

**Rutledge, Mary**

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**From:** Willis D. Hawley <wdh@umd.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2014 3:55 PM  
**To:** Rutledge, Mary  
**Subject:** FW: Mendoza Plaintiffs' additional comments on comprehensive magnet plan

CMP R&R Exhibit J

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**From:** Thompson, Lois D. [<mailto:lthompson@proskauer.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 14, 2014 9:21 PM  
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**Cc:** Juan Rodriguez ([jrodriguez@MALDEF.org](mailto:jrodriguez@MALDEF.org))  
**Subject:** Mendoza Plaintiffs' additional comments on comprehensive magnet plan

Dear Bill Brammer, Dr. Hawley, and Others,

When the Mendoza Plaintiffs sent comments on the draft Comprehensive Magnet Plan ("CMP") last Monday, we undertook to provide additional comments by today, particularly with respect to the methodology the District is proposing to use to evaluate magnet schools. Thereafter, we received a copy of Dr. Hawley's July 8, 2014 comments on the draft CMP. Mendoza Plaintiffs agree with Dr. Hawley's comments relating to the proposed evaluation process as set forth at pages 2 through 5 of his July 8, 2014 memo under the heading "Evaluation Criteria." Therefore, rather than repeat or paraphrase them, Mendoza Plaintiffs join in those comments.

Mendoza Plaintiffs have the following additional comments beyond those set forth in their earlier communications:

They previously expressed concern about the District's proposal to make Craigin a magnet school. Beyond the specific issues Mendoza Plaintiffs have raised as they relate to Craigin, Mendoza Plaintiffs also have a concern about the District's decision to add magnet schools in 2014-15 (this comment therefore applies to both Mansfeld and Craigin) when so much work remains to be done to make the existing magnet schools successful both in terms of integration and in terms of the achievement/success of all their students. Mendoza Plaintiffs previously have expressed their concern that most magnet schools suffered from inattention for a number of years and that they and central District personnel now must devote significant effort to their programs/themes, improving student achievement in those schools, and their integration/recruitment efforts. Mendoza Plaintiffs therefore are concerned that the process, cost, and effort of creating new magnet schools will detract from needed focus and resource allocation to the existing magnet schools. (Mendoza Plaintiffs further note that the District has indicated that it has some concern about replicating magnet programs because the newly replicating program may draw students from the existing program. In that regard, it appears that effort, focus, and budget should be devoted to Holladay rather than to the creation of a new competing performing arts magnet at Craigin.)

Mendoza Plaintiffs also have a concern about the proposal to phase the 6<sup>th</sup> grade out of Drachman and to configure it as a PreK-5<sup>th</sup> school in 2015-16. Mendoza Plaintiffs believe that this proposed phase out will detract from the attractiveness of the Drachman program at precisely the time when it is striving to enhance the delivery of that program and increase the academic achievement of its students. It also is counter to the October 2013 version of the magnet plan in which the District proposed to expand Drachman course offerings to 7<sup>th</sup> grade in 2014-15 and to 8<sup>th</sup> grade in 2015-16.

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