

Libertyville Elementary Schools

Matthew J. Barbini, Ed. D., Superintendent



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August 20, 2021

Dear Libertyville Plan Commission,

Libertyville is an amazing place to live and raise a family. I am happy to be able to speak to that first hand. Our town and Libertyville School District 70 did not get this way by chance--thoughtful planning and decisive action brought us to where we are today.

I am writing to you about our tomorrow and concerns about the proposed Liberty Junction development. It is my understanding that this proposed development will contain 90 three-bedroom units. The developer projects that District 70 will only receive 19.7 students from this proposed development. I have significant reservations about this projection and anticipate that District 70 will experience considerably more enrollment growth due to the price point of these homes along with the desirability of our excellent school system.

Liberty Junction will feed into our smallest elementary school--Adler Elementary School. Our current classrooms are already at capacity at Adler. New student enrollment at Adler will likely require the district to build additional classrooms onto the existing footprint of the school and a proper gymnasium/auditorium to accommodate both current and additional students. The district does not have the resources to cover the costs of building additional instructional spaces at Adler out of our current fund-balance. Furthermore, the impact fees from the developer will not cover said costs. What is also challenging is that it is my understanding that District 70 does not own the land that Adler Elementary school resides on. Subsequently, interagency collaboration will be required to add on to the existing footprint of Adler should the need to do so be realized.

District 70 is also acutely aware of the property that is owned by the Archdiocese to the west of Butterfield Elementary School. Should this land be sold and developed at some point in the future, it will cause similar challenges at Butterfield Elementary School.

District 70 welcomes all students. We will gladly welcome students from Liberty Junction; however, this will not be without cost to the district and, possibly, taxpayers in our community at some point in the future.

I apologize for not being able to attend this meeting in person. District 70 will be convening our school board meeting at the same time as the Plan Commission Meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Barbini". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matt Barbini, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Libertyville School District 70

Cc: Board of Education, Dr. Kerri Bongle-Principal of Adler Elementary School

Mission: To ensure that District 70 students experience learning that prepares them to live and work in the 21st Century.