personnel at Church Street School. The school instills hope in the community, A community of parents who desire to be a part of this school. It is a social, moral, psychological and health resource, a strong arm to the Hamden community. My son has been at this school for 5 years, it is a family and is of equitable importance.

Tamika Pettway <chelliepettway@gmail.com>

Tue 3/1/2022 9:23 PM

To:

- input, public

Why should Church Street school remain open?

Good evening,

I believe there are a multitude of reasons to keep Church Street school open. To start, we've already walked this road, dealt with the potential closure of our school and the Church Street school families had to endure all of the emotional stress that came along with it. We were under the impression that we no longer had to address this issue, and our children were excited and relieved to know their school would remain. We should NOT be here again.

Personally, my daughter who is in the 3rd grade was devastated when she heard about the initial potential closing of her school; I can only imagine how she is going to feel if she learns that her school is potentially closing again.

My daughter has created genuine relationships and bonds with students, teacher, and staff. She's been truly supported, nurtured, and cared for at Church Street school by students, teachers, and staff. She's grown academically, her teachers care about her performance, and ensures she has what she needs to thrive.

In addition to the emotional and educational disruption that this pandemic has caused, it seems foolish to provide additional disruption to the Church Street school children, families, and staff. I, along with so many other families rely on Church Street school to assist us in the academic, emotional, and social development of our children. I urge you to focus on the children, and their needs. THEY NEED Church Street school.

Thank you,

Tamika Pettway

santiago sanchez <santiago.sanchez0323@gmail.com>

Wed 3/2/2022 1:04 AM

To:

- input, public

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Good evening,

As a parent of a child in 1st grade that attends Church Street School I am saddened and worried on your desire to close down this great school. I have had the privilege of interacting with my son's teachers, counselors, speech therapist, and teacher of the deaf during his 2 years at the school and find them to be amazing.

My son loves going to school and learning new things and it shows in his progression. This wouldn't be possible without the help of the wonderful staff at CSS. It would be a big mistake and a disservice to the community if you close down this school!

I have talked to other parents and they have the same sentiment.

Santiago Sanchez

47 Beacon St, Hamden, CT 06514

teresa angeski <teresaangeski@yahoo.com>

Wed 3/2/2022 9:44 AM

To:

- input, public

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello,

I have 2 children in church st school. Closing this school will be a fundamental mistake. It is not just a school but a community with a staff who shows so much love and compassion for our children. I have a child with an anxiety disorder and this school has done everything to get me help for her. I delt with many schools before and no school has ever gone above and beyond as this one. To close this school will be a disgrace and shame to Hamden. I pay close to \$10,000 a year in taxes to live in Hamden and you want to take away my kids school our sense of community. There has to be a better way. Do better and vote for what is right. Don't take our school away.

Thank you

Teresa Angeski

225 Battis rd

Sent from my iPhone

Philisha Lewis <philisha.lewis@gmail.com>

Wed 3/2/2022 10:45 AM

To:

- input, public

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I migrated from Jamaica in 2018 and live here in Hamden. Prior to that I would visit my husband here in Hamden. My daughter first playgroup was with the Family Resources Center at Church Street School where I would meet other parents and children from different countries who wanted to know about all the resources that Hamden has to offer such as schools, housing, child care, family support centers/groups, parenting classes but also wanted a sense of belonging. She attended Pre-K at Church Street School where she was taught a wide variety of things and also learned to speak Spanish. She is in grade 2 now. To see her classmates who she knows from the Family Resource Center where it all started until now that just an amazing thing and feeling.

Church Street School is very vital to many families who live in Hamden. This school has helped my daughter and others to grow and develop. This school is very convenient for many persons who don't drive or have a vehicle. It is close to the bus routes, grocery stores and shopping centers. The teachers and staff at this school is just amazing and very integral in our lives. My 3 year old son is following the same path as his sister. This is the only school he knows of and wants to attend.

I know for a fact that closing the school will affect my daughter physically and mentally. Also, this will affect her peers to see their beloved Church Street School get closed down. All the memories that we had at Church Street School is essential to our lives. It has helped us to grow and learn to be better citizens.

I am praying and hoping that your decision will not be to close down Church Street School. But to keep it open.

Sincerely;

Philisha Lewis

63 Second Street, Hamden, CT 06514

