



February 14, 2014

Superintendent Gary Yee, Public Relations Director Troy Flint, Principal Chelsea Toller, Assistant Superintendent Timothy White
Boardmembers London, Kakishiba, Hinton Hodge, Campbell Washington, Torres, Dobbins, and Harris

Dear Oakland Unified School District Board Members and staff,

We are Oakland's longstanding historic and cultural preservation organization. We share your keen interest in making sure that school buildings are safe and meet state requirements. Nonetheless, we are dismayed at the decision to demolish one of Oakland's few remaining period school buildings, Glenview School. We urge you to discuss options for rehabilitation and reuse with the State Historic Preservation Office, to include the City of Oakland Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board as an interested body, and to work with us to find a win-win solution to what need not be a hasty demolition. Often, historic buildings can be reused effectively and well.

We remember working successfully and productively with OUSD when it was proposed to remove all 1100 window frames at Oakland Technical High School for replacement with aluminum. In the end, restoring and repairing the windows was cost-effective and helped to preserve a well-known historic building.

In a situation such as this it is critical to work with consultants and contractors who are experienced with and understand the issues of historic buildings and can help the district come up with a suitable approach that does not destroy Oakland's architectural heritage.

We hereby request all copies of the documentation that shows what study was given to the historic aspects and potential reuse of the building, and to your analysis of the (generally superior) sustainability entailed in re-use rather than demolition. It can take a very long time for a newly-constructed building to save enough energy, materials, and other resources to compensate for the loss of an existing structure, with its valuable materials and embodied energy.

We don't know whether this building rises to the level of a local resource under CEQA, but has the initial study even been done? We request copies of the CEQA review of the project's cultural and architectural significance.

We are sending a copy of this letter to the State Historic Preservation Office, because we believe they will be able to provide guidance about how to preserve and reuse this building, and stave off replacing it with a utilitarian but less attractive and less culturally-significant structure.

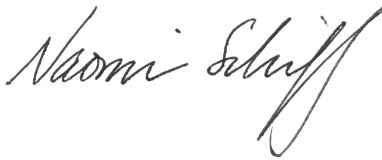
We look forward to working with you, and we request a meeting with the staff who are in charge of the project, so that we may better explore a good outcome. OUSD has quite a number of valuable buildings among its many; we seek to ensure that its great contributions to the fabric of Oakland neighborhoods will continue and will help preserve the unique visual and cultural resources that make up our wonderful city.

Sincerely,

Alison Finlay
Sincerely,



Alison Finlay
President of the Board



Naomi Schiff
Boardmember

Cc: Betty Marvin, Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey, City of Oakland Planning Department,
and Acting Secretary, Oakland Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board

Tim Brandt, State Historic Preservation Office

Rachel Flynn, City of Oakland Planning Director

Alameda County Parks, Recreation & Historic Commission