

750 College Avenue Kentfield, CA 94904 (415) 458-5130 Fax (415) 458-5138 Raquel Rose, Superintendent www.kentfieldschools.org

Board of Trustees Davina Goldwasser Sarah Killingsworth Heather McPhail Sridharan David Riedel Annie Su

## **Bacich Elementary School**

699 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Kentfield, CA 94904 Mary Ann Spitzer, Principal (415) 925-2220 Fax (415) 925-2226

## Kent Middle School

800 College Avenue Kentfield, CA 94904 Grant Althouse, Principal (415) 458-5970 Fax (415) 458-5973 December 10, 2021

Marin County Board of Supervisors 3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 329 San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Esteemed Members of the Marin County Board of Supervisors,

We write to you on behalf of the 1035 children from Greenbrae and Kentfield attending schools in the Kentfield School District who we are privileged and humbled to serve. After reviewing Project Homekey's plan to place permanent, supportive housing in the Greenbrae community, we determined that the District cannot support this project at this time. The purpose of this letter is to respectfully clarify our position and rationale.

To begin, we support the urgent need to address homelessness in our county, indeed across our state and nation. However in this specific situation, we believe the decision to place a Project Homekey facility in close proximity to our schools presents an unacceptable safety risk to our children and liability to the District.

This Project Homekey site is currently designed for chronically homeless individuals who are described to have the highest level of need, including substance abuse issues, possible sex offenses, and those who require mental health support. While we are in favor of efforts being made to identify housing for the most vulnerable members of our community experiencing homelessness, we feel there must be a better location that is not in such close proximity to an elementary and middle school that serves students ages 5 - 14.

Moreover, the proposed facility would be on a street that is a designated safe route for the <u>Kentfield</u> <u>School District Safe Routes to School Program</u> for hundreds of families living in Greenbrae. As you may be aware given your Board's ongoing support for the Marin County Safe Routes to School Program, South Eliseo Drive is a designated safe path that our students use when walking and biking to and from school each day. Since school districts may be responsible for student safety during their travels to and from school, we find this proposed site to be an unacceptable safety risk.

The Kentfield School Board of Trustees strongly believes that addressing homelessness is an urgent concern in Marin, and we want to be part of a solution to the current crisis. However, our chief responsibility is and must be to serve and protect the health and safety of the 1035 students in our school community.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact our Board President, Heather McPhail Sridharan, at <u>hmcphailsridharan@kentfieldschools.org</u> or our Superintendent Raquel Rose at <u>rrose@kentfieldschools.org</u>.

With deep respect,

The Kentfield School Board of Trustees Davina Goldwasser Sarah Killingsworth Heather McPhail Sridharan David Riedel Annie Su