

## DARIEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Commissioner Sini and esteemed members of P&Z, the Board of Education is happy to respond to a request for testimony on the proposed Municipal Use Zone Application.

The Board of Education works hard to maintain appropriate facilities for our school children, and honor the character and neighborhood feel of our town. Darien's schools are almost exclusively located within residential zones, and yet by their very nature are different than residential housing structures. It is reasonable to imagine situations in which the needs of our educational facilities might need to be reviewed under a different lens.

It is our understanding that within this proposed application, there is an increased opportunity for public comment and participation in the process; as well as, additional scrutiny demanded for consideration should any zoning regulations need to be reviewed under the proposed MU standards. We support both of those concepts to ensure that any enactment of the Municipal Use Zone engages all interested and affected parties in a fair and public process.

The Board Education is committed to the bringing forward of the educational needs of our children, and equally committed to remaining a good neighbor in the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Ochman  
Chair, Darien Board of Education

April 11, 2019