
From: Manya Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 6:45 PM
To: Planning <Planning@naperville.il.us>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Proposed Orion STEM Schools near Diehl Rd and Mill St

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To The City of Naperville,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the proposed Orion STEM Schools in the Naperville community. As a current junior at Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, a former student at the John C. Dunham STEM Partnership School in Aurora from grades 3-8, and the founder of the educational non-profit STEAMVisions, I can attest to the transformative power of STEM education.

The hands-on, project-based learning and immersive STEM enrichment I experienced at the John C. Dunham STEM Partnership School gave me a deeper understanding and appreciation for science, technology, engineering, and math. I was able to work on projects that not only challenged me but also allowed me to explore and pursue my passions. As a third grader, I was exposed to concepts such as the engineering design process, DNA extraction, and more. I built on these concepts throughout middle school to develop innovative solutions to real-world problems such as a car that runs on CO₂. This kind of thinking in students is achievable through STEM education.

The addition of the Orion STEM Schools in Naperville will further enhance the community's reputation as an educational powerhouse. I am particularly impressed with Mrs. Selvei Rajkumar's vision for the school to focus on STEM education and entrepreneurship, as well as the school's commitment to nurturing social entrepreneurs and emotionally balanced individuals who can lead the world to greater good.

The Mission of Orion Schools emphasizes the importance of creating a supportive and accepting environment for students to pursue their passions and innovative ideas that solve the needs of humankind. The curriculum will be rigorous and will be supported by the University of Chicago STEM Education, MIT's Disciplined Entrepreneurship framework, Harvard University's Culture of Thinking in Action, design thinking from Stanford University, and Yale University's Center for Emotional Intelligence. This level of educational excellence will help to prepare students for success in the 21st century.

I fully support the proposed Orion STEM Schools and believe that they will be an invaluable addition to the Naperville community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Manya Davis

Kopinski, Sara

From: Planning
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 11:20 AM
To: Kopinski, Sara
Subject: Proposed Orion STEM Schools at Diehl Rd & Mill St
Attachments: OrionSTEMSchool_JamieLink.pdf

From: Jamie Link [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 11:11 AM
To: Planning <Planning@naperville.il.us>
Subject: Proposed Orion STEM Schools at Diehl Rd & Mill St

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To: Whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in support of building a new Orion school in Naperville. We had our daughter at KLA Plainfield for 4 years and absolutely love the education they provided. We visited 20 preschools before deciding to send our daughter there and have not regretted the decision even once during our time there. Their unique approach to early education has really helped our daughter to thrive in her development and we are constantly surprised by our daughter when she randomly demonstrates new concepts and ideas that she developed from attending KLA.

The level of creativity that the teachers use to teach basic math and reading concepts is beyond what they are doing in public school. In addition, the school also hosts a science fair, cultural week and provides all kids 3-5 years old with basic computing and coding skills. They also promote exploration and creativity more than other schools we have visited, which is important for us as my wife and I are both creatives. Our only complaint is that they don't have an elementary school, which would be solved by the Orion STEM school!

In summary, we highly recommend KLA to everyone we know and they are in a league of their own compared with other early learning programs in the area. I see no reason why Orion would not be on par with the great education KLA provides! Naperville should be honored to have such a great organization looking to build a school in their town and should approve their permits without hesitation.

Sincerely,
Jamie Link [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Jamie Link
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

RE: Proposed Orion STEM Schools at Diehl Rd & Mill St

To: Whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in support of building a new Orion school in Naperville. We had our daughter at KLA Plainfield for 4 years and absolutely love the education they provided. We visited 20 preschools before deciding to send our daughter there and have not regretted the decision even once during our time there. Their unique approach to early education has really helped our daughter to thrive in her development and we are constantly surprised by our daughter when she randomly demonstrates new concepts and ideas that she developed from attending KLA.

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In summary, we highly recommend KLA to everyone we know and they are in a league of their own compared with other early learning programs in the area. I see no reason why Orion would not be on par with the great education KLA provides! Naperville should be honored to have such a great organization looking to build a school in their town and should approve their permits without hesitation.

Sincerely,
Jamie Link
[REDACTED]

Kopinski, Sara

From: Planning
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 3:23 PM
To: Kopinski, Sara
Subject: FW: Proposed Orion STEM Schools at Diehl Rd & Mill St

From: Alexis Rago [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 3:12 PM
To: Planning <Planning@naperville.il.us>
Subject: Proposed Orion STEM Schools at Diehl Rd & Mill St

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Aloha Planning Commission Members,

I am writing to provide a reference and share my support of the proposed Orion STEM Schools at Diehl Rd and Mill St.

I met Selvei Rajkumar at the NACC Ribbon Cutting for KLA Naperville (Tuthill Rd) and was impressed with the vision, philosophy, team, and facilities of KLA. Over the years, I stayed in touch with Selvei and noticed her consistent focus, kind demeanor, and true passion for her business and purpose.

In the Fall of 2022, Selvei hired Marketing Mana (my company) to provide strategic marketing services for Orion STEM. We explored and discussed many foundational elements of the Orion STEM project and I have had the opportunity to get to know Selvei and her family very well as they shared the plans for Orion STEM. While this project is separate from KLA Schools, Selvei remains consistent in her dedication, determination, pursuit of excellence, and genuine care for the students and families. These attributes are contributing factors to the KLA success and I am confident that these will play a large role in the Orion STEM success.

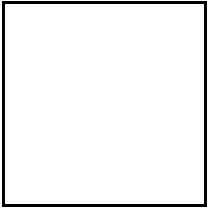
The vision of Orion STEM Schools highlights their belief that all children are unique and capable. The reality of being a student in today's world is filled with uncertainty, pressure from social media, concern for their safety, mental health challenges, acceptance by peers (elementary schools now have buddy benches to encourage people to find a friend), and the normal tween and teen changes in their bodies that create confusion, angst, and overwhelm. Leaders like Selvei can truly make a difference and positively impact not only the student's life, but also their family life. Some students will perform better in a smaller setting, and Orion STEM offers that option with the support to empower children, to develop self-efficacy and emotional intelligence while creating a community and sense of belonging.

Providing an option in our education landscape that is differentiated by focusing on STEM and entrepreneurship, innovation, self-acceptance, and social acceptance, and is not affiliated with a religious entity, is what drives our community forward. Naperville is a great community that is recognized for its supportive small business environment. It makes sense to provide the opportunity to dive deep into entrepreneurship for our future leaders of Naperville.

As a small business owner and a Naperville resident for 9 years (and bringing my parents and children here), I am excited to see innovative ideas being presented to the Planning Commission that support a strong future for our community. I hope the Planning Commission provides approval for the proposed Orion STEM Schools at Diehl Rd and Mill Street.

Mahalo,

Alexis (she/her/hers)



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Alexis Rago

[Redacted signature line]

[Redacted contact information]

[Redacted contact information]

[Redacted contact information]

▪

Kopinski, Sara

From: Planning
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2023 10:23 AM
To: Kopinski, Sara
Subject: FW: Proposed Orion STEM Schools at Diehl Rd & Mill St

Hi Sara,

We have received the below public comment on the Orion project.

Thanks!

Adam Beaver, AICP Candidate

Community Planner | Planning & Development - TED Business Group

City of Naperville | 400 S. Eagle St. Naperville, IL 60540

(630) 420-4193 | beavera@naperville.il.us

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From: Deepali Aul [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2023 9:48 AM
To: Planning <Planning@naperville.il.us>
Subject: Proposed Orion STEM Schools at Diehl Rd & Mill St

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This school can give new learning perspective to students to improve Problem Solving and Critical Thinking Skills. Collaboration and Team Building.

We should have more school like this in our community

Thank you
Deepali

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Kopinski, Sara

From: Planning
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 9:05 AM
To: Kopinski, Sara
Subject: FW: Proposed Orian STEM school @ Diehl Rd. and Mill St.

Hi Sara,

Please see the public comment on the Orion project below:

Thanks!

Adam Beaver, AICP Candidate

Community Planner | Planning & Development - TED Business Group

City of Naperville | 400 S. Eagle St. Naperville, IL 60540

(630) 420-4193 | beavera@naperville.il.us

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From: Ronda Grigalunas <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, February 25, 2023 2:29 PM
To: Planning <Planning@naperville.il.us>
Subject: Proposed Orian STEM school @ Diehl Rd. and Mill St.

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To the members of the Naperville Planning Commission:

This letter is to express my exuberant support for the proposed Orion STEM School at Diehl Rd and Mill Street in Naperville. As a parent, grandparent, resident, as well as an educator of over 40 years, I am extremely excited for the unique opportunity this school presents for the children and families within our already world-class community.

First let me address this future-based project as an educator. I have spent the last 40 years working with children ages 5 through 12 years old in after-school programs. My classes have always promoted the strength of individuality while fostering those skills to use those budding, individual traits to work harmoniously with others. To achieve these goals my students have been encouraged to think outside the box to foster a sense of community. My students, from a young age, understand that they are the future guardians of our planet and its inhabitants. I have stressed that they have the opportunity and the ability to do a better job than those who have come before.

Prior to my retirement, I was an educator at KLA School of Plainfield. This was a perfect fit for me as KLA embraced every one of my personal educational philosophies mentioned above. The importance of these shared core values is evidenced by those values embedded as a cornerstone in all their curriculum.

A unique and vital part of early education to help these youngest children begin a lifelong understanding of such concepts as respect, cooperation, responsibility, and empathy. As children get older it is important not only to keep these values but to expand on them using innovative and authentic ideas that have purpose and value to the students themselves as well others. This unique school can set our children on the road to success; not only for them as individuals but as part of a community of humans who are willing to work hard to achieve things that may seem impossible.

As a parent/grandparent I only wish I could have had the choice to have taken advantage of this type of educational environment for my family. I am the grandparent of two gifted students. I can only imagine the opportunities a school like this would open for each of them. The excitement of seeing this learning environment extend to a full elementary school makes me want to reconsider retirement!

As a community member it is obvious that the construction of a creative, innovative school, where students are immersed in a supportive and collaborative environment, can only add value to the community and its future.

In closing I whole heartily support the addition of the Orion STEM School to the Naperville community.

Sincerely,

Ronda Grigalunas

Kopinski, Sara

From: Kopinski, Sara
Sent: Friday, March 3, 2023 8:52 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Comments for Townhome/School Development

Thank you for providing comments on the proposed Orion STEM School/Residential Development (PZC 22-1-097). Your comments will be included in the March 15th PZC agenda packet that is made available to the public and distributed to the Planning and Zoning Commissioners for consideration prior to the public hearing for this case.

Regards,

Sara Kopinski
Planner II | Planning & Development - TED Business Group
City of Naperville | 400 S. Eagle St. Naperville, IL 60540
(630) 420-6075 | kopinskis@naperville.il.us

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From: Jack Maszka [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 9:39 PM
To: Planning <Planning@naperville.il.us>
Subject: Comments for Townhome/School Development

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Hello,

I have the following comments for the proposed annexation/development at the southwest corner of Deihl and Mill.

- I am supportive of residential use on the corner. Townhomes here is a great use. But, based on the two multi-family style developments to the south of the property, I think a similar multi-family style development would be the best use at this location, especially because of its location at the intersection of two busy streets.

- The overall site planning seems to be focused on maximizing the number of units on the site rather than focusing on a quality development and interactivity with the surrounding area.

- Nike Park would be a great amenity for this development to utilize. Incorporating some sort of agreement to build infrastructure to increase pedestrian safety while crossing Mill Street would promote safety, interactivity between the

sites, and could create a more attractive product for families or those with active lifestyles. An example could be pedestrian crossing signage with LED lights.

- I am in support of diversifying the housing stock in the area of Naperville. My objections are that the masonry variance, site plan, lack of landscaping, and lack of interactivity between the site, the school, and Nike Park indicates a lack of focus by the developer on creating a quality development that would be fitting to have on a highly visible corner in the community.

Jack Maszka



Kopinski, Sara

From: Kopinski, Sara
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 9:36 AM
To: Kopinski, Sara
Subject: FW: Questions on Vacant land at Southwest corner of Diehl Rd and Mill St

From: Kathy Welbourn [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2023 10:56 AM
To: Planning <Planning@naperville.il.us>
Subject: Questions on Vacant land at Southwest corner of Diehl Rd and Mill St

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Hi-

I would like to submit a question regarding the request to rezone this property and build both townhomes and school. Several years ago, a request was made to build townhomes at the Mayneland Farm location at Mill St and Bauer. My understanding is that it was not passed due to traffic concerns and the density of the various buildings. I don't see what makes this request any different. With a school- it seems that traffic would be even worse than just a townhouse development.

What is being done about considering both traffic and density of the buildings?

Thank you-

Kathy Welbourn

Kopinski, Sara

From: Planning
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 8:16 AM
To: Kopinski, Sara
Subject: FW: Proposed Orion STEM Schools & The Prosperita Naperville at Diehl Rd & Mill St

Hi Sara,

Please see the below public comment regarding Orion Prosperita.

Thanks!

Adam Beaver, AICP Candidate

Community Planner | Planning & Development - TED Business Group

City of Naperville | 400 S. Eagle St. Naperville, IL 60540

(630) 420-4193 | beavera@naperville.il.us

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From: Ananda Ponnusamy [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2023 6:44 PM
To: Planning <Planning@naperville.il.us>
Subject: Proposed Orion STEM Schools & The Prosperita Naperville at Diehl Rd & Mill St

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am writing to endorse the proposed Orion STEM Schools & The Prosperita Naperville at Diehl Rd & Mill St in Naperville. I have known Selvei Rajkumar for over 30 years and she has been a wonderful inspiration to many of us in our community. I have known Selvei who has always been known to care for many of us, whether it is at a small family gathering or at a large, organized event. Selvei always takes the lead on matters that require care in any setting. With her Care attitude and leadership skill, I can confidently say that her growth does not surprise me. Her commitment towards the school and the interactions with kids are well known within KLA community, where she had demonstrated her capability that will further expand to benefit Naperville area and its community.

Selvei has set a high standard for Orion STEM Schools & The Prosperita. In my opinion it will be a great addition and will provide a valuable service for Naperville families and its surrounding

communities. It will add a business that has a solid leader who can help guide and shape the local business community positively with her knowledge and experience.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Ananda Ponnusamy

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████████████████████
████████████████

Kopinski, Sara

From: Planning
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 8:17 AM
To: Kopinski, Sara
Subject: FW: Proposed Orion STEM schools at Diehl Rd and Mill St

Hi Sara,

Please see the public comment below for Orion Prosperita.

Thank you,

Adam Beaver, AICP Candidate

Community Planner | Planning & Development - TED Business Group

City of Naperville | 400 S. Eagle St. Naperville, IL 60540

(630) 420-4193 | beavera@naperville.il.us

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From: Chandra Periyaswamy [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2023 5:30 PM
To: Planning <Planning@naperville.il.us>
Subject: Proposed Orion STEM schools at Diehl Rd and Mill St

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To Whom It May concern:

I am very pleased to know about the proposed Orion STEM schools at Deihl Rd and Mill St, and extend my full support to build the school. My wife and I have known Selvei for several years and admired her dedication toward children's education and the community. The proposed Orion STEM schools have a focus on STEM education and Entrepreneurship mindset, a critical need at this time for our new generation.

Sincerely,
Chandrakumar Periyaswamy
Naperville 60564.

March 5, 2023

To Whom it may concern,

Hello, my name is Erica Koegel, Executive Director of KLA Schools Naperville, Naperville West, and Plainfield. I am writing this letter to support the Orion STEM Schools. I have been an educator and leader in the Early Childhood field for over twenty-five years. I raised two children, and we live nearby in the Plainfield Community.

Children are natural-born scientists; they are curious and ask questions. When children are given the opportunity to do hands-on experiences to test theories and come up with answers. Experimentation allows children to work independently or in groups to solve problems. Self-discovery gives children confidence and self-esteem.

STEM is an interdisciplinary approach to connecting learning to real-life experiences. This innovative approach in education provides the opportunity for students in the future to be creative thinkers and problem solvers.

I have known and worked with Selvei Rajkumar for ten years; she inspired me when she shared her vision of her school. I helped her open her first school, KLA School of Plainfield, in 2013. Every decision she makes is based on doing the right thing for the children and creating a positive culture for her team and educators. Selvei's commitment has allowed many children to be in a high-quality and innovative environment that fosters life skills and early learning that will prepare them for elementary school and beyond. Ten years later, with the addition of KLA Schools of Naperville and KLA Schools of Naperville West Selvei still holds true to her vision. I am honored to work for a woman committed to giving back to the community through education.

As a mother and educator, I see that young children can go further when they have an environment and adults that encourage their curiosity to research and discover the world and phenomena around them. The children and community would benefit from a STEM School. I believe that Selvei's vision for The Orion School will give the students the confidence to lead and be innovative in the future.

Kindest Regards,



Erica Koegel
Executive Director
KLA Schools of Naperville, Naperville West, and Plainfield



Gabriela De Loera

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tuesday March 7, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Gabriela De Loera, I have the honor of writing this letter on behalf of Selvie Rajkumar regarding the proposed Orion STEM Schools. I've known Selvie for about three years now. I met Selvie back in September 2019 when I obtained a position at KLA Schools of Naperville. Selvie provided an opportunity to learn and grow as an educator in the preschool setting. The Reggio Emilia Approach truly made a great impact in my life as a preschool teacher. I developed a new approach to learning and teaching, I believe it provides the students infinite opportunities to grow academically, physical, and emotional. I strongly believe that the KLA schools are benefiting a great amount of families. For the same reason, I'm convinced that the Orion STEM schools will make a great positive impact in the Naperville area. The curriculum outstands significant expectations for the students, this will provide great academic experiences enhance learning and will facilitate instruction for the educators. Selvie is a very inspiring woman that stands out for her dreams, values, and beliefs. She has not only impacted my life professionally, but also personally. I hope that you value her efforts and a life time work to make a dream come true by approving the Orion STEM School proposal in the city of Naperville.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for further information, if there is any questions or concerns, contact me through email or phone call.

Sincerely,

Gabriela De Loera

Kopinski, Sara

From: Planning
Sent: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 4:50 PM
To: Kopinski, Sara
Subject: FW: PZC #22-1-097, Orion/Prosperita

From: rob koss <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 4:36 PM
To: Planning <Planning@naperville.il.us>
Subject: PZC #22-1-097, Orion/Prosperita

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Dear Board Members,

I am a resident of the Century Farm subdivision adjacent to the proposed Orion/Prosperita development. The proposed use is high density and includes a school. As stated at their public information meeting, the school plans to accommodate 360 students with 85% being transported by car. The development and the school will generate a high volume of trips; most of which will use the West Street/ Diehl Road intersection. Left turns at this unsignalized intersection are already difficult due to high speed, high traffic volumes on Diehl. Even with staggered starting times, many residents are concerned about the safety and level of service at this intersection. Staggered times for school departures were not mentioned.

Will a signal be added at this intersection? Is it possible to review a copy of the traffic impact study prior to the hearing on March 15?

Thank you for your consideration.

Rob and Linda Koss
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]