

December 4, 2008

Dr. Maria L. Goodloe-Johnson, Superintendent
Seattle Public Schools
John L. Stanford Center for Education
2445 3rd Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98134

Dear Dr. Goodloe-Johnson,

We are writing to inquire about the School District's plans for the soon to be vacant Columbia School in Southeast Seattle. We know the School District is very busy discussing school closures and program relocations across the city and we appreciate your attention to this important question for our neighborhood.

As you know, the New School is using the Columbia School Building this year while its new home is being built in Rainier Beach. By the end of the 2008-2009 school year, the building will likely be vacant. Many in the neighborhood were surprised the building was not on the recently announced list of proposed buildings to be "surplussed" and are therefore wondering what the School District's plans are for the building when the New School leaves.

The Columbia School is an important community asset, as well as being in the public trust, and occupies a prominent location in our neighborhood. Friends of Columbia School (FoCS) was formed more than two years ago to help inform and engage the community in discussions about the school's future uses. If the School District is not going to use the building for public education, FoCS is very interested in having a constructive dialogue with the School District about the building's next great use.

As the School District discusses school closures around the City, we would like to better understand the fate of this historic building and work with you to engage the neighborhood in any decisions. We would like to invite you or the appropriate official from the School District to meet with FoCS to help explain the School District's facilities planning, surplus, and disposition processes. Please contact Mikala Woodward at (206) 501-6904 or rvhsoffice@aol.com.

We look forward to working with you in the future and thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Scott Barkan

Mikala Woodward

Michael Woo

Joanne Lauterjung Kelley

Rebecca Cate

cc: Members of the Seattle School Board
Ron English, Deputy General Counsel, Seattle School District