

Helen Kamin

From: Kim Mann
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2007 9:24 AM
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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.

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Dr. Chris King, Superintendent, Boulder Valley Schools
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Citizens Bond Oversight Committee

2006 BOND PROGRAM
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"...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.