

## Helen Kamin

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**From:** Kim Mann  
**Sent:** Friday, November 16, 2007 9:24 AM  
**To:** Elisabeth Patterson; Adam Fels; Amy Paa-Rogers; Belinda Harp-Schrag; Benita Duran; Bill Simmons; Christine Buchholtz; David Jorschumb; Dee Perry; Denitta Ward; Don Orr; Ginger Ramsey; Jim Reed; Jennifer O'Brien; John Bollinger; Juana Gomez; Karen Daly; Kent Crawford; Kim Mann; Leslie Stafford; Mark Bauer; Mark Bauer; Melissa Tingley; Nicky Leach; Robert Hammond; Sharon Meyer; Sherri Gibson; Susan Cousins; Susan Graf; tron@welchfp.com; Virginia Belval  
**Cc:** Kim Mann  
**Subject:** Correspondence and Responses from the Louisville Community  
**Attachments:** LMS - letter1.pdf; Louisville Historical Commission.pdf; LMS - letter3.pdf; LMS letter to Historical Preservation Commission \_2\_.pdf; LMS letter to marino \_2\_.pdf; LMS letter to Historical Commission \_2\_.pdf

Attached are 3 letters and responses from the Louisville Historical Commission, Louisville Historic Preservation Commission and a member of the public expressing concern over the proposed demolition of the historic portion of Louisville Middle School.

Kim Mann  
Bond Technician  
2006 Bond Program  
Boulder Valley School District  
303-447-5062  
303-447-5118 fax

Dr. Chris King, Superintendent, Boulder Valley Schools  
Boulder Valley School Board, Helayne Jones, President  
Adam Fels, Principal, Louisville Middle School  
Citizens Bond Oversight Committee

2006 BOND PROGRAM  
2007 OCT 16 PM 2:01

*"...these old buildings do not belong to us only; that they have belonged to our forefathers, and they will belong to our descendants..."*

William Morris, founder of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and The National Trust in Great Britain

I attended the recent community open house at Louisville Middle School where plans for the renovation of the building were presented. I was dismayed to learn that this appeared not to be an initial presentation of a design to the public, but the final design. While questions were solicited from the audience, I felt that the process was over and that any questions or concerns over the design would not be considered. Early in the process, comments published in *The Louisville Times* indicated that the preference was to demolish the entire building and start over. Further published information, however, stated that the building would not be demolished, but renovated, which I found reassuring. After the meeting, however, it appears that the preference has been given to demolition, not renovation and preservation.

As an educator for over 30 years, I appreciate and support the best possible learning environment for students and I understand and support the need to renovate the Louisville Middle School. What is distressful is that no portion of the original façade, including the distinctive entrance will be preserved. When I asked whether any of this might be preserved, my general impression was that no one saw the point in preserving the façade.

The point is that Louisville men, desperately in need of work, constructed this building at the height of the Great Depression under the Works Progress Administration. It should be noted that the National New Deal Preservation Association is working with each state to coordinate events to celebrate and educate about the New Deal legacy. Agencies such as the Colorado State Historical Society, Colorado State Archives and the Denver Public Library are currently working on events to be held from March 2008-March 2009. It seems ironic that as other areas are restoring murals and sites from that era, the Boulder Valley School District is planning to demolish an historical site.

When Centaurus High School was built, the towns of Louisville and Lafayette lost their local high schools and thus, part of their identities. With the current remodeling, Louisville stands to lose another part of its past. I heard the construction team speak with enthusiasm about students being able to learn from the demolition and construction. Might they not also learn that some semblance of the past is worth preserving and that the past can co-exist with the modern world. For residents of Louisville, it is the landmark that has stood as the entrance to the older part of Louisville and the historic downtown area.

As I listened to the presentation, I wondered whether the school district would take the time to bring in historical preservation experts to photograph and catalog the existing building and contents. For example, will the period era lights in the auditorium be preserved and placed elsewhere or will they be tossed in the debris of construction? Will someone photograph and document the WPA marks in the concrete in back of the school? I would hope that items would either be preserved and re-used or at least offered to historical organizations or interested persons. When Louisville High School became Louisville Middle School, many artifacts, including class photos, were tossed in the garbage because no one from the district thought they were important. The few recovered items are today in the Louisville Historical Museum. It would be a great loss to destroy the building without allowing for the preservation of artifacts from previous years that illuminate the school's past and Louisville's past.

As a graduate of Lafayette High School, I was part of a small group of alumni who learned of the district's plans to demolish the Lafayette High School building. The superintendent graciously offered to meet with us and listen to our concerns. He and the district had believed that no one would care if the building were torn down. The result of this small meeting is today's Pioneer Elementary School. (If you haven't walked around and through this building, I would recommend that you do so in order to view first-hand the thoughtful, sensitive renovation that actually improved, without destroying, the original structure.

Few residents of Lafayette knew of the proposed demolition of their school and perhaps many would not have cared, but the voice of a few saved this landmark, which has meant so much to so many. I know that I am only one voice, but I hope you will at least pause and consider saving the main front façade of Louisville Middle School and as much of the interior as possible, so that a portion of our history may remain for future generations.

*"School districts continue to replace old buildings with new structures, with the misguided notion that 'new is better.' Preservationists know that retrofitting a historic school to be safe and technologically advanced for the benefit of our youth is not only possible--in many cases it's also less expensive than tearing down and building new." The Café Press*

*"History can also function on the collective level, providing a shared community heritage. Shared stories connect us, enabling us to celebrate and honour past achievements and sacrifices. Plaques, monuments or historic buildings imply shared beliefs and values and provide a message deemed important enough to be on permanent display to praise and defend our past actions."*

Alexander Trapeznki, Heritage and Public Places in New Zealand

*"The basic purpose of preservation is not to arrest time but to mediate sensitively with the force of change. It is to understand the present as a product of the past and a modifier of the future."*

John W. Lawrence, Dean, School of Architecture, Tulane University, April 24, 1970.

Sincerely,  
Diane Marino  
829 Lincoln Ave.  
Louisville, Co 80027  
diane.marino1@comcast.net  
303-666-6044

# Louisville Historical Commission

749 Main Street  
Louisville, Colorado 80027  
303-665-9048

To: Boulder Valley School Board, Citizens Bond Oversight Committee, and Superintendent  
Dr. Christopher King  
From: Donna Hauswald  
Cc: Bridget Bacon, Louisville Historical Commission, Meredyth Muth, and Louisville Times  
Date: October 22, 2007  
Subject: Louisville Middle School Renovation Project

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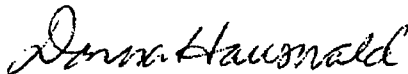
Dear Friends of Louisville Middle School:

It has come to the attention of the Louisville Historical Commission that the Louisville Middle School will be nearly demolished during the upcoming renovation process. As a commission, we are concerned with the loss of the building's front façade and other historical artifacts that may be destroyed in this renovation process. We are asking the Boulder Valley School Board and others give consideration to the following items:

- The Louisville Junior/Senior High School was a Work Progress Administration (WPA) project. As there were limited WPA projects in throughout the United States we should give some merit to this building's historic value.
- The Middle School has long stood as a landmark for the City of Louisville that is the gateway to the northern edge of the historic town center. We believe the front highly recognizable façade of the building should be preserved in the renovation process. It will save an important part of Louisville's history for the generations of students that attended the school.
- The Middle School has many historical artifacts that are worth preserving. An example is the beautiful lighting in the auditorium. We believe it is worth the time to have the building surveyed by an expert (perhaps through the Colorado Historical Society) who can catalog and assist in the safe removal of historical artifacts that will not be incorporated into the remodeled building. We also believe more recommendations could be made on how to incorporate these artifacts into the remodeled building.

We thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Donna Hauswald, Chairperson

October 30, 2007

RECEIVED  
NOV 05 2007  
SUPT. OFFICE

Superintendent  
Dr. Christopher King  
6500 East Arapahoe Avenue  
Boulder, CO 80301

Dear Dr. King:

On behalf of the Louisville Historic Preservation Commission, I am writing to express our shared distress over the proposed demolition of the Louisville Middle School on Main Street in Louisville. While we understand that there are many factors that influence a decision to preserve or demolish a structure, we hope that you will offer us the courtesy of considering our concern.

The Louisville Middle School is an important visual landmark and a gateway structure that frames the northern end of the main street business district. The distinctive 1930's structure, constructed through the Works Progress Administration, is a rare surviving example of schools from this time period, and reminds us of a time when our community was struggling through the Great Depression. Many citizens fondly remember the school as their high school. Thus, this important building stands as a surviving focal point of our shared cultural and social history.

Louisville is fortunate to have both a rich history and a growing economy. The balance of these two characteristics creates a community that is both desirable and liveable. In this time of rapid change, the destruction of this important school will be a significant blow to a community already reeling from rapid demolitions of homes and commercial structures.

We understand that there are many good reasons for modernizing a school, such as bringing the building up to code and providing adequate classroom space. However, it is disturbing to us that the proposal to demolish the school appears to be made without a thorough public presentation of alternatives. For a town so deeply rooted in history, "modernity for modernity's sake" is a weak argument at best.

While we appreciate the sustainable design principles that the new school will seek to achieve, it is ironic to us that the old school will be, except for token reuse of materials, relocated to a landfill. The most sustainable building is one that already exists.

No citizen of Louisville would want less for his or her children than safe and modern classrooms, but few would willingly trample history without at least a backward glance.

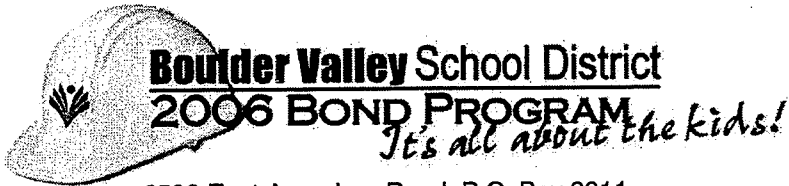
Sincerely,



Heather E. Lewis, Chair  
Louisville Historic Preservation Commission

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6500 East Arapahoe Road, P.O. Box 9011  
Boulder, Colorado 80301  
303-447-5062

November 13, 2007

Louisville Historic Preservation Commission  
Heather E. Lewis, Chair  
749 Main Street  
Louisville, CO 80027

Dear Ms. Lewis,

Thank you for your letter concerning the remodel of Louisville Middle School. I welcome your thoughts on the project.

I appreciate your concern for the historical significance of the building, and I'd like to assure you that particular element of the project has not been overlooked or disregarded in the design process.

To ensure that the new Louisville Middle School meets the needs of the students in the community it serves, Boulder Valley School District created a Design Advisory Team (DAT) comprised of members who represent school and community interests. In addition to parents, staff and students, the team includes a representative from the City of Louisville City Council as well as three other citizens of the Louisville community.

The company designing the project, SlaterPaull Architects, was selected for the Louisville Middle School project because of its historic preservation experience. The DAT worked with SlaterPaull to identify needs and priorities for the remodel. Through the design process, the team worked to balance the educational priority of the building with other important considerations including operational cost effectiveness, historical significance, energy efficiency and environmental impact and construction cost.

The Louisville Middle School building has well served thousands of Louisville students. However, in its current configuration, it no longer provides today's middle school students and community with the learning facilities they need and deserve. To be able to deliver a modern curriculum and serve students for generations to come, the school requires more square footage. The design team examined various possibilities for gaining this additional space while retaining the historical structure.

The building site is too small to expand the building to the rear (west), leaving expansion out the front of the building (east) as the only option for gaining additional space. The team also looked at the possibility of preserving the façade within the new structure. However, this option was cost prohibitive and begged the question of whether saving a small portion of the building was truly "preservation." After working through the design process and

considering the historical component within the context of the greater educational objective, the DAT decided to go with a design that does not preserve the historic portion of the building.

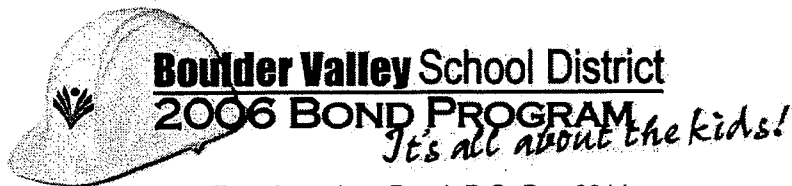
The significance of this building to some members of the Louisville community is understood by the school district, and we recognize its loss will be felt in the community. However, in this case we did not feel we could preserve the building without compromising its ability to provide the best possible learning environment for future generations of Louisville students. Efforts will be made to salvage any historical artifacts currently in the building, as well as the blonde bricks from the exterior. We plan to invite the Louisville Historic Preservation Commission and the Louisville Historical Commission to be part of this effort. In addition, to reduce the amount of material from the demolition shipped to landfills, the district is working with local organizations to salvage materials.

The generous voters of Boulder Valley have provided an opportunity to create a new, updated Louisville Middle School. We are excited about the new facility, and I hope you can join me in celebrating what a great occasion this is for our community.

Sincerely,

Don Orr  
Director of Capital Planning, Engineering and Construction

c: Chris King, PHD, Superintendent  
Boulder Valley Board of Education  
Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee  
Robert Hammond, Chief Operations Officer  
Adam Fels, Principal, Louisville Middle School  
Dave Compton, Project Manager



6500 East Arapahoe Road, P.O. Box 9011  
Boulder, Colorado 80301  
303-447-5062

November 13, 2007

Diane Marino  
829 Lincoln Avenue  
Louisville, CO 80027

Dear Ms. Marino,

Thank you for your letter concerning the remodel of Louisville Middle School. I welcome hearing your thoughts on the project. It is good to know you share our desire to provide the best possible learning environment for the students of Louisville.

I appreciate your concern for the historical significance of the building, and I'd like to assure you that particular element of the project has not been overlooked or disregarded in the design process.

To ensure that the new Louisville Middle School meets the needs of the students in the community it serves, Boulder Valley School District created a Design Advisory Team (DAT) comprised of members who represent school and community interests. In addition to parents, staff and students, the team includes a representative from the City of Louisville City Council as well as three other citizens of the Louisville community.

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of the building was truly "preservation." After working through the design process and considering the historical component within the context of the greater educational objective, the DAT decided to go with a design that does not preserve the historic portion of the building.

In your letter, you mentioned the conversion of Lafayette High School into what is now Pioneer Elementary. In this case, the district was able to make this work because elementary school curriculum requires less space than that of a high school.

The significance of this building to some members of the Louisville community is understood by the school district, and we recognize its loss will be felt in the community. However, in this case we did not feel we could preserve the building without compromising its ability to provide the best possible learning environment for future generations of Louisville students. Efforts will be made to salvage any historical artifacts currently in the building, as well as the blonde bricks from the exterior. We plan to invite the Louisville Historical Preservation Commission and the Louisville Historical Commission to be part of this effort.

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Director of Capital Planning, Engineering and Construction

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