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9 March 2026

Attn: Chair Caryn L. Hines (Case No. CBA-1174-E, et al.)

SUBJECT: PETITION OF HOLTON ARMS SCHOOL – MODIFICATION APPLICATION

Dear Chair Hines and Members of the Board of Appeals:

I, along with other residents of Al-Marah, are in full support of Holton’s request for enrollment expansion and believe this action will have no adverse effect on traffic within our neighborhood. We, in the Al-Marah community, have been waiting patiently to have Holton’s case heard on the merits. I had scheduled time-off to participate in the hearings, previously scheduled for Nov 2025, only to witness the proceedings derailed by what appeared to be delay tactics by the opposition. We are requesting the hearing proceed as scheduled April 7-10, 2026.

“*First present the facts fairly before you form opinions*” is a foundational principle of our legal system. Every fair-minded individual must defend this principle. Yet, in the absence of an OZAH hearing, Holton has been prevented from presenting the facts. It is not possible to have an intelligent discussion on this topic if the facts don’t matter.

The Al-Marah community has been well aware of the full scope of the School’s modification application from the beginning inclusive of the proposed summer camp increase. On 13 Nov 2024, the Headmaster at Holton (Ms. Penny Evins) hosted a Community Outreach Meeting on campus which was attended by a large number of the surrounding neighborhood residents. Of note, Ms. Vivian Riefberg was also present at this meeting and contributed substantially to the discussion.

The opposition attorney is ignoring the “*inconvenient fact*” that the proposed increase in the summer camp enrollment was a major part of the agenda at this meeting and was thoroughly discussed. Any claims being made that there was a lack of notice regarding the summer camp aspect of the School’s application are at best irresponsible, and at worst both self-serving and malicious. The technical correction requested by the School exists to assist OZAH in the orderly conduct of the hearing on the merits. It does not constitute a substantive change and should be supported by the Board.

As dispiriting as this entire ordeal has been for the Al-Marah neighborhood, I would be remiss in not expressing a concern about the extraordinary costs of these types of legal tactics and delays

that are being absorbed by members of the Al-Marah community and Holton Arms School. Instead of productive use of time and fiscal resources, many have been forced to waste time and money fighting off these diktats.

The members of the opposition need to “*sheath their swords*”, allow for a hearing, and bring this matter to its logical and legal conclusion.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Xydakis", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Michael Xydakis, MD, MSc, SFS  
Colonel (R) U.S. Air Force  
Associate Professor of Surgery – Uniformed Services University  
Walter Reed National Military Medical Center  
ENT/ Head & Neck Surgery



Dear Neighbors,

Happy Fall! I am pleased to connect with you and invite you to Holton Arms campus for an upcoming meeting regarding the School's long-range planning.

Neighbor Open House  
Wednesday, November 13, 2024  
4:30-6:00 p.m.  
The Susanna A. Jones Learning Commons

Holton's Board of Trustees is working to position the school for success in serving its students and remaining competitive in a complex independent school market. To this end, we are planning to ask for an amendment to the school's special exception that would allow for more flexibility in enrollment, campus operations, and community engagement. We want to share that information with you as we develop our plans.

Please join us on campus on Wednesday, November 13 for a neighbor open house to learn about our plans and engage in conversation. Please let me know if you will be in attendance by emailing [headofschool@holton-arms.edu](mailto:headofschool@holton-arms.edu).

I look forward to welcoming you to campus.

Warmly,

Percy B. Evans  
Head of School