

**PUBLIC COMMENT FOR  
156 W. SCHOOL HOUSE LANE**

# The Children's Center for Communication Beverly School for the Deaf

Where Communication Comes First- Since 1876

June 28, 2022

Dr. Jonathan Farnhan  
Philadelphia Historical Commission  
One Parkway, 13th Floor  
1515 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19102

Re: Letter of support - Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (PSD)

Dear Dr. Farnham,

I am pleased to write this letter of support for PSD as they look to better develop their campus and further support Deaf and hard of hearing children.

Greetings from The Beverly School for the Deaf, also known as The Children's Center for Communication (or CCCBSD). [www.cccbsd.org](http://www.cccbsd.org). Our institution has been located in Beverly, Massachusetts for the past 146 years. We have served the communities of Massachusetts and New Hampshire on our campus as both a day and residential school since 1876. Due to a shift in parental preference, our dorm closed in 2004 and a 90 year old building was razed as we shifted to better support disabled Deaf children.

During the past 12 years we have created a campus that is 100% accessible for all students and have incorporated innovative technology like universal design (UD) and universal design for learning (UDL). Given the broad needs of our students - physically modifying or constructing a setting unique from our historic past has not only been a must, it has been legally required.

Our schools may look different from their original design but the educational culture is still, today, focused on Deaf or hard of hearing children. We respect and value our past while recognizing the education and therapeutic needs of children will continue to evolve.

School design has changed - from educational technology to student safety - places like PSD and CCCBSD are no different from other public or private schools. At our school there was initial opposition from the community to demolish our dormitory arguing it was part of the fabric of the neighborhood. After inviting our neighbors and community leaders into the school they quickly understood that the memories of ivy growing up an outdated inaccessible dormitory were incomparable to the needs of our students.

Schools for the Deaf have played an integral role in our communities. I am confident that PSD is committed to both the history **and** the future of the neighborhood.

Dr. Mark Carlson  
President/CEO

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[www.cccbsd.org](http://www.cccbsd.org)



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## Please Preserve 156 W. School House Lane

ronrumford dolanmaxwell

Fri 8/19/2022 12:32 PM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Please do not allow the demolition of the house at 156 W School House Lane. It adds a lot to the historic nature of Germantown and as a resident I feel good about seeing this property intact and well maintained.

The owners really should sell rather than tear down such a beautiful house.

Regards,

Ron Rumford