

My name is Lisa Jeanne Graf, and I am a BPS parent and a self-identified autistic person.

With this background I have a number of concerns about the proposed move of the O'Bryant to West Roxbury.

My first concern is about moving a school with deep community connections to Roxbury and access to strong partnerships, to a location without those critical relationships.

My second concern is transportation. Seriously increasing travel times for students of color and students with disabilities is inequitable. Also longer travel times increase pollution which goes against a primary goal of the "Green New Deal for Boston Public Schools" which is to reduce carbon emissions!

My third concern is around the paternalistic attitude of BPS towards the O'Bryant community. Instead of being responsive to this community's clear preference to keep their school in a central location, the district keeps selling a location that was not asked for or wanted.

On a related note, the district has been trying to get community buy-in for a rubric for the district to use to make school facility decisions. A wise way to test the rubric would be to use it on the O'Bryant. If the rubric still points towards a move to West Roxbury, then the rubric does not adequately incorporate community voice.

Moving forward I hope to see the district offer facilities upgrades and improvements that are welcome and include out of the box responsive solutions. This could include a new building in Roxbury for the O'Bryant School. This building could include healthy HVAC systems, and sensory comfortable spaces, including no fluorescent lights. There could even be green space on roofs for exercise and sports! Instead of a rubric *restricting* options, communities could partner with the district to design spaces that are responsive to student needs and dreams, including better use of smaller buildings.

Thanks for listening and considering more creative and responsive facility solutions for the O'Bryant and for ALL district schools.