

Agenda Item #96 – Girls’ School of Austin (SPC-2026-0052A) Opposition to Postponement Request

From: Abianne Falla Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2026 12:03 PM To: Duchen, Marc <marc.duchen@austintexas.gov>; Chaffin, Heather <Heather.Chaffin@austintexas.gov>; Watson, Kirk <Kirk.Watson@austintexas.gov> Cc: Robyn Burchfiel ; Rebecca Yacono; rnguyen Subject: Re: Girls’ School of Austin – 2007 McCall Road, Conditional Use Permit, SPC-2026-0052A

Dear Marc Duchen & Mayor Kirk Watson,

I am writing in strong support of The Girls’ School of Austin (GSA) and to respectfully ask that you deny the appeal of the Planning Commission’s approval of GSA’s Conditional Use Permit.

The Girls’ School of Austin offers something that’s honestly rare: a rigorous academic environment that also deeply values social and emotional learning. They’re not just educating students—they’re helping shape thoughtful, resilient, and empathetic young people. That balance matters, especially right now.

And in a time when so much seems to rush kids toward growing up faster, GSA does something really important—it extends childhood. It protects space for curiosity, for confidence-building, and for innocence in the best sense of the word. That kind of environment is not easy to create, and it’s worth supporting.

The Planning Commission recognized that. On April 28, it voted unanimously to approve GSA’s Conditional Use Permit after reviewing the facts and hearing from all interested parties. That unanimous decision reflects the careful judgment of the body specifically charged with evaluating land use matters like this.

Throughout this process, GSA has consistently acted in good faith. School leadership has engaged with neighbors before and after filing the application, listened to concerns, adjusted traffic patterns to improve safety for both students and neighbors, explored solutions, and remained committed to being a thoughtful member of the community. Good neighbors continue to communicate, adapt, and look for common ground—and GSA has demonstrated exactly that.

It’s also important to keep this in perspective. We’re talking about 50 additional students—not a large-scale development, a commercial project, or a major infrastructure change. Just 50 more children gaining access to a school that is already operating responsibly within this neighborhood.

The appeal does not introduce new information or changed circumstances that were unavailable to the Planning Commission during its review. The issues raised have already been carefully considered through the established public process, and the Commission reached a unanimous decision.

Meanwhile, continued delay has real consequences for the students and families who simply want to return to school. Over the past year, tensions surrounding this process have gone beyond normal civic disagreement. Students have experienced an environment that has at times felt intimidating, and families have carried unnecessary uncertainty about their school community. These are young girls who deserve to focus on learning, friendships, and growing up—not on the controversy surrounding their school. **Agenda Item #96 – Girls’ School of Austin (SPC-2026-0052A) Opposition to Postponement Request**

As a parent and member of the GSA community, I have seen firsthand the kind of environment this school creates. It is a place where girls are encouraged to be curious, capable, compassionate, and confident. That is exactly the kind of educational opportunity Austin should be expanding, not delaying. Continued uncertainty affects not only current students but also the families hoping to join this remarkable community.

Expanding enrollment simply allows more Austin families to benefit from a model that is clearly working, without compromising the school’s mission or integrity.

I respectfully encourage you to deny the appeal and allow the Planning Commission’s unanimous decision to stand.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Abianne Falla, GSA Parent & District 10 resident

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Abianne Falla

713-907-8790

From: Adam Falla Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2026 11:59 AM To: Duchen, Marc
<marc.duchen@austintexas.gov> Cc: Chaffin, Heather
<Heather.Chaffin@austintexas.gov> Subject: Support for Girls’ School of Austin

Dear Council Member Duchen,

Re: Girls' School of Austin – 2007 McCall Road, Conditional Use Permit, SPC-2026-0052A

I am writing in strong support of The Girls' School of Austin (GSA) and to respectfully ask that you deny the appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of GSA's Conditional Use Permit.

The Planning Commission spoke clearly. **Agenda Item #96 – Girls’ School of Austin (SPC-2026-0052A) Opposition to Postponement Request**

On April 28th, the Austin Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve GSA's Conditional Use Permit application. This reflects the considered, professional judgment of the body specifically charged with evaluating land use matters of this kind.

GSA has acted in good faith throughout this process.

GSA has actively engaged with neighboring residents both prior to the CUP filing and since, seeking input regarding their concerns, actively adjusting traffic flow patterns to ensure the safety and well-being of our neighbors as well as our students, offering a range of solutions, and maintaining open lines of communication. We are and will continue to be good neighbors.

The appeal lacks a substantive basis for reversal.

The appellants have not introduced new information or a changed circumstance that was unavailable to the Planning Commission at the time of its review. The neighborhood had ample opportunity to commission an independent traffic study prior to the April hearing and did not do so. Additionally, the ongoing neighborhood opposition campaign has lacked a unified position, presenting disparate objections rather than a cohesive community concern, which complicates any coordinated, meaningful effort to address their requests.

Further delay puts the burden on K-8 girls.

Throughout the last school year, the neighbors' behavior continued to escalate beyond the bounds of civic engagement. Neighboring residents filmed minor students without consent and blocked public streets — conduct that is harassing, scary to the GSA students, and inappropriate regardless of one's position on the underlying land use question. GSA leadership responded to these circumstances with restraint and has consistently kept the focus on safety on and off campus as well as and on its students and mission.

Every month this matter remains unresolved extends the period during which this community of young students must return to an environment shadowed by this ongoing neighbor behavior. Continued delay serves no legitimate planning purpose. Increased neighbor hostility has created security concerns for the school community, expressed not only by parents, but more worryingly, by young students.

The students and families of GSA deserve resolution.

The GSA has been an incredible experience for our now 7yr old daughter. The values and self confidence it instills in young girls who are fortunate enough to attend are incredible to see. It's a passionate and thoughtful community of teachers who are committed to really improving young girls' education and I don't think there are many more important missions in the city than this.

A prompt resolution is not only appropriate given the record — it is the right outcome for the young girls at the center of it.

I am grateful for your consideration and trust that the Council will give full weight to the Planning Commission's unanimous findings.

Sincerely, Agenda Item #96 – Girls' School of Austin (SPC-2026-0052A) Opposition to Postponement Request

Adam Falla

Current parent

From: Olivia Ledbetter Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2026 10:10 AM To: Fuentes, Vanessa <Vanessa.Fuentes@austintexas.gov>; Watson, Kirk <Kirk.Watson@austintexas.gov>; Duchen, Marc <marc.duchen@austintexas.gov> Cc: Chaffin, Heather <Heather.Chaffin@austintexas.gov> Subject: Support for the Girls' School of Austin

Dear Council Members Vanessa Fuentes and Marc Duchen,

Re: Girls' School of Austin – 2007 McCall Road, Conditional Use Permit, SPC-2026-0052A

My name is Olivia Ledbetter, and while I reside in District 2, I work as the Director of Advancement at the Girls' School of Austin in District 10.

I am writing in strong support of The Girls' School of Austin (GSA) and to respectfully ask that you deny the appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of GSA's Conditional Use Permit.

The Planning Commission spoke clearly.

On April 28th, the Austin Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve GSA's Conditional Use Permit application. This reflects the considered, professional judgment of the body specifically charged with evaluating land use matters of this kind.

GSA has acted in good faith throughout this process.

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The students and families of GSA deserve resolution.

Having witnessed firsthand the transformative power of an all-girls education, I know that our school is shaping the future leaders and citizens our city needs. Our students deserve a safe, supportive, and welcoming environment where they can focus on learning, growing, and preparing to make a meaningful difference in our community.

A prompt resolution is not only appropriate given the record — it is the right outcome for the young girls at the center of it.

I am grateful for your consideration and trust that the Council will give full weight to the Planning Commission's unanimous findings.

Sincerely,

Olivia Ledbetter

Director of Advancement

Olivia Ledbetter

she/her

Director of Advancement

The Girls' School of Austin

512.478.7827 (school)

913.638.6736 (cell)

<http://www.thegirlsschool.org/> **Agenda Item #96 – Girls' School of Austin (SPC-2026-0052A) Opposition to Postponement Request**

-----Original Message----- From: Rebecca Paricio Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2026 9:39 AM To: Duchen, Marc <marc.duchen@austintexas.gov>; Watson, Kirk <Kirk.Watson@austintexas.gov> Cc: Chaffin, Heather <Heather.Chaffin@austintexas.gov> Subject: Support for Girls' School of Austin

Dear Council Member Mark Duchen,

Re: Girls' School of Austin – 2007 McCall Road, Conditional Use Permit, SPC-2026-0052A

I am writing in strong support of The Girls' School of Austin (GSA) and to respectfully ask that you deny the appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of GSA's Conditional Use Permit.

The Planning Commission spoke clearly.

On April 28th, the Austin Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve GSA's Conditional Use Permit application. This reflects the considered, professional judgment of the body specifically charged with evaluating land use matters of this kind.

GSA has acted in good faith throughout this process.

GSA has actively engaged with neighboring residents both prior to the CUP filing and since, seeking input regarding their concerns, actively adjusting traffic flow patterns to ensure the safety and well-being of our neighbors as well as our students, offering a range of solutions, and maintaining open lines of communication. We are and will continue to be good neighbors.

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Further delay puts the burden on K-8 girls.

Throughout the last school year, the neighbors' behavior continued to escalate beyond the bounds of civic engagement. Neighboring residents filmed minor students without consent and blocked public streets — conduct that is harassing, scary to the GSA students, and inappropriate regardless of one's position on the underlying land use question. GSA leadership responded to these circumstances with **Agenda Item #96 – Girls' School of Austin (SPC-2026-0052A) Opposition to Postponement Request**

restraint and has consistently kept the focus on safety on and off campus as well as and on its students and mission.

Every month this matter remains unresolved extends the period during which this community of young students must return to an environment shadowed by this ongoing neighbor behavior. Continued delay serves no legitimate planning purpose. Increased neighbor hostility has created security concerns for the school community, expressed not only by parents, but more worryingly, by young students.

The students and families of GSA deserve resolution.

Being long-time Austin residents, my husband and I searched extensively for an environment that would reinforce the same values we teach at home. We chose The Girls' School of Austin not only for the incredible dedication and support of the faculty and staff, but because the school truly instills a deep sense of civic responsibility, service, and love for our community.

Having two daughters who have been part of the GSA community since kindergarten, I have seen firsthand what this school means for my family. From organizing elementary food drives to partnering with local organizations like Girl Forward by the 8th grade, these girls don't just learn about community—they actively live it through service-learning. There are very few private schools in Austin that offer this profound commitment to molding empathetic, community-minded young leaders, and I am deeply concerned about risking the loss of the incredible staff and loving environment that makes this school a sanctuary for our daughters.

Leaving this matter unresolved as we head into the new school year places an unfair burden on the children. The continued uncertainty means that when our girls return to campus this fall, their focus will be split between their education and the unsettling, hostile environment created by the ongoing neighbor behavior. They deserve to walk into school feeling entirely safe, secure, and focused on learning.

A prompt resolution is not only appropriate given the record — it is the right outcome for the young girls at the center of it.

I am grateful for your consideration and trust that the Council will give full weight to the Planning Commission's unanimous findings.

Sincerely,

Rebecca and Dr. Todd Paricio

Parents Agenda Item #96 – Girls' School of Austin (SPC-2026-0052A) Opposition to Postponement Request

From: Robyn Burchfiel Sent: Monday, July 13, 2026 9:48 AM To: Watson, Kirk <Kirk.Watson@austintexas.gov>; Duchen, Marc <marc.duchen@austintexas.gov> Cc: Chaffin, Heather <Heather.Chaffin@austintexas.gov>; Vela, Jose "Chito" <Chito.Vela@austintexas.gov> Subject: Support for Girls' School of Austin

Dear Mayor Watson and Council Member Duchen,

Re: Girls' School of Austin – 2007 McCall Road, Conditional Use Permit, SPC-2026-0052A

I am writing in *strong support* of The Girls' School of Austin (GSA) and to respectfully ask that you deny the appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of GSA's Conditional Use Permit.

On April 28th, the Austin Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve GSA's Conditional Use Permit application. This reflects the considered, professional judgment of the body specifically charged with evaluating land use matters of this kind.

GSA has acted in good faith throughout this process.

GSA has actively engaged with neighboring residents both prior to the CUP filing and since, seeking input regarding their concerns, actively adjusting traffic flow patterns to ensure the safety and well-being of our neighbors as well as our students, offering a range of solutions, and maintaining open lines of communication. We are and will continue to be good neighbors.

The appeal lacks a substantive basis for reversal.

The appellants have not introduced new information or a changed circumstance that was unavailable to the Planning Commission at the time of its review. The neighborhood had ample opportunity to commission an independent traffic study prior to the April hearing and did not do so. Additionally, the *ongoing neighborhood opposition campaign has lacked a unified position, presenting disparate objections rather than a cohesive community concern, which complicates any coordinated, meaningful effort to address their requests.*

Further delay puts the burden on K-8 girls.

During the past school year, some neighboring residents filmed minor children without consent and blocked public streets during school arrival and dismissal. Regardless of one's position on the CUP, these actions were unsettling for students and deeply concerning for families. Throughout it all, GSA's leadership has responded with restraint, keeping its focus where it belongs—on student safety, education, and its mission.

The students and families of GSA deserve resolution.

Every month this matter remains unresolved extends the period during which this community of young students must return to an environment shadowed by this ongoing neighbor behavior. Continued delay **Agenda Item #96 – Girls' School of Austin (SPC-2026-0052A) Opposition to Postponement Request**

serves no legitimate planning purpose. Increased neighbor hostility has created security concerns for the school community, expressed not only by parents, but more worryingly, by young students.

The Girls' School of Austin's Long-term Impact

We chose the Girls' School of Austin because we wanted our daughter to grow up in an environment where her voice would never compete to be heard—it would be expected to be heard. GSA has given her the confidence to lead, the courage to take intellectual risks, and the conviction that her ideas matter. The young woman she is today is, in large part, a reflection of the education and community she found at GSA.

This fall, our daughter is headed to an Ivy League school, but the person she has become was shaped here in Austin. The Girls' School of Austin helped cultivate a young woman who is prepared not only to succeed academically, but to contribute thoughtfully to her community and, ultimately, to the world.

Our daughter's story should not be the exception. It should be a story that many more Austin families have the opportunity to tell. I respectfully ask you to deny the appeal so that GSA can move forward with expanding its middle school and extending this life-changing education to the next generation of girls.

I am grateful for your consideration and trust that the Council will give full weight to the Planning Commission's unanimous findings.

Sincerely,

Robyn Burchfiel

GSA Alumna Parent and Former GSA Board of Trustee Member

D10 Resident

From: Zander Adell Sent: Monday, July 13, 2026 6:45 AM To: Watson, Kirk <Kirk.Watson@austintexas.gov>; Alter, Ryan <Ryan.Alter@austintexas.gov> Cc: Chaffin, Heather <Heather.Chaffin@austintexas.gov> Subject: Support for Girls' School of Austin

Dear Council Member Alter, Re: Girls' School of Austin – 2007 McCall Road, Conditional Use Permit, SPC-2026-0052A **Agenda Item #96 – Girls' School of Austin (SPC-2026-0052A) Opposition to Postponement Request**

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GSA has actively engaged with neighboring residents both prior to the CUP filing and since, seeking input regarding their concerns, actively adjusting traffic flow patterns to ensure the safety and well-being of our neighbors as well as our students, offering a range of solutions, and maintaining open lines of communication. We are and will continue to be good neighbors.

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Throughout the last school year, the neighbors' behavior continued to escalate beyond the bounds of civic engagement. Neighboring residents filmed minor students without consent and blocked public streets — conduct that is harassing, scary to the GSA students, and inappropriate regardless of one's position on the underlying land use question. GSA leadership responded to these circumstances with restraint and has consistently kept the focus on safety on and off campus as well as and on its students and mission. Every month this matter remains unresolved extends the period during which this community of young students must return to an environment shadowed by this ongoing neighbor behavior. Continued delay serves no legitimate planning purpose. Increased neighbor hostility has created security concerns for the school community, expressed not only by parents, but more worryingly, by young students.

The students and families of GSA deserve resolution.

GSA is a remarkable school where the older students are "big sisters" to the younger ones, where community engagement is part of the curriculum, where public speaking and performance starts in Kindergarten, and where my rising 3rd grade daughter can't wait to get back to because summer is "boring." The aggressive and erratic behavior by a small handful of neighbors (who laughed at us as they filmed us driving into school) is disturbing to our children and incongruous with the loving and **Agenda Item #96 – Girls' School of Austin (SPC-2026-0052A) Opposition to Postponement Request**

supportive mission of the school, and stands in the way of opening up this amazing place to more of the community.

A prompt resolution is not only appropriate given the record — it is the right outcome for the young girls at the center of it. I am grateful for your consideration and trust that the Council will give full weight to the Planning Commission's unanimous findings.

Sincerely,

Alexander Adell GSA Parent, District 5

From: Ballentine, Jason J

Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2026 12:07 PM To: Watson, Kirk <Kirk.Watson@austintexas.gov> Cc: Chaffin, Heather <Heather.Chaffin@austintexas.gov> Subject: Support for Girls' School of Austin

Dear Mayor Watson

Re: Girls' School of Austin – 2007 McCall Road, Conditional Use Permit, SPC-2026-0052A

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The students and families of The GSA deserve resolution.

Our family chose to send our daughter to The GSA as we were looking for a place that celebrates diversity, fosters inclusion, and creates an environment where every child is known, respected, and encouraged to grow. During these important preteen years, our daughter has found a safe, supportive community where she is developing not only academically, but also socially and emotionally. As parents, we have also found a true sense of belonging through the relationships we've built with other families and staff, making this school much more than a place of learning—it is an important part of our community.

The ongoing uncertainty surrounding the conditional use permit has already created stress for students, families, and staff and disrupted normal day-to-day operations. Approving this resolution will strengthen the school community and ensure that current and future families can continue to benefit from the safe, inclusive, and enriching environment that drew us here in the first place.

A prompt resolution is not only appropriate given the record — it is the right outcome for the young girls at the center of it.

I am grateful for your consideration and trust that the Council will give full weight to the Planning Commission's unanimous findings.

Sincerely, **Agenda Item #96 – Girls' School of Austin (SPC-2026-0052A) Opposition to Postponement Request**

Jason Ballentine 6th Grade Parent

From: Ballentine, Jason J Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2026 12:03 PM To: Qadri, Zo <Zo.Qadri@austintexas.gov> Cc: Chaffin, Heather <Heather.Chaffin@austintexas.gov> Subject: Support for Girls' School of Austin

Dear Council Member Qadri,

Re: Girls' School of Austin – 2007 McCall Road, Conditional Use Permit, SPC-2026-0052A

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position on the underlying land use question. The GSA leadership responded to these circumstances with restraint and has consistently kept the focus on safety, both on and off campus, as well as on its students and mission.

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academically, but also socially and emotionally. As parents, we have also found a true sense of belonging through the relationships we've built with other families and staff, making this school much more than a place of learning—it is an important part of our community.

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I am grateful for your consideration and trust that the Council will give full weight to the Planning Commission's unanimous findings.

Sincerely,

Jason Ballentine

6th Grade Parent