



East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association
Guiding Principles for Strong School-Neighborhood Synergy
April 2009

As it is the East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association's (EHFNA) mission to promote the aesthetic and long-term sustainability of the neighborhood and to foster a thriving and safe environment for residents and businesses; and

The purpose of the organization is to draw attention to the advantages we now enjoy; endeavor to stabilize and/or improve the residential, commercial, educational and economic status of the community;

And we recognize that in order to make this neighborhood organization successful, we must address needs with local specificity, make city-wide efforts locally effective and efficient; and build a greater sense of community at the neighborhood level.

We, the EHFNA Board, in order to further this organization's mission and purpose and to assert EHFNA as an effective neighborhood organization, hereby affirm the following:

- The East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association encourages the creation of strong institutions in the neighborhood that are effective and sustainable in their mission and operation. An effective educational system attracts families to the neighborhood, engages residents to participate in the full spectrum of school activities, and focuses resources where they will most optimally serve students, families and the surrounding neighborhood.
- Educational facilities within neighborhoods offer unique opportunities for promoting resident involvement, community learning, recreational opportunities, and function as vibrant centers of social activity that strengthen the neighborhood. Context matters: a strong neighborhood outside the classroom supports educational goals and achievements within the classroom.
- Educational facilities oriented to walkable access for students, parents and staff promote walkability of the neighborhood, contribute to active lifestyles and enhance the health and well being of neighborhood residents. Accessible educational facilities function to enliven and strengthen the educational facility's bond with the neighborhood and foster vital relationships between residents.
- The East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association supports the Minneapolis School Districts strategy to build widespread internal and external support and partnerships to strengthen communities and will serve as a contributing partner in school district matters affecting the neighborhood.
- The Minneapolis School District should make every effort to respect neighborhood boundaries and the educational facilities located therein as integral to the neighborhood's identity and stability. Schools and distinct neighborhoods celebrate unique qualities that have their basis in living traditions and community commitment. Guided by the values of diversity, equity and sustainability, our vision is of equitable and integrated educational facilities.