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To: school.board@apsva.us

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Restoring the Wilson School Playing Field

Dear Arlington Public School Board Members:

After 17 years the temporary portable classrooms in Rosslyn have been removed from the playing field behind Wilson School. For over 70 years this field served as a gathering and recreational area for Rosslyn community, both residents and workers. From the mid-1990's until this past winter portable classroom "trailers" filled the field to provide temporary classroom space for students from outside the Rosslyn area as their school facilities were renovated. Now that these trailers have been removed, the community wishes to regain use of the playing field.

The Rosslyn Business Improvement District (RBID) has proposed installing soccer nets for each end of the field. The RBID has offered to purchase, install, maintain and store the nets. Mr. John Seal of the Rosslyn BID reached out to Arlington Public Schools with this offer in an email to APS Staff member Mr. Steven Bernheisel last April. On May 8th we were notified that APS declined to complete the restoration of the field because they feel the lot is unsafe for play.

We have walked the field, noted that with exception of several small areas where remnants of utility feeds still remain, the field is fairly level, fairly smooth, and the residents are ready to enjoy the benefit of this green space after 17 years of trailer occupancy. Since the need for the temporary classrooms has passed, we feel that Arlington Public Schools should complete the remaining restoration allowing the community to regain use of this rare and important Rosslyn open space and should be completed not only for the use of the field for recreation but also for the safety of workers taking care of mowing, weed abatement and fence maintenance.

Please help us work with Arlington Public School staff to remedy the safety concerns and return the field to the community so this asset can be enjoyed for the remainder of this year's warm weather.

Best regards,

Paul Derby

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