



To: Mr. Frank Bumstead
Chairman, Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission
Town of North Haven, CT
Memorial Town Hall, 18 Church Street, North Haven CT 06473

Date: February 16th, 2021

Dear Chairman Bumstead and Commission Members,

I am writing in regards to the proposed Slate Upper School project at 5100 Ridge Road, North Haven, which is before your commission as part of the land use approvals process. At prior meetings of the commission, there have been questions raised about the project's impact to the site and its surrounding areas, especially in regards to water and air quality. I was the architectural principal and project manager for the design and construction of Slate School's Mansfield Campus, and have been working on the design of Slate Upper School. I have over two decades of professional experience in the design and construction of schools and educational facilities throughout the United States. I can honestly say that Slate School truly is one of the most environmentally safe schools in the country, with an extraordinary commitment to the health and wellness of its students, faculty and their surrounding environment.

On the Lower School, the bar was set high from the start: a core objective of the design was to research, vet and select materials that would eliminate toxins commonly found in our buildings. Our focus started with "Red List Free" materials, which are certified by third party organizations such as The International Living Future Institute, Underwriter Laboratories, or the Green Building Council. These materials do not contain hazardous chemicals that can cause irritation and long-term harm to our bodies, including (but not limited to) urea formaldehyde, heavy metals, mercury and arsenic, PCBs, asbestos, and phthalates. Paints, caulks and other coatings were chosen to minimize or eliminate off-gassing of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which are known triggers of respiratory problems.

The emphasis on health, wellness and stewardship was instrumental to all aspects of the project. For example:

- There are no fossil fuels burned on site for space heating or domestic hot water.
- Mechanical systems are optimized for efficient and quiet operation, while already incorporating measures for advanced particle filtration, humidity control, and fresh air intake that have become best practice during the recent Covid pandemic.
- Spaces are naturally daylight through plentiful windows and doors. Where artificial lighting is provided indoors, the lights follow the natural circadian pattern of the sun to improve attentiveness and recuperation.
- Exterior lights comply with the Dark Sky initiative to lessen glare and light trespass while eliminating light pollution during the overnight hours.
- Drinking water is filtered of common particulates and added trace chemicals like chlorine.
- The structure and skin of the buildings are constructed to be safe, non-toxic, yet extremely well-insulated to minimize energy use while remaining comfortable throughout the seasons.

The sum of these decisions means there is no leaching or off-gassing of toxic materials from the buildings into the environment. Rainwater runs off of roofing materials and finishes which are Red List Free and do not introduce toxins into the soil or groundwater. Local air quality is not contaminated by combustion by-products or off-gassing.



Slate School's buildings and grounds are the physical embodiment of a philosophy which holds that healthy buildings, healthy people and a healthy Earth are all interdependent. Slate Upper School is being designed with the same core precepts of occupant health and environmental stewardship. Our team will bring the same attentiveness to detail, craft and execution that has made Slate Lower School such a success.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at (203) 535-1688.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paolo Campos" with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

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