



MEMORANDUM

TO: Brown's Creek Watershed District Board
FROM: Karen Kill
RE: Public Comments regarding Liberty Classical Academy
DATE: October 8, 2024

Attached comments have been received from the public regarding the proposed permit application for Liberty Classical Academy.

Managers:

Klayton Eckles, President • Celia Wirth, Vice-President • Chuck LeRoux, Secretary • Gerald Johnson, Treasurer

Karen Kill

From: Bob/Marcia Dornfeld <dornie@usfamily.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 10:17 AM
To: Karen Kill
Subject: Liberty Classical Academy permit

Greetings Karen,

This is a note in support of approving a permit for Liberty Classical Academy. Since the engineer's report shows approval of a permit being issued and the Academy meets all the BCWD codes, I would assume that the permit would be approved.

Our property is adjacent to the east of the school. This land has been in my family for over 100 years. So keeping it clean and pristine is important to us. Reports indicate that this will happen.

We welcome a neighbor like Liberty Classical Academy.

Thank you,

Marcia Dornfeld
10580 122nd St N
Hugo, MN 55038

Karen Kill

From: Deanna Herold <deannaherold@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 21, 2024 9:15 PM
To: Karen Kill
Subject: Re: Letter To Board Regarding Liberty Classical Academy Expansion Permit 23-19

Dear BCWD Board Members,

I am writing to encourage you to please support the expansion that Liberty Classical Academy has applied for via permit 23-19. Specifically, the school wishes to construct stormwater facilities on the property that the Academy owns in May Township, which is adjacent to the school located in Hugo. It is my understanding, as well as the school's understanding, that the permit fully complies with the requirements of the watershed district and that opposition from neighbors is not something that would allow the permit to be denied. Therefore, we expect the watershed district to follow its own rules and approve the permit without further delay or unreasonable conditions.

I am confident that Liberty Classical Academy will continue to be an excellent neighbor and conscientious member of the community in which it resides.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Deanna Herold
Grant, Minnesota

Karen Kill

From: Dianne Miller <diannedmiller@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 1:06 PM
To: Karen Kill
Subject: Liberty Classical Academy

Karen: I am contacting you as the District Administrator to the Brown's Creek Watershed District on behalf of Liberty Classical Academy.

I am a wife of 46 years, a mother for 44 years, a public school volunteer for 20 years, grandmother for 11 years, a high school youth group leader for 7 years, and a school board candidate campaign organizer for 3 years. Never have my eyes been so opened to the drastic decline of our public school system than during these last four years. As I dug into school board meetings and curriculum, I realized that our education system is failing our children, which not only affects our children, but also our community.

Liberty Classical Academy is the ray of hope we need to build children into critical thinking men and women, filled with character, commitment and perseverance. To impede the development of this school is to impede the achievement of our children and community.

God never intended for His church to be hidden in a corner. We occupy this space until He comes; and we do that by standing in the gap to provide the best possible outcome for families, children, cities, towns, neighborhoods. Liberty Classical Academy is the means to that end. It must be allowed to continue its expansion project to completion. I ask for your support in helping the school to accomplish this mission.

Respectfully,

Dianne Miller

Dear Brown's Creek Watershed District (BCWD) Manager,

Liberty Classical Academy has applied for a permit to construct stormwater facilities on the property the school owns in May Township adjacent to the school building it owns in Hugo. We understand that the permit fully complies with the requirements of the watershed district. We understand that a watershed district must base their decision if the application meets the watershed requirements for a permit. If the application does not meet the watershed district requirements for a permit, then we understand a permit may be denied. As a manager of Brown's Creek Watershed District, we understand that the decision for approval or denial needs to be based on the facts within the application and equally apply the standard to all applications.

Many residents of the community support the school and the plans to expand. We are residents from the City of White Bear Lake and would like to share a brief summary of our story and how Liberty Classical Academy impacts the future of our community and our state.

We are the Heikkinen family and our children have been attending Liberty Classical Academy since the Fall of 2016. Our oldest daughter Hannah started preschool the fall of 2016 and began 7th grade fall of 2024. Our second daughter Elizabeth started preschool a few years later and began 4th grade this fall. A small school like Liberty Classical Academy relies on parents volunteering. Our family enjoys partnering with others to serve both the school and around the community. Liberty Classical Academy and the surrounding community remind us of the small-town rural public schools of Minnesota we grew up attending when we were in K-12 school.

We learned about Liberty Classical Academy in 2012, a few months after our first daughter was born. At that time, we had not considered private school for our children but there was something about Liberty Classical Academy that stood out. I was accepted into graduate school in the fall of 2012 after serving in the Army, so our family moved to Duluth for four years. After graduating, our hope was to get a job close to White Bear Lake so we could send our daughters to Liberty Classical Academy. I began a career in Minneapolis and we moved to White Bear Lake and became first-time homeowners one mile away from the school. We never intended to send our children to private school since my wife and I both are proud graduates of small-town rural public schools of Minnesota. We would never consider any other private school. Therefore, moving to White Bear Lake was because of Liberty Classical Academy.

Liberty Classical Academy used to be in two locations, both Woodbury and Maplewood before they were able to unite the entire school together at the White Bear Lake location. Families have moved to where the school was located and neighborhoods have been significantly impacted. Now the school desires to unite the students in one physical location in Hugo and May Township. The school will become an asset for the communities within the Brown's Creek Watershed District, as well as the surrounding communities for decades into the future. Liberty Classical Academy is educating the future leaders of Minnesota business, industry, healthcare and education and the graduates will shape the future of Minnesota. Working families with school age children like ours value education and we are raising the next generation of Minnesota workers, and more importantly, fathers and mothers who will have families. The family is the basic building block for our community, state, and nation. Our state will be best served supporting a Pre-K to 12th grade education institution like Liberty Classical Academy.

Unfortunately, over the past four years, working families with young children have fled our neighborhood in White Bear Lake, families that would have sent their children to public school. Many families have moved to other public schools while others have chosen homeschool or private school. Some families have moved out of the state altogether. Each family that has moved out of the city of White Bear Lake and the state of Minnesota have done so to provide education opportunities for their children. Zero young families have moved into our neighborhood. Now, the only young families that live in our neighborhood attend Liberty Classical Academy. One of our neighbors, just one block down the street, moved from the state of Washington to White Bear Lake, Minnesota eight-years ago so their daughters could attend Liberty Classical Academy.

We decided to send our children to Liberty Classical Academy because it is uniquely Christian and uniquely Classical. We would not be sending our children to any other private school. There is no other education option like this school. It is not like choosing another private school or public school. Liberty Classical Academy is a unique program. There are other classical schools and there are other Christian schools, but there are no schools like Liberty Classical Academy in our state or surrounding states.

Each family of Liberty Classical Academy impacts their community. Liberty Classical Academy is more than the children and staff, it includes the grandparents and great-grand parents and other extended family and friends. Those family members live in other Minnesota communities and benefit from children in their family attending Liberty Classical Academy. Liberty Classical Academy is built with families like ours who make significant sacrifices so our children can attend the school. The values of Liberty Classical Academy and the stories within our school embody the values and reflect the stories of rural Minnesota.

Our family has been supported by the Liberty Classical Academy family in more ways than educating our children. When our family endured a significant trial, the Liberty Classical Academy community supported us through that storm, reminding us of the spirit and resolve of the Minnesota rural communities my wife and I grew up in western and northern Minnesota.

We may not live in Brown's Creek Watershed District, but decisions made in other communities impact the surrounding communities. Education opportunity impacts where young families live and the decisions made about Liberty Classical Academy will have long-term ramifications on the future trajectory of the state of Minnesota. The decisions made by the Brown's Creek Watershed District also impact the surrounding cities and counties, as well as the entire state of Minnesota. I also believe the impact of Liberty Classical Academy will reach even further, influence the future direction of our country nationally and impact the world globally.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and humbly ask that you support the BCWD Permit 23-19 for Liberty Classical Academy Expansion without any further delays or denials of permitting.

Thank you,
Michael and Andrea Heikkinen
3715 Prairie Road
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
612-581-2214

October 4, 2024

Brown's Creek Watershed District
455 Hayward Ave N
Oakdale, MN 55128

Dear BCWD:

This letter is in support of the proposed school expansion project of the Liberty Classical Academy at the Hugo site. I first became aware of the school four years ago through a friend who had two grandsons attending the Academy and have since graduated.

What I was particularly impressed with was the graduation requirement where each graduating student creates a white paper on a controversial subject. The student takes one side of the topic and argues for it. Then the student presents his view for ten minutes in front of a three-person panel who asks questions that force the student to defend the student's position. It was very impressive, and I have since given generously to the Academy because I believe in good quality education.

I believe that the Academy is worthy of support, and I think the expansion would be a good addition to the Hugo community. In fact, I think you could be proud of it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth Emde".

Kenneth Emde
Woodbury, Minnesota