

Chris,

Let me introduce myself, I am Lisa Kidd owner of the private residence at 404 west Green street in Champaign. My property is west of Prairie street on Green street, by Edison Middle school. I am writing today in response to the letters the school board has sent my neighbors on Prairie street. The letter was to inquire if those property owners had any interested in selling to the school district. At this time it is my understanding that those property owners are not interested in selling. It is of great interest to me that those properties remain single family homes. I purchased my home in 2013 after living in downtown for 13 years. This neighborhood has appeal to me because of older homes and brick streets while still being close to downtown. I like the fact that Edison is the original high school and is still in use today while maintaining its exterior look which enhances the old neighborhood feel. Currently when I look out my back door I see the back yards of my neighbors that face Prairie street. Its very much a park like atmosphere which was another reason I purchased in this neighborhood and this home. If the homes that face Prairie are purchased and torn down I am not sure what I will be looking out at. That will change everything about my yard and neighborhood. A change that I don't feel would be a good change.

I am aware our city is at a turning point of growth. While I understand we need to accommodate the new and growing needs of our city and schools I also feel we should be considering the existing neighborhoods and why people have chosen to make these neighborhoods their life long homes. It is my understanding there will be a school board meeting May 5th at 6pm to farther discuss the topic, I intend to be that this meeting to hear more information about the ideas of the school board for development on Edison. As a property owner of this neighborhood I feel its important we all hear out the ideas being tossed out for future expansion. Building up is always a option in larger cities that have land restrictions. Perhaps that would be best in this case as well. If building up is not a option the the multi family student housing to the north of Edison could also be looked into. The property sitting north of Edison is not single family homes. It's more student housing with no historical value. All options to consider.

Thank you for your time.

Lisa Kidd