From: Ymail

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 6, 2021 10:15 AM **To:** Planning <a href="mailto:Planning@naperville.il.us">Planning@naperville.il.us</a>>

Subject: Proposed KLA School near Beebe Dr. case number 21-1-034

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To

The City of Naperville Team,

My name is Heather Fugate, and I am the School Principal at KLA Schools of Naperville. I learned from Selvei that she is pursuing an opportunity to start a KLA Schools in Beebe Dr, near 75th street and Route 59. I think it is important to share our story during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially how, together with Selvei's leadership, support from our incredible families, and commitment from our dedicated teachers, we have come out stronger and more resilient than ever before.

February 2020 was a month like any other at KLA Schools of Naperville and Plainfield, so we thought. In reality, it was the last "normal" month of the year and possibly for a long time. The month of March brought a very dark cloud over our country and the world at large. The facts about the COVID-19 virus, how quickly it was spreading, and how deadly it could be were becoming public. This virus was no longer something China was dealing with, it was in our backyard now, and we were alarmed and concerned about the ramifications this pandemic was going to have on our lives.

There were conflicting reports from many sources flooding our media. It was an extremely frightening threat that sent people in mass to grocery stores cleaning out shelves of essential supplies. No one knew if the world would shut down or how much of these supplies would be available soon. The only thing our leadership team knew for sure was that we needed to be socially responsible and look out for the well-being of our children, families, and educators. We calmly reflected on the options and sorted through what we knew were facts about the situation. As always, we surveyed our families for their input, which led to a tough decision to close the schools' doors for in-person learning until we understood better what we were dealing with at that time. In the Naperville school, we had only been open for five months and just starting to build our enrollment, and Plainfield was near capacity.

The same day, shortly after we voluntarily closed the schools, there was a mandate put out by the Governor of Illinois, declaring an emergency to shut down all daycare centers among all other non-essential businesses. Some daycares were able to stay open if they applied for emergency licenses, but the families who could utilize the services were only essential worker's children. It was not enough for our school population children to even consider doing this at the time. We decided to offer remote learning from the next day onwards. Our Pedagogical team worked on that weekend to prepare learning-from-home resources, and our teachers jumped in and provided zoom assemblies and enrichments immediately. Things were still very unclear at the time, and people were beginning to panic more amidst the stories coming from Italy and other places facing large outbreaks.

We need to make tougher decisions during these first couple of weeks of offering remote learning. Many other schools and daycare centers were laying off their staff due to the closings. Initially, outsiders advised the same for us as well. Selvei, our team leader, had other plans for our staff and leadership team. She intended to keep as many staff on as possible, and we set out to figure out how we could do this. There were many Zoom calls and conversations about how to continue offering learning opportunities and meaningful connections to our children, teachers, and families while meeting our payroll needs and how we would handle tuition if the closure were for an extended time. One thing was clear; we could not charge our families tuition without providing our in-person services, and we needed to be there for the families during this difficult time.

We decided to continue remote learning for our students and offered the parents to pay what they felt was reasonable or affordable during the closure. Between what the parents paid and what Selvei could secure in PPP loans, we could continue our services without furloughing full-time employees. It was unlike what any other school was doing during this time. We kept the whole team together, and we all worked remotely. Although the school was closed for in-person learning, we all continued to work full-time, and we made sure to make this time count and be productive.

Our plan for working during the closure was threefold. First, we would offer remote learning and enrichment for the children in the mornings and afternoons. Second, the educational webinars by experts for our parents and educators, and third, the team collaborated and did professional development for the remainder of their time. Besides, Selvei noticed several other schools in the neighborhood were closed, and families and some children had no choice but to stay at home with no remote-learning opportunities. At these unprecedented times, we felt it is of paramount importance to extend our help to the community at large outside of our KLA families and be there for one another. Hence, we made our enrichment programs available to the public for free, giving the children and families meaningful connections, especially during these difficult times. It was widely recognized and leveraged by more than 150 community members in April and May 2020.

Our educators stepped up and did incredible programming as leaders to help make the enrichments, learning at-home materials, and Zoom assemblies as fun and educational as possible. We mailed seeds to all of our children's homes to grow the seedling and later bring them to the school garden to harvest. Our KLA families appreciated the efforts, and the tuition donations were extremely generous.

Some of our families even paid full tuition throughout the closure and beyond. These difficult times showed us what we were capable of doing and how incredibly kind our families are. We were truly humbled. This

pandemic wasn't the end of the world as it had felt at the start. It was indeed very distressing and devastating to our communities. Still, we were making the best of the situation and, as a team, keep contributing positive things to help brighten these days.

To sustain the positive attitudes, we decided to focus on gratitude during the pandemic closing. Selvei bought the entire team a gratitude journal to write in daily. The gratitude journals were sent to everyone's homes as a special gift from her. The gesture inspired many on the team to redirect their energy to gratitude, and everyone was grateful for the gesture. There was an outpouring of support and appreciation for Selvei's initiative. The gratitude practice is still flowing through the schools daily; it has become a part of who we are and our core values.

Our very own KLA Parents, Dr. Summers, a Psychologist, and Dr. Consilio, a mindfulness expert, generously offered free live seminars to our families and educators. At the time of uncertainty and during the most unprecedented times, learning what we can control and what we cannot control helped us with our personal growth. We also emphasized self-care for our educators and parents. Selvei provided resources to our families through social-emotional consultants and bought self-care books for our teachers as it's one of the ways we build our resiliency.

The month of May came quickly and with it were significant events for the school, teacher appreciation, parent appreciation, and graduation for the prekindergarten and kindergarten children. This year we wanted to celebrate in a big way but knew this would have to be a creative endeavor. The leadership team put their heads together and decided to combine both teacher and parent appreciation events in one week. We believe Parents are the first and most influential teachers for children. For the parents, we wrote a poem, put it on a card, and gave each family a beautiful flower arrangement and bookmark. The team went out and delivered these items personally to each family's home. We spent an entire day making the arrangements for the families at both schools.

We felt so blessed to have so many dedicated, creative team members to make this all a reality. Then, for the teachers, we made them beautiful gifts and had a parade at each school. The families were able to drive by and greet their teachers.

Some families made signs and other unique gestures of thanks. It was so good to see the children and families, even if it was from a distance in their cars. Everyone forgot about the pandemic and enjoyed the moment.

The graduation program was conducted through Zoom; however, the educators' team delivered the caps, gowns, and diplomas to each child's home before the Zoom ceremony. The looks on the children's faces seeing their teachers at their homes were priceless.

The ceremony was not like other years; however, it was unique in ways, where grandparents from Spain, Bangladesh, and many other countries could join the ceremony. It marked our first Zoom event (and one of many to come) and showed how we could pull together as a team and make sure there was some closure for our graduating children. We were also able to show off a beautiful slide show and presentation the

team put together. We were so happy we decided not to cancel all our events and try to make the most of what we could do. It made the children and families smile and brought some normalcy to their lives, even if just for a moment.

At the beginning of June, we were able to open our doors for children under certain conditions set forth by the CDC and DCFS. We submitted a plan to operate during the pandemic safely, or at least as safe as we possibly could. We needed to follow many new rules and regulations, and everyone above two years old required to wear masks. It included families not being able to come into the classrooms or even the building, staffing challenges, and an incredible amount of daily cleaning and sanitizing. We wondered how we would get it all done. We revised staffing plans, checklists and put together daily health questionnaires. We even purchased a thermal temperature unit for our vestibule. We went above and beyond what anyone else was doing, and Selvei would not have it any other way. She is a firm believer that what is best for children must be what we do, even if it means more time and money. No shortcuts were to be taken with this re-opening like any time.

June 1st marked the first day we were to re-open. Unfortunately, the world had other plans for us that day. Naperville and surrounding communities were under siege by looters and protestors who were angry with George Floyd's tragic death.

It seemed like things couldn't get worse for 2020. We decided to delay our opening two more days, so authorities could handle what was happening in the communities across the nation. After all, we needed to keep children safe, and being at home was best for those two days.

Both the Naperville and Plainfield schools re-opened on June 3rd, 2020. Each school had very few children, Naperville had a dozen students about what we opened with, and Plainfield went from approximately 160 students to 25. We had far more staff than we needed for those few children. We did the best we could with the few hours we had to give out and set our focus on enrollment. How would we ever get back to where we were in a pandemic? We were determined to get there no matter what it took, including working Saturdays to do in-person tours.

Fast forward to 10 months later, we are now in need of more staff and have grown tremendously at both schools. Naperville has surpassed the enrollment it had before the closure, and Plainfield is getting very close to pre-covid enrollment. It was a lot of hard work, extra hours, dedication, and teamwork on the teaching team and the leadership team. As a result, our reputation and standing in the community have been elevated by our choices and actions during these most unprecedented times. We are very proud to say we not only survived COVID, but we flourished in many ways, both professionally and personally.

Biggest lessons learned from our year living with COVID? We are all capable of things we never thought possible, and the children are amazingly resilient. We are beyond proud of how they adapted to the "new normal" use of masks, constant handwashing, social distancing, and drop-offs at the front door. What we thought was going to be near impossible happened, and we not only survived it, but we thrived. Although

the next school year will likely look very different from this one due to vaccines' release, it has been a bittersweet year of learning and self-discovery—a story to share and pass on to others in need of inspiration.

Selvei's vision is to leave traces in the community by nurturing young minds to be respectful, caring citizens and empathetic leaders. Selvei models these values and enables us to foster a sense of belonging in the community and develop relationships with understanding. As a token of our appreciation to our families, we bought bulk gift cards from local small family-owned restaurants and gave them to our families during Thanksgiving. Some of our families gave them to our teachers. It is one example of how our KLA community cares deeply about one another and our community.

I request you to approve Selvei and her family's request to build a KLA Schools in Beebe Dr. I am excited to see the new school's opportunities to the South and the Western part of Naperville and surrounding communities.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share our story and be part of the zoning process,

Kind Regards, Heather Fugate

Kindest Regards,

Heather Fugate School Principal KLA Schools of Naperville 1440 Tuthill Road Naperville, IL 60563 From: senanand

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:37 PM **To:** Planning < <u>Planning@naperville.il.us</u>>

Subject: Proposed KLA School near Beebe Dr, Case Number: 21-1-034

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I am pleased to hear that Ms. Selvei is planning on expanding early education to the Southern Naperville Community near Costco. As a Naperville resident, I strongly support opening KLA Schools of Naperville, as I have seen my daughter who attended KLA Schools of Plainfield from 2013-2016 and started her elementary school with utmost confidence.

Early education helps children have improved social-emotional skills, improved self-confidence, individual education needs, and enhanced attention spans. My daughter is to start middle school this year. The programs offered at KLA Schools of Plainfield played a vital role in preparing my daughter from Kindergarten, developing both academically and socially, thus laying a solid foundation for her educational journey.

I highly recommend KLA Schools as they do what they say they do and maintain integrity.

Should you have any questions, please contact me.

Kind Regards Senthil From: Meg Ledebuhr

**Sent:** Thursday, April 8, 2021 10:09 AM **To:** Planning < <u>Planning@naperville.il.us</u>>

Subject: Proposed KLA School near Beebe Dr, Case Number: 21-1-034

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To Whom it May Concern,

I'm writing to express my support for the proposed KLA school near Beebe Dr, Case Number 21-1-034. My young sons have been enrolled in KLA School of Naperville for over a year, and I couldn't be happier with my experience. The teachers are well grounded in their field and the staff is extremely responsive. I've "shopped around" quite a bit to find a child care home for my sons, and I finally found the right place. Parents in south Naperville will no doubt benefit from KLA School's presence there.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Thank you, Meg Ledebuhr

## Lindsay Chan



April 8, 2021

Naperville Planning Commission

RE: Proposed KLA School near Beebe Drive

Case Number: 21-2-034

To Whom it May Concern,

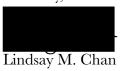
It's a pleasure and honor to recommend a new KLA School in Naperville near Beebe Drive and provide a reference for Selvei Rajkumar and her team.

I first met Selvei while filming an episode of the Moms Network talk show at the Naperville Community Television station about early childhood development and how to navigate choosing a preschool for your child. In the years since then, I have stayed connected and worked with Selvei and other KLA staff professionally as a small business owner myself.

A second KLA School in Naperville, and third total location would be a wonderful addition to our community. I have experienced first hand the extreme care and compassion that every KLA team member has for the littlest of our community members.

Selvei is a leader in our community and expert in her field. KLA Schools in Naperville and Plainfield operate with highest and utmost respect of parents and young families in the Naperville community.

Sincerely,



From: Kent Richard

**Sent:** Friday, April 9, 2021 10:51 AM **To:** Planning <a href="mailto:Planning@naperville.il.us">Planning@naperville.il.us</a>

Cc: Selvei Rajkumar

Subject: Proposed KLA School near Beebe Dr, Case Number: 21-1-034

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Planning and Zoning Commission Members,

My name is Kent Richard and I live on the northeast side of Naperville at Maperville at Maperville 60563. I am writing to you in support of the proposed KLA school near Beebe Drive, case number 21-1-034.

I have been a resident of Naperville for nearly eight years and the children in my family have been attending the KLA school on Tuthill Road since it opened in 2019. My son started at KLA when it first opened when he was three years old (he is now almost five) and my daughter started as an infant and has been there the past 18 months.

I feel very fortunate to have my kids attend KLA. The care and development provided have been top shelf. Both of my kids have shown excellent progress in their individual development as well as their social development interacting with peers.

The school is very communicative and makes life easier on parents who are in need of early childcare. Both my wife and I work and it has been incredibly helpful to have a reliable school very near to our house where we know our children are excited to attend everyday, mentally stimulated everyday, and safe.

I would also like to point out that through the COVID crisis, the administrators, teachers, and all school staff should be commended for their ability to navigate the crisis. The school kept in constant communication while shutdown throughout the summer, and then has implemented, and most importantly, adhered to, strict guidelines for all staff, parents, and students in order to reopen safely since last fall. In an incredibly stressful environment, my wife and I both felt comfortable returning our kids to the school knowing we could rely on the staff to keep our children safe. They have done this incredibly well given the current world environment since reopening last fall.

I wanted to share my experience with you in the hopes that it provides some more detail for you as you consider the proposed new KLA School near Beebe Dr. My experience with KLA has been a resounding success and I believe the Naperville community would certainly benefit from another location.

Best regards, Kent Richard Dr. Jen Consilio Professor of Writing Studies Lewis University

4/9/2021

To the Naperville Planning Department:

It is my pleasure to write a letter of support for KLA Schools of Plainfield and Naperville in opening up a third school, located in Naperville. I write to you as both a parent and as a collaborator with the KLA Schools team. I first met Selvei Rajkumar, owner, and Principal Erica Koegel, when I enrolled my son Connor into KLA in 2015 when he was not quite 2 years old. Very quickly, I saw how much care and dedication the staff members and teachers put into the quality of education and support they give to both the children and the parents. I had not experienced before such a high level of encouraging parental involvement and feedback at many various levels and stages of the learning process. Parents have the opportunity to be a part of specialized committees, events, and even be a part of the classroom learning environment, as much as they are interested in doing so. It was so refreshing to see that level of commitment coming from all of the staff. I could tell that KLA truly and deeply cared about their students' wellbeing and wanted their students to grow, to flourish and that each teacher spent time tailoring approaches to their specific classrooms and individual students.

In 2015, when I had my second child, Klara, I had no doubt that KLA would be where she would have the opportunity, like Connor, to find endless learning possibilities and much care and nurturing while I was at work. Now, my son Connor is 7.5 and in 1st grade and Klara is 5.5 and in preschool and they both still attend KLA. Klara is in the 4s room and Connor has been getting beautiful, comprehensive support for remote learning in the School Age classroom, especially during this time of fluctuation and inconsistency for many. I know I can count on KLA to give him consistent support and care while I am working. Both of my children, like many, learn in very different ways and need very different types of support when it comes to flourishing as learners and thinkers. I have seen that both Connor and Klara's teachers have taken the time to learn the best ways that each of them need to learn and to do their best to provide those environments. At any time, if I have any questions or concerns, or would like to talk to the staff about Connor or Klara's development and performance, I am met with enthusiasm and open ears. This, to me, is so invaluable as a parent.

As an educator myself, I take particular care in the learning environment my children engage in. After joining the KLA family, I shared my educational background and interests. I am a writing professor at Lewis University with a specialization in incorporating mindfulness and wellbeing into the classroom, as well as offering teacher support, professional development, and support to all with mindfulness, wellbeing, and resiliency-building. Several years ago, KLA invited me to offer workshops and professional development to their teachers, as well as parent workshops/talks on mindfulness to best help and support themselves and their children. I was excited about the collaboration and happily accepted. Now, years later, I am collaborating with

them, again, and have been offering ongoing training and support for incorporating mindfulness into the classrooms, teacher support, as well as support to parents for their own wellbeing and resiliency, and helping to the support the wellbeing of their children to flourish and grow. In our current climate, this kind of holistic support is crucial and necessary. This collaboration has been a supportive, lovely experience and I have seen firsthand the enthusiasm and commitment of the teachers and staff in promoting the wellbeing of all of their students and in committing to their own personal growth and self-care.

I am proud and happy to be part of the KLA family, as both a parent and as a collaborator and support their efforts and endeavors to open up another facility to support families in the community.

Thank you,

Dr. Jen Consilio

From: Manoj

**Sent:** Sunday, April 11, 2021 11:44 PM **To:** Planning < Planning@naperville.il.us >

Subject: Proposed KLA School near Beebe Dr, Case Number: 21-1-034

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Dear Planning Committee,

My son is a kindergartener at KLA Naperville. It was one of the best decisions we made. When this pandemic began, we were skeptic about sending my son to school, but at the same time we didn't want him to be locked at home. So, we were looking for an alternate where he can learn and at the same time have some fun. We toured many schools around our neighborhood, but none were close to this newly built KLA @ Naperville. Moreover it was just 5 minutes away from our home.

The very first thing we liked about KLA was their curriculum. It had the blend of both education and extra curricular activities.

We were very much impressed by the REGGIO EMILIA approach, which focuses mainly on students interest and building the curiosity in them to learn more in depth. Even the simple math addition were taught practically using marbles rather than using the board. The kids learn about their surrounding, community, people around them using simple projects and practical applications. My son was very much interested in doing the hands-on science experiments, which helps him think out of the box. The school also offer other activities like Yoga, Martial Arts, Spanish classes, etc. through specialized instructors. They also get hands on experience during gardening and field trips during summer.

The other good thing we liked about KLA was its infrastructure. It was one of the best we came across in our surrounding. Apart from the class room, there were ample space for kids to play & run around and the school also had a gathering space/Piazza to kick-off their day. We also loved their daily communication about the activities at school and periodic assessments on my son's growth. Parents involvement is an integral part of the curriculum. We get to interact with the kids through the Mystery reader program and also through volunteering. We also had regular school meetings and celebrations through zoom.

We know we made the right choice selecting this school because, we see a tremendous social & emotional growth in our son. He really loves going to school and is always happy to talk about his teacher and friends at school.

We will always be thankful for his teacher and management for being approachable, kind and understanding. Given the size of Naperville we definitely feel more KLA's would benefit more kids around our neighborhood to be part of this awesome KLA family. We are definitely proud to be a part it.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks, Manoj From: Jamie Link

**Sent:** Friday, April 9, 2021 6:09 PM **To:** Planning <a href="mailto:planning@naperville.il.us">planning@naperville.il.us</a>

Subject: Proposed KLA School near Beebe Dr, Case Number: 21-1-034

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Here is my recommendation for

To whom it may concern,

Here is my recommendation for the proposed new KLA school location.  $\label{eq:klass} % \begin{subarray}{ll} \end{subarray} \begin{subarr$ 

In short we love KLA and recommend them highly!

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jamie Link

Choose Chicago's "Artist of the Year" 2013 & 2014

Jamie Link

Joliet IL 60431

RE: KLA Naperville School

To: Whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in support of building a new KLA school in Naperville. We have had our daughter at KLA Plainfield for the past 3 years and absolutely love the education they provide. 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 this is our daughters last year attending. She graduates kindergarten this year and if we could continue our daughter's education into elementary school with KLA, we would do it in a heartbeat!

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. Naperville should be honored to have such a great early learning school looking to build a second location in their town and should approve their permits without hesitation.

Sincerely, Jamie Link To the Naperville Planning Committee,

My name is Cathy Subber and I would like to lend my support to the proposed KLA School that will be up for consideration soon. I have known Selvei Rajkumar for a few years and she has been a sponsor of The Branch Moms Community (previously known as Naperville Moms Network) for 2 years. Her support of our network helps us connect over 55,000 local moms members and allows them to easily make new friends, feel supported and find local resources. We couldn't do all we do at The Branch without kind and thoughtful business owners like her and her husband.

I have visited her other KLA school in Naperville and it is beautiful. I also have a number of friends that have children enrolled in her school and they rave about their experiences. I believe the addition of another KLA school will only continue to promote community connection and care.

Please let me know if you have any questions as I am happy to answer them.

Thank you, Dr. Cathy Subber



From: Shayna Nachreiner

Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 11:48 AM To: Planning <a href="mailto:Planning@naperville.il.us">Planning@naperville.il.us</a>

Subject: Proposed KLA School

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To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you in regards to the proposed KLA school near Beebe Dr. Case number: 21-1-034. I had the pleasure of touring the current Naperville school as I was there for a job interview recently.

This school is by far one of the most beautiful schools I've ever seen. I truly was blown away! I've never seen anything like it. It has such an inviting feel too! I immediately wanted to take pictures to show my husband because I was so impressed with all the beautiful details of KLA! I loved the quotes on the wall, the plants all around, the way it was decorated and how the teachers display photos of the children and descriptions of what they're learning in every classroom.

Every classroom was so well organized, had such great furniture and toys for the kids to play with. KLA is so fresh feeling...very clean and looks like it should be in a magazine! As a parent of two children, I was so excited about the idea of my children attending KLA after all that I saw. It just has such a happy vibe:) The park is incredible for children, my kids are going to have so much fun playing outside!

Thank you,

Shayna Gooding

Sent from my iPhone

From: Carrie Hemmer

**Sent:** Monday, April 12, 2021 11:52 AM **To:** Planning <a href="mailto:planning@naperville.il.us">planning@naperville.il.us</a>

Subject: Proposed KLA School near Beebe Dr, Case Number: 21-1-034

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Carrie Hemmer, and I am writing to you to support the proposed KLA Schools near Beebe Drive, case number 21-1-034.

My two children have attended KLA Schools of Plainfield since 2017. Our oldest started when he was seven years old, and our youngest daughter began attending in the toddler classroom when she was 18 months old (and she is now 5yrs old).

While our oldest son did not attend for preschool, KLA Schools has consistently offered our son the opportunity to make friends and enjoy enriching activities during the Summer. Over the last four years, this program has allowed our daughter to express her individuality and has encouraged her confidence and social-emotional development.

Over the pandemic, KLA Schools has been one of the consistent pieces of normalcy in our children's lives this past year. With their re-opening in June of 2020, KLA Schools has continued to handle all the COVID-19 Precautions with consistency, and more importantly, transparency!

As an Early Child Educator, I could not have asked for a better program for our children that has strengthened our children academically and socially emotionally. In alignment with our parenting values, KLA Schools have become a part of our family and have helped shape who our children are today! With that being said, it is my honor to recommend to you the consideration of the newly proposed KLA School near Beebe Dr.

Kindest Regards,

Carrie Hemmer

From: Kelly Collins

**Sent:** Monday, April 12, 2021 12:31 PM **To:** Planning <a href="mailto:planning@naperville.il.us">planning@naperville.il.us</a>>

Subject: Proposed KLA School near Beebe Dr, Case Number: 21-1-034

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Kelly Minor-Collins, and I am writing to you to support the proposed KLA Schools near Beebe Drive, case number 21-1-034.

I have had the distinct pleasure of working for KLA Schools of Plainfield for two years now. During my employment, I benefited from the great environment established before joining the team and have seen growth in the past two years. Selvie is not a business owner who cares about financial gain but cares about her staff's well-being and the families enrolled in her programs. I witnessed first-hand Selvei's determination during the first shutdown to be there for her families and staff. Selvei and her leadership team made the hard decision to close both of the school locations before the governor announced a mandatory closing of all daycares. Selvei and her team worked tirelessly to implement a plan to continue to educate the children. As Selvei heard from some families that they had lost their jobs due to the shutdown, she invited them to continue having their children join their teachers and peers through zoom. She continuously stated the importance for the children to feel connected and a sense of belonging. Not only did Selvei believe this for the students enrolled at her schools, but she offered public art classes, storytime, and fitness classes to the community. These are just a few of the reasons that I write in support of the proposed plan for a third school. With great confidence, I can say having a business within the community and owned by Selvei will benefit many families and provide a stable work environment for the team she hires.

If you have any further questions or would like to speak in greater detail, please feel free to contact me at

Kindest regards,

Kelly Minor-Collins
Pedagogical Coordinator

Plainfield IL 60585

From: Deepali Aul

**Sent:** Monday, April 12, 2021 7:32 PM **To:** Planning < <u>Planning@naperville.il.us</u>>

Subject: Proposed KLA School near Beebe drive Case no 21-1-034

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To Naperville Residents.

KLA school will be an asset to the community . I support KLA School.

Thank you, Deepali Aul.

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From: Dana Chirico

**Sent:** Monday, April 12, 2021 8:38 PM **To:** Planning <a href="mailto:planning@naperville.il.us">planning@naperville.il.us</a>

Subject: Proposed KLA School near Beebe Dr, Case Number: 21-1-034

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Hello,

I hope you are well! I understand that KLA School is in the process of opening their third location, and second in Naperville.

My husband and I enrolled our daughter at KLA last summer. Being that she was still an infant and it was the middle of a pandemic, it was not an easy decision. I cannot say enough how accommodated, at ease and safe Selvei and her entire team made us feel. Their facility is a true asset to our community and we are so thankful that we have been able to be a part of the KLA Family.

Had their new possible location been an option for us last year, we would have jumped at the opportunity! We have since moved closer to their original Naperville location, but it was a struggle finding the kind of quality care for our daughter that KLA offers in the South Naperville area.

KLA will be a tremendous - and much needed - addition to the South Naperville community. Naperville prides itself on our educational system and KLA is unique in their approach to building that foundation.

Best,

Dana Chirico

From: James Tettenhorst

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 12:57 AM **To:** Planning < <a href="mailto:Planning@naperville.il.us">Planning@naperville.il.us</a>>

Subject: Proposed KLA School near Beebe Dr, Case Number: 21-1-034

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## To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to endorse the proposed KLA school neer Beebe Dr in Naperville. I have very intimate knowledge of the local KLA schools. Both of my daughters have attended the school in Plainfield since they were about three months old. The KLA schools are all professionally run. Children and their proper nurturing are the main goal and focus of the KLA schools. I will say that the manner in which Selvei runs her schools is to focus on making sure first and foremost that the children are loved and cared for emotionally. I can say first hand that translates into children who learn well and develop extradinarily quickly.

I also support the addition of the KLA school as another Naperville business owner. I am one of the owners and proprietors of Taps N Tenders. I know from first hand experience through conversations and collaboration with Selvei and KLA that she is dedicated to running a successful business that treats both her employees and her customers well. I know many professional happy employees who have worked at both of the current KLA locations. Naperville, and more precisely the children who

live near the new KLA location and their parents, will benefit the most from a new KLA location.

I hope I have helped to positively shape the perception of the proposed KLA location near Beebe Dr. In my opinion it will be a great addition to the local community. It will provide a valuable service for Naperville families. It will provide good jobs for residents of Naperville and its surrounding communities. It will add a business that has a solid leader at it's helm that can help guide and shape the local business community positively with her knowledge and experience.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jim Tettenhorst

From: Meg Cook

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 2:36 PM **To:** Planning <a href="mailto:planning@naperville.il.us">planning@naperville.il.us</a>>

Subject: Proposed KLA School near Beebe Dr, Case Number 21-1-034

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Good afternoon,

I am writing in regards to a new KLA School opening.

My time at KLA has been absolutely wonderful. I was hired right as the pandemic hit and we had our shelter in place order. Despite many other companies closing down, KLA welcomed me with open arms. I received a plethora of training and was ready to start when the school finally opened again. After the school opened, I was given assistance when needed and felt very supported as I began my journey in the classroom. I fell in love with the Reggio philosophy and admired the core values the school had set into place. I felt as though the school had high standards for their teachers, as well as their classroom environment. This completely put my mind at ease, as I was expecting my first daughter and was planning on bringing her to the Baby Nido room as I worked in the 4s. As I am writing this now, my admiration for this school continues to grow. We are not only a school, but a family. As a teacher and as a mom, I would love nothing more than to see another KLA School being built. We need more schools like this, KLA continues to amaze me every day.

Thank you,

Meg Cook

From: Nandhi Prabhu

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 14, 2021 8:31 AM **To:** Planning < <u>Planning@naperville.il.us</u>>

Subject: Proposed KLA School near Beebe Dr, Case Number: 21-1-034

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Dear Sir/Madam,

This is Prabhu and I have currently enrolled our 2 year old son Theeran at KLA Schools of Plainfield since beginning of this year.

One of the best decision that we made for Theeran was to enroll him in KLA schools. Some of the reasons are they've an amazing team of care givers they helped Theeran transition seamlessly into KLA as it was his first time being away from us. Also we were given a webinar on what to expect during this transition phase which not only lessened our anxiety and helped us support Theeran during this phase. This is an example of the parents-teachers partnership philosophy of KLA Schools. Other key differentiators between KLA and others include each month they've unique activity/event for the kids like Theeran participated in his first ever STEM fair and got his first honorary mention . The next month he won a free kids meal and a free donut from Taps and Tenders as he completed his reading challenge of 90 minutes. This week he's participating in cultural week parade. They're very inclusive and care each child individually based on where they stand. We could see a lot of changes in Theeran from increased independent play, usage of words appropriately and most importantly he looks forward going to KLA schools these days. In short, for all the above reason we would definitely recommend KLA schools to any prospective parents and it's only heartening to hear about the prospect of another branch as more parents and kids get to experience the high quality of early education from KLA Schools.

Now we reside at 1022 Ravendale Ct, Naperville, IL 60540 and it's a 20 minute drive to both existing branches of KLA Schools as we're located in the middle. This is a exciting proposal and we're eagerly looking forward to the City's approval, because we/our community would get KLA's quality early education for our kids within our close vicinity.

Thank you for taking time to read this support letter. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely, Prabhu



April 14, 2021

To Whom It May Concern

It is my honor to submit a letter of recommendation for KLA Schools of Naperville in support of opening a new Naperville location.

Having worked closely with KLA's teachers and leadership team, I have seen first hand their dedication to bettering the lives of children and the consistent outreach to the community in which they live.

KLA teachers and administrators are passionate educators who believe in teaching the whole child with their whole hearts. They focus not only on academic excellence, but also collaboration, integrity, and the importance of critical thinking and kindness. An additional KLA School of Naperville serves not only the children and families who attend but also the greater good of the community.

As the owner of Klique Creative, a Naperville branding agency who works closely with many local Naperville businesses, I am proud to recommend KLA Schools.

Kind Regards,

Heather DeMonte Owner, Klique Creative From: Andrew & Christine McCree

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 14, 2021 7:05 PM **To:** Planning < <u>Planning@naperville.il.us</u>>

Subject: Proposed KLA School near Beebe Dr, Case Number: 21-1-034

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Hello Naperville Planning Committee,

I write this email in support of the proposed new KLA School be located near Costco in between XSport Fitness and WalMart on Beebe Dr near 75<sup>th</sup> street.

My name is Andrew McCree, and I have served as an administrator for early childhood programs in Illinois public schools over the past ten years. Early childhood is both a lifelong passion and profession for me. Over my career I have studied and seen first-hand the positive impacts early childhood education can have on individual children, families, and communities.

Professor James J. Heckman is the Distinguished Service Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago. Professor Heckman won a Nobel Memorial Prize in economics for his research on the economic gains from investing in early childhood development. He found that quality early childhood development strongly influences the health, economic, and social outcomes for individuals and societies. Professor Heckman and his colleagues' newest research finds a 13% return on investment for comprehensive, high quality, birth-to-five early education.

Publications in The Daily Herald and The Beacon-News have proclaimed that 1 in 4 children are starting kindergarten unprepared to learn at high levels. This proclamation was based on the 2017-2018 implementation of the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey that collected data on children's math; language and literacy; and social and emotional development. Although your local school districts continue to serve children, families, and communities at high levels, it will take additional supports to meet the needs of all children within any community.

The Illinois State Board of Education promotes a Birth-Third Grade (B-3) Continuity Project to create a comprehensive, high quality, early education as described in Professor Heckman's research. Components of this project include community partnerships, family engagement, aligned curriculum and instruction, aligned assessments, data driven improvement, and supported transitions. My experiences with KLA-Plainfield and KLA-Naperville have shown me their dedication to providing high quality early education services in all of the listed areas.

KLA's vision for early childhood education aligns with the B-3 Continuity Project. They provide services for children from infants through kindergarten, additional enrichment opportunities, and before-after school care for school-aged children. Perhaps KLA's greatest strength is their aligned curriculum and instruction through their Reggio Emilia Approach to learning. This approach includes long term project-based learning with child research and investigations. The Illinois State Board of Education supports project approach and project-based learning that allows child-led investigations based on inquiry as best practice.

I hope this letter will help you with your decision when considering the approval for additional KLA schools. There is a need for high quality early childhood services, a high return on investment for high quality early childhood services, and KLA schools' approach to learning continues to meet and exceed standards set forth by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. McCree