

September 18, 2014

To: Champaign Unit 4 Board of Education and Unit 4 Administration
Cc: *The News-Gazette*, WILL, WCIA, WAND, WICD

We the undersigned are members of the larger Dr. Howard community, including current and former students and families and staff. We write to express our disappointment in the decision to remove Dr. Howard from the plans for the November ballot referendum. We find this prioritization particularly questionable given Dr. Howard's chronic needs, prominently identified in the Future Facilities plan.

Dr. Howard serves over 420 students in 20 classes, and is one of our larger elementary schools. Many of us chose Dr. Howard for our children because of the staff, the location, and the reputation of the school. We care deeply about our students, staff, and community, and we are happy to be there.

The problems with the building, and the contrast with conditions at the other elementary schools that have benefited from the 1% sales tax, are making it more and more difficult to stay at Dr. Howard. The building's many physical needs include the following:

- Combined cafeteria, gym, and community room that floods in heavy rains and that is too small to accommodate the entire school
- Roof leaks that have caused at least one ceiling tile to collapse in a classroom with children in it
- Chronic pest problems
- No central air conditioning, causing humid conditions and peeling paint inside the school
- Outdated windows that are blocked by insulation
- Outdated electrical systems
- A library that is small and located in the school basement
- Many different levels and no elevator, so the school is not ADA compliant

We recognize that the high school needs are great, and we support the district's outstanding efforts to work with the community to address those needs.

But Dr. Howard's needs are also great, and we are concerned that there is currently no plan to address those needs before 2025. If no solution is found we will have more than a decade of serious inequality in the conditions in which our children and staff learn and work.

We urge the administration and the board to start working with the Dr. Howard community—staff and families—to form a plan to address these needs as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Kirsten and Jim Dennison
Dr Howard parents

Mary Wallace and Ray Plante
Dr Howard parents

Jennifer Simmons
2012-2013 Future Facilities Steering Committee
past Dr. Howard PTA president and parent

Charles Gammie
Dr Howard parent

Jaya Yodh and Curtis Perry
former Dr Howard parents

Kristin Hoganson
Dr Howard parent, resident of Dr. Howard
neighborhood

Adam and Kristin VanDuyne
Dr Howard parents

See following pages for additional signatures.

Pat Mathews
former Dr. Howard librarian

Additional signatures

1. Megan Mahoney, current Dr Howard parent
2. Cynthia Voelkl and Ernest Blackwelder, former Dr Howard parents, and neighborhood residents
3. Brandon Christy, current Dr Howard parent
4. Jennifer Anderson, former Dr Howard student, former Dr Howard parent
5. Jennifer Hansen
6. Joy Garling Prud'homme, former parent
7. Erin Claxon, former Dr Howard parent
8. Kate Stigberg, former Dr Howard student
9. Vipinraj Samraj, current Dr Howard parent
10. Roger Cler, current Dr Howard parent
11. Hong Chen, current Dr Howard parent
12. Alexa Clifford, former Dr Howard student and grandparent of current student
13. Rupa Sud, current Dr Howard parent
14. Malathi Echambadi, current Dr Howard parent
15. Suma Bhat, former Dr Howard parent
16. Xiaoling Chen, current Dr Howard parent
17. Susan Kim, current Dr Howard parent
18. Zhuo Wang, current Dr Howard parent
19. Jay Anderson, former and future Dr Howard parent
20. Joan Cole, former Dr Howard parent
21. Nancy Greenwalt, parent of two former Dr Howard students
22. Jayashree Sridhar and Ravi Gajendran, current Dr Howard parents
23. Erica Wood, current Dr Howard parent
24. Jennifer Bechtel, current Dr Howard parent
25. Dan Bechtel, current Dr Howard parent
26. Jennifer Iversen-Curry, former Dr Howard student
27. Ju Huang and Ming Wang, current parents
28. Ryan and Jocelyn Lippert, current Dr Howard parents
29. Andrew Troutt, former Dr Howard parent
30. Sara Taber, Dr Howard grandparent, former Dr Howard parent
31. Amy Hoyt, teacher's assistant at Dr Howard
32. Rachel Buck, former Dr Howard student
33. Gaby Villasenor, former Dr Howard parent
34. Lydia Yanghee Su, current Dr Howard parent
35. Susan Carty, Dr Howard parent
36. Archie and Lasly Dumlao, current Dr Howard parents
37. Melissa Talley, current Dr Howard parent
38. Maria Belen Rios and Victor J. Guebara, current Dr Howard parents
39. Cedric Ellis, former Dr Howard parent
40. Holly Wilper, current Dr Howard parent
41. Steve and AJ Herzog, current Dr Howard parent
42. Doug and Cheri Buttry, former Dr Howard parents
43. Ellen Wang Althaus, former Dr Howard parent
44. Doeun Kim, current Dr Howard parent
45. Hannah Hahn, current Dr Howard parent
46. Jan Troutt, former Dr Howard parent
47. Suzanne Hunter, former Dr Howard parent
48. Martha Rice, current Dr Howard parent
49. Kathy Lu, former Dr Howard parent
50. Jaehyung Juhn, current Dr Howard parent
51. Sandeep Singh, current Dr Howard parent
52. Yulia Vozovoy, current Dr Howard parent
53. Xinhong Liu, current Dr Howard parent
54. Benjamin Brenner, former Dr Howard student
55. Marilyn Cimino, former Dr Howard teacher
56. Corie Fagan, former Dr Howard teacher
57. Ann Sargent, retired Dr Howard teacher
58. Candance Bunker, current Dr Howard parent
59. Yolanda Roberts, current Dr Howard parent
60. Leslie Reagan, Dr Howard neighbor
61. James R. Barrett, former Dr Howard parent
62. Jane Barrett, former Dr Howard parent
63. Brenda Rhoden, current Dr Howard parent
64. Samantha Penrose, current Dr Howard parent
65. Sarah Buck, former Dr Howard student
66. Katherine Buck, former Dr Howard student
67. Lee Ann Kelly, Dr Howard volunteer and former parent

Additional signatures

68. Lynn Mikovich, retired Dr Howard teacher
69. Jeff Aldridge, current Dr Howard parent
70. Sara Easter, current Dr Howard parent
71. Philip Su, current Dr Howard parent
72. Yolanda O'Connor, current Dr Howard parent
73. Carmel Elazar, current Dr Howard parent
74. Marlo Britton, former Dr Howard grandparent
75. Inbal Elazar, current Dr Howard parent
76. Soon Oh, former Dr Howard parents
77. Michael and Anuradha Murphy, former Dr Howard parents
78. Evan Scott, former Dr Howard student
79. My Nguyen, former Dr Howard parent
80. Bryan Lung, former Dr Howard student
81. Miriam Larson, former Dr Howard librarian
82. Marissa Claxon, former Dr Howard student
83. Ruijie Zhao, current Dr Howard parent
84. Harrison Kim, current Dr Howard parent
85. Rumana Ahmed, former Dr Howard parent
86. Soo Ham, current Dr Howard parent
87. Hong Lei and Shi Feng, current Dr Howard parents
88. Alejandro and Bertilia Albors, current Dr Howard parents
89. Jewel Middleton, current Dr Howard parent
90. Jamie and William Kruidenier, former Dr Howard parents
91. Ponni Nainar, former Dr Howard parent
92. Kate Grueneberg, former Dr Howard library clerk
93. Nainar, former Dr Howard parent
94. Scott Althaus, former Dr Howard parent
95. Kotesch Guntupalli, current Dr Howard parent
96. Christine Guinto, former Dr Howard parent
97. Serge and Marina Minin, current Dr Howard parents
98. Jie Chen, former Dr Howard parent
99. David Stigberg, former Dr Howard parent, current Dr Howard grandparent
100. Elyse Vigiletti and Tyler Germain, current Dr Howard parents
101. Martin Beberman, retired Dr Howard teacher
102. Eun Namkung, current Dr Howard parent
103. Jeong Eun Lee, current Dr Howard parent
104. Steve and Cathy Hong, current Dr Howard parents