

April 25, 1970

The Honorable, The City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Dear Councillors:

As President of the Agassiz PTA I received a copy of the Planning Board recommendation for zoning changes in the Sachs Estate. I should like to correct a very serious error on page 2:

"The proposed enrollment for the fall of 1972 for the nearest school, Agassiz, where enrollments have declined appreciably lately, is 154; Agassiz has an optimum capacity of 251 pupils."

Enrollments have not declined but risen dramatically, 33% over the past two years: from 175 in the fall of 1967 to 233 in the fall of 1969 (these figures do not include children transported from other parts of the city, i.e. to special classes for from Rindge Towers, who bring the present enrollment to 248).

I predict the enrollment will keep on rising for four reasons:

- 1) Dramatic increase in quality of public education.
- 2) Closing of Saint Paul's parochial school.
- 3) Spiraling costs of tuition for independent schools.
- 4) Harvard's estimate of 105-125 elementary school children for the Sachs Estate.

I do not put forth these facts as an argument against the zoning change, but as an argument for implementation of the Capital Improvement Plan which calls for a new Agassiz School in 1972.

Cordially,

Jan Keenan
Mrs. Edward Keenan

copies:

Robert Bowyer, Director of Planning
Cambridge Chronicle-Sun
Cambridge School Committee
Agassiz Community School Council
James Sullivan, City Manager
Harold Goyette, Harvard University Planning Office

PLEASE SUBSTITUTE FOR PREVIOUS LETTER. THE FIGURE I QUOTED OF 233 INCLUDED CHILDREN IN SPECIAL CLASSES.

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
April 25, 1970

The Honorable, The City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

APR 29 10 03 AM '70
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

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"The proposed enrollment for the fall of 1972 for the nearest school, Agassiz, where enrollments have declined appreciably lately, is 154; Agassiz has an optimum capacity of 251 pupils."

Enrollments have not declined but risen dramatically, 20% (twenty-one) over the past two years; from 175 in the fall of 1967 to 212 in the fall of 1969 (these figures do not include children transported from other parts of the city, i.e. to special classes or from Rindge Towers: I believe that these children bring present enrollment up to 248).

I predict the enrollment will keep on rising for four reasons:

- 1) Dramatic increase in quality of public education.
- 2) Closing of Saint Paul's parochial school.
- 3) Spiraling costs of tuition for independent schools.
- 4) Harvard's estimate of 105-125 elementary school children from the Sachs Estate.

I do not put forth these facts as an argument against the zoning change, but as an argument for implementation of the Capital Improvement Program which calls for a new Agassiz School in 1972.

Cordially,

John Keenan
Mrs. Edward Keenan

Copies:

Robert Bowyer, Director of Planning
Cambridge Chronicle-Sun
Cambridge School Committee
Agassiz Community School Council
James Sullivan, City Manager
Harold Goyette, Harvard University Planning Office

Communication from the Agassiz P.T.A.
dated April 25, 1970 requesting substi-
tution of this communication for one
previously sent to Council regarding en-
rollment for the fall of 1972 at the
Agassiz School and requesting implementa-
tion of the Capital Improvement Plan which
calls for a new Agassiz School in 1972.

May 4, 1970

5/11/70
Referred to the
Comm on Finance -

RECEIVED 5/11/70