

GENERAL APPEAL FORM

It is not required that this form be used to file an appeal. However, whether you use the form or not, please make sure that your appeal includes all the information/responses requested in this form. An appeal, along with any required filing fee, must be received by the Office of Hearing Examiner, not later than 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the appeal period or it cannot be considered. Delivery of appeals filed by any form of USPS mail service may be delayed by several days. Allow extra time if mailing an appeal.

APPELLANT INFORMATION (Person or group making appeal)

1. Appellant:

If several individuals are appealing together, list the additional names, addresses, and numbers on a separate sheet and identify a representative in #2 below. If an organization is appealing, indicate the group's name, addresses, and numbers here and identify a representative in #2 below.

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In what format do you wish to receive documents from the Office of Hearing Examiner?

Check One: U.S. Mail Fax [checked] Email Attachment

2. Authorized Representative:

Name of representative if different from the appellant indicated above. Groups and organizations must designate one person as their representative/contact person.

Name
Address
Phone: Work: Home:
Fax: Email Address:

In what format do you wish to receive documents from the Office of Hearing Examiner?

Check One: U.S. Mail Fax Email Attachment

DECISION BEING APPEALED

1. Decision appealed (Departmental File or Reference #.): 3039297-SD

2. Address (if any) connected to decision being appealed: 3010 59th Ave SW Seattle

3. Type of issue/decision being appealed if known (ask for assistance if unknown): Decision of Dept. of Construction - Inspection to approve School Development Standard departures MUP# MUP# 3039297- dated 5/8/93, for Atki Elementary School Development. SD

APPEAL INFORMATION

Answer each question as completely and specifically as you can. Attach separate sheets if needed and refer to questions by number.

1. What is your interest in this appeal? (State how you are involved or affected by it)

see attached

2. What are your objections to the issue being appealed? (List and describe what you believe to be the errors, omissions, or other problems and issues involved.)

see attached

3. What relief do you want? (Specify what you want the Examiner to do: reverse the decision, modify conditions, etc.)

see attached

Signature *Maylene Wood*

Date *5/22/23*

Deliver or mail appeal and appeal fee to:

MAILING ADDRESS: City of Seattle
Office of Hearing Examiner
P.O. Box 94729
Seattle WA 98124-4729

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:	SEATTLE MUNICIPAL TOWER 700 5 th Avenue, Suite 4000 40 th Floor Seattle, WA 98104
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Note: Appeal fees may also be paid by credit or debit card over the phone (Visa or MasterCard only).

Phone: (206) 684-0521

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www.seattle.gov/examiner

QUESTION 1:

As the grandmother of a Specific Needs granddaughter enrolled in the Seattle Public Schools I have several concerns about the proposed Alki Elementary Remodel Project . I am a resident of the Alki Community and I am fully aware of the challenges caregivers for Specific Needs children face. It is imperative that those transporting these children to and from school have access to safe points for escorting the children into the school. This requires parking. The proposed project at Alki does not provide for this.

QUESTION 2:

I am not opposed to Alki Elementary School being remodeled; my opposition is to specific departures that were granted for this project. Departures that I believe will have various **negative impacts and create concerns regarding:**

- 1st: Children, ADA persons , bicycles, pedestrian & public safety
- 2nd : Increased traffic volume & limited parking
- 3rd: Access to First Responders /SFD, SPD & PARK's properties

- **SUMMARY OF CURRENT ALKI SCHOOL PARKING ON 59TH AVE**

Parking is only permissible on the west side of 59th Ave SW, parking spots are limited (and will become filled when ALL school staff, 75, need to find parking). On the east side of 59th Ave SW, that runs parallel to the Alki Playfield, parking is NOT PERMITTED except during specific times and in a certain area that acts as the school's drop off/pick up zone (legal space/about 5 cars, most cars are parked illegally)(street signs are in place). Parent's method of parking is to "pop" the curb, but the car is not totally off the road, limiting this section of 59th to 1 lane and impassible at school drop off/pick up times.

Further down, south, on 59th buses are parked on the east side of the street (parallel to front of Alki School) taking up one side of the street while cars are parked along the entire west side, limiting this section of 59th at times to an impassable 1 lane too. While all this activity is going on, cars are trying to head in different directions north & south, having to back up and move out of the way

sometimes over the school's 2 crosswalks.

This activity is taking place all along 59th from SW Admiral Way to SW Lander and sometimes beyond to Alki Avenue SW. **And, in the middle of all these traffic patterns, are the school's 2 MAIN CROSS WALKS at SW Stevens and 59th Ave SW intersection.**

Adding to the traffic equation is when vast # of visitors are coming to the area at the same time as school drop off/pick up times, using 59th Ave SW, the first through street from SW Admiral Way to Alki Avenue SW, Alki Beach as the route to enjoy Park's property at Alki Beach, Playfield & Schmitz Preserve Park and business attractions on Alki Ave SW. This heightens the above CONCERNS when Alki School is in session and overlaps beautiful outdoor weather in April/May/June & Sept/Oct, 5 months of the year.

The activity on 59th Ave SW is CURRENTLY a dangerous situation and impacts the safety of ADA persons, Pre-K and elementary age children, bicyclists, pedestrians and access for First Responders. Just imagine what the negative impacts will be due to an increased # of staff (75) parking all day, M-F on neighborhood streets surrounding the school and increased # of new students (243) whose parents choose cars as their mode of transportation. There is a CURRENT PROBLEM, it won't be manageable if it is not ADDRESSED NOW. COMMENT: IF DON, during Covid had **virtual meetings** with the Alki Community, in lieu of public meetings, the above scenario WOULD HAVE BEEN ADRESSED, LOUDLY. QUESTION: Did DON NOT want the community to be involved?

- **DON'S RATIONAL FOR SCHOOL BUS ZONE DEPARTURE (SMC 23.51B.002 14)**

DON: Buses currently have capacity for the anticipated growth (to 542 students) given the attendance area for Aki elementary is proposed to remain unchanged, therefore no additional buses are needed. QUESTION: If the attendance area for Alki is to remain unchanged and enrollment numbers at Alki are declining (2019 -2020/Pre Covid: 350 students; 2022-2023: 299 students) then why is there a need for the increased size of the proposed school, increased # of students (243) $542-299=243$, increased # of staff (33) $75-42=33$? **Where does SPS think 243 students will be coming from?**

SENARIO: If a student is coming from outside of a 1 mile radius, they qualify for busing (currently there are 2, 44 seat buses which are at about half occupancy (88 seats total/44 available) & 1 smaller bus for special needs students (22 seats total).

That means there are approximately 44 seats available on the number of existing buses to Alki. Simply math: 243 more students – 44 seats available on current buses = **190** students/parents/families that will need to figure other transportation to the school. **COMMENT:** SPS doesn't want to incur additional busing expenses with the budget issues they are facing. How about more staff salaries (33)?

SENARIO: If **243** students are coming from within a mile radius and a parent chooses against city buses, bicycling or walking as an option, there will be more cars and thus adding to the stated negative impacts & concerns (addressed above).

DON's rational for school bus zone DEPARTURE IS CONTRADICTIONARY AND IF NOT ADDRESSED WILL MAKE PARKING/TRAFFIC/SAFETY ON 59TH Ave Sw AND OTHER STREETS SURROUNDING THE SCHOOL COMPLETELY UNMANAGABLE. SPS & SDOT NEED TO DO A TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN NOW, NOT 7 MONTHS BEFORE THE SCHOOL IS TO REOPEN TO REALLY GET THIS RIGHT

III. SMALLEST SITE OF ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT

- On only 1.4 acres of land is where SPS is proposing to rebuild Alki Elementary School, starting in June 2023. The plan is to double the current size of the school to 82,000 square feet so it can facilitate 542 students from 299(currently) and a staff of 75 from 38. There are many community questions and concerns regarding elements of the proposed site plan in regards to traffic, parking and ultimately children safety and most recently, budget issues reported by Seattle Public Schools. SPS has noted birth rates are declining, as are enrollments numbers especially in elementary schools and combined are causing budget issues. To solve this problem, SPS is looking for solutions and short term interventions such as teacher layoffs. They are also looking into the future and the possibility of school closures and/or consolidation in 2024-2025. Are they assessing the proposed Alki Elementary School rebuild, the size, when it is scheduled to reopen in 2025 and if/what are the possibilities the school might not meet their needs in 2025 or beyond? How about a school that fits our neighborhood? Or, build this school of such magnitude at a site that has more land, better traffic flow, like Schmitz Park or Lafayette? Because the Alki Community was not part of the DON process we feel unheard and misrepresented. There could have been virtual meetings as SDAT had 7 to provide input for the development of SPS's site plan. WHERE WAS OUR VOICE? WHY ZERO, DON?

- **PARKS PROPERTY NEAR ALKI SCHOOL**

Alki is a very popular city wide & tourist destination, with Alki beach, Schmitz Preserve Park, Alki Playfield/tennis courts & Whale Tail Park (totaling 200 acres/the 5th largest piece of park's property) and all within walking distance from Alki Elementary School and the Alki Community Center. PARKS does not provide off street parking for their Alki properties and relies on the same neighborhood streets and legal parking spaces as does SPS's Alki Elementary School (They also use 59th Ave SW as their pick up/drop off location, as addressed above in paragraph I). Both PARKS & SPS impact/compete with each other's needs for limited/available parking in the Alki community and especially on SDOT's narrow and busy 59th Ave SW, the first through street from SW Admiral Way to Alki Ave SW, to Alki Beach and other nearby PARKS properties. The parking situation intensifies during 5 months of the year; Aug/Sept and April/May/June when Alki School is in session, youth team sports are practicing on Alki Playfield (just one of many examples) and Seattle weather is good for being outdoors.

Now is time for ALL CITY of Seattle DECISION MAKERS to address this parking issue as it WILL ONLY intensify if Alki Elementary is built as proposed. Just imagine what the negative impacts will be due to an increased # of staff (75) parking all day, M-F on neighborhood streets surrounding the school and increased # of new students (243) whose parents choose cars as their mode of transportation. There is a CURRENT PROBLEM, it won't be manageable if this issue is not ADDRESSED NOW. The impacts will be negative and irreversible to the Alki neighborhood. What about a TRANSPORTATION ANALYSIS/PLAN BY SDOT? NOW?

ALKI COMMUNITY CENTER: The Director at the Alki Community Center said mode of transportation for children enrolled in their Pre-K (15 children)/after school program (55 children) is cars: 75%/walking: 25%; these numbers reflects rainy, darker months but slightly better when weather is nicer. THESE NUMBERS ARE NOT PART OF ALKI SCHOOL NUMBERS, THEY TOO NEED AVAILABILITY OF PARKING

- **DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD DEPARTURE REQUESTS**

DON requested 9 project departures, a VERY LARGE AMOUNT, MEANING THE SCHOOL DESIGN DOES NOT FIT INTO THE SPACE IT WILL OCCUPY AND NEEDS

DEPARTURES TO ACCOMMODATE THE PROJECT , CONCERN: Why is SPS even building this school with all the budget issues, consolidation of school, school closures?

#1. Greater than allowed building height(SMC 23.51B.002D) Doubling the size to 82,000 square feet and increasing height to accommodate 542 students from 308 (increase of 243) & 75 faculty & staff from 42(increase of 33)

#2. Reduced vehicular parking quantity(SMC 23.54.015) Departure prioritizes the use of site area for educational programs and operations over the private vehicle. As a result, ZERO ONSITE parking AND SAME DROP OFF/PICK UP LOCATION on 59th near school's main cross walk. **Community Concerns:** Increased safety risk to children, accessing ADA parking, bicyclists and the greater Alki community because of a LACK of parking and a thought out traffic plan. "The project team Mahlum acknowledged that parking is as an "operational challenge" and yet they eliminated all onsite parking. And site plan/departures were based on flawed parking data from Heffron Transportation's report done in November of 2021. At the time both bridges leading into West Seattle were closed. In addition the report was done during Covid and in the winter. These things make the findings used to grant the departure questionable.

School events on neighborhood parking: Managing the number of families coming to the site by dividing all-school events across multiple evenings. Community Concerns: That would spread out the traffic/parking issues over many days, increasing safety concerns and limiting access to Park's properties especially when traffic increases on Alki during beautiful outdoor weather in April/May/June & Sept/Oct and overlaps the school's calendar for 5 months of the year. A busy time at Alki Beach and surrounding Park's properties

ADA Space: 1 LOCATED ACROSS THE STREET FROM SCHOOL ON BUSY 59TH AVE SW. IS NOT NEARLY ENOUGH. Caregivers of Specific Needs students who need to be taken up to door of the school must have a place to park and safe accesability from that parking to the school. Guidelines for this can be found in BEST PRACTICES FOR SCHOOL TRAFFIC DESIGN: A CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION GUIDE FOR SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS(www.gov-traffic-safety-committee) The guidelines state under the headline MEDICALLY FRAGILE AND SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS " Locate medically fragile and special needs loading/unloading at easily accesable locations from entrances, both in terms of **distance** and grade change. (A) Many medically

fragile students are dropped off in private vehicles. Provide an accesable vehicle loading/unloading area near the Special Needs bus loading area."

#3. Bus loading and unloading:(SMC 23.51B.002.14)School Bus Zone: will stay at current location, parallel to the school on 59th Ave SW (Reduces street to an impassable 1 lane, north & south without specific traffic patterns. ZERO parking permitted on east side of 59th and limited parking/private drive ways on west side. Community Concern: First through street from SW Admiral Way to Alki Beach causing traffic issues, children's safety, especially P-K program for 48, 3-5 year olds classroom entrance near bus zone, AND access to ADA spot. Limited sight lines. This area will get

#4. New curb cut to service area without vehicular parking, #5. Increase curb cut width & #6. Increased curb cut flare width(SMC23.54.030F2b3) This is for the site plan's loading dock: Curb cut out for Service Area/trash removal and deliveries. Located parallel to the school on 59th Ave SW, between the bus zone and the Pre-K program's entrance. Concern: the P-K program for 48, 3-5 year olds classroom entrance is next to the SERVICE AREA potentially causing safety issues and limited sight lines. The one ADA spot is a concern as well ,as it is too close to this area. Parents of Pre-K children, 3-5 year olds, will want to park close to the classroom's entrance to walk in and pick up children. Parking will get congested near SW Lander and contribute to children and traffic safety issue.

#7. Reduced Long-term bicycle parking quantity & #8 Amended bicycle parking performance standards(SMC 23.54.015K2) DON is asking for a departure, to reduce number of bicycle spaces and covered space. My concern with this is that all site plan printed material EMPHASIZES walking vs parking, people over cars, alternative transportation and yet a departure was granted that hinders this objective. Also the placement of the bicycle area is shared with the pathway to the pre-k area which would make it difficult to get small children to and from pre-k area without being hit by bicycles.

SUMMARY/Community Concerns: SPS is STUFFING this school into this SMALL lot size and NOW ARE SEEKING ZONING PERMITS from SDCI to allow them to do so. The Community feels by SDCI granting these permits the impacts will be negative for Children, bicycles & community safety, ADA accessibility and access to Park's surrounding properties

QUESTION 3

I believe that the DON director was misinformed by the Seattle Public Schools traffic report into believing that there would be no serious traffic and parking impacts to the Alki area by the SPS proposal for the Alki Elementary project. Because of this misinformation nine departures were granted for the project. The SPS should be required to redo the report on traffic and parking impacts and the DON should be advised to reevaluate the Alki Elementary project and should allow Alki community to be part of the process. This involvement was denied by Ordinance number 126188 signed October 2020, signed by then Mayor Durkin. Based on the information I have provided the departures should be denied and the decision reversed.