

**Michael Brochu**  
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March 15, 2026

By email: ozah@montgomerycountymd.gov

Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings  
Montgomery County, Maryland  
100 Maryland Avenue, Room 200  
Rockville, MD 20850

**Re: Special Exception Application of Holton-Arms School, Case No. CBA-1174-E**

To the Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings:

I am writing to express my strong support for Holton-Arms School's special exception modification request, including the request to increase student enrollment and allow more girls the opportunity to benefit from the school's exceptional educational environment.

One of the primary reasons our family chose Holton-Arms is my strong belief in the value of nonreligious single-sex education. I believe it provides a uniquely supportive environment for girls to grow academically and personally during formative years. Schools like Holton create spaces where girls can develop confidence, leadership skills, and intellectual curiosity without some of the pressures that can exist in other educational settings. Because of that, I believe expanding Holton's student body is a very positive step in allowing more girls to grow up in this type of environment.

My daughter Katharina is currently in 9th grade and joined Holton in 8th grade. She began using the Holton bus when she started at the school. We live in the Palisades in Washington, DC, and she is picked up at a stop on McArthur Boulevard that is only about a four-minute drive from our home. The bus has been consistently reliable and typically has about 15 to 20 girls boarding each morning. It has worked extremely well for our family.

Before Katharina attended Holton, she spent two years at Lowell School near Silver Spring, and my wife and I drove her across Washington, DC every day. That commute required navigating traffic across the city and was difficult to manage with two working parents. Having the Holton bus program available has given our family a tremendous amount of time back each day. It allows Katharina to travel to school independently while we begin our workday.

The bus has also helped Katharina integrate quickly into the Holton community. She often arrives about twenty minutes before classes start, which gives her time to connect with friends and settle into the day. Many of her classmates use the bus network as well, and she has been completely comfortable using it as a high school student.

Overall, our experience with the transportation system has been excellent. It is reliable, well organized, and clearly an important part of how many families make attending Holton work.

Our family strongly supports Holton-Arms School's request to expand its enrollment. In my view, allowing more students to attend this outstanding school supported by a transportation system that already works well will benefit families across the region.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Michael Brochu**

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