

Dear Committee,

I know and appreciate that you are spending a significant amount of time reviewing plans, listening to problems and trying to find a solution to move the plans for our schools forward. Thank you!

With that being said, I can not advocate tearing down any of these old school buildings. They are beautiful old buildings that may need renovations, but are otherwise, very well made and have a unique character that can not be recreated with a new modern building. I live close to South Side School. Although I do not have any children in the school system anymore, I am in favor of saving South Side school from a tear down. My understanding from the last article I read in the News Gazette, is that the facilities committee voted to tear down South Side. I am willing to spend more money to renovate the building rather than spend less money and tear it down. If there is a water drainage problem, please advocate fixing it. In addition, as downtown Champaign continues to grow, these schools are fine urban schools. Like any urban school, students may need to travel to use an athletic facility that isn't immediately available on the grounds. Why is this a problem? Why can't money be spent to make McKinley field a top notch athletic facility? After reading in the News Gazette about the student survey that was done, none of the students mentioned anything about their facilities being a problem. They all wanted particular programs of study added to their curriculum. Yes. We may need to renovate to provide these programs for the students, but why do we need to tear down these beautiful old buildings. In Europe, it appears like the old buildings are cherished. In our country, we seem to have a new is better mentality.

Please consider fixing and updating the buildings rather than tearing them down. Let's take pride in preserving these old buildings.

Most Respectfully,

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