



April 23, 2009

Dear members of the Minneapolis Board of Education,

The East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association (EHFNA) recognizes that the vision of the Minneapolis Public School district is to make every child college ready and to improve academic excellence throughout the school system. Believing academic excellence in our city leads to a strong community and vibrant neighborhoods, we support the MPS in its efforts to achieve its vision.

The vision of the EHFNA is to be the core of a well informed and engaged neighborhood. Maintaining the integrity of the East Harriet Farmstead neighborhood and being a vital source of a thriving and safe neighborhood are two of our responsibilities, to which we are firmly committed.

In 1993 EHFNA established a goal to “ensure the continued existence of a public school within the boundaries of the East Harriet Farmstead neighborhood”. That remains a goal we are committed to. A community school for the East Harriet Farmstead neighborhood, whether within or outside of our neighborhood boundaries, will bring a stronger sense of community to our neighborhood through the shared experiences the school environment creates.

We respectfully request the MPS and the Board of Education honor the East Harriet Farmstead neighborhood boundaries when selecting a community school for our residents.

EHFNA would also like to partner with MPS staff in reaching out to the community in identifying programs and facilities that might be part of the community school for our neighborhood. Examples of such could include:

- full-time art and music teachers, with a strong band program beginning in the early grades
- foreign language options starting in 1st grade as part of the standard curriculum
- physical education at least once per week
- science and math education as part of a core curriculum
- talented and gifted program
- Minneapolis Kids on-site (after school/before school day care)
- ECFE (Early Childhood Family Education) on-site
- quality outdoor playground and ample green space, including student garden and space for free play
- up-to-date computer room with 30 computers
- 24 kids per classroom (1-5), 20 for kindergarten choice to students with specific learning needs
- up-to-date student library
- Meet or exceed the district’s diversity goals

We look forward to serving as a partner with the District in reaching out and engaging our community in the coming months. We believe there is an exciting opportunity to strengthen our community through shared visioning and creation of a school that reflects values and ideals of our neighborhood. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Matt Perry
Chair, East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association