

Public Comment - File SS0004-25

File SS0004-25 - Short Plat - Meadow Ridge Estates

Email *

kelly.fisher@lposd.org

Your Name: *

Dr. Becky Meyer

Your Address: *

365 Triangle Drive, Ponderay, ID 83852

Your Opinion: *

⌵ Dropdown

Opposed



Enter your comment regarding the above referenced file *

The Lake Pend Oreille School District recognizes that development will occur, and we openly welcome families into our community. However, we are conscious of the impact increased student enrollment and new development can have on our patrons and educational program.

Unlike other states, Idaho does not allow school districts to require impact fees on developments. The primary avenue for school districts to fund new facilities is to pass a school construction bond. Bond proposals are funded solely by property taxes approved by local voters and require a 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ super-majority to pass.

While we recognize the importance of addressing housing needs in our community, our schools have definitely seen an impact with the influx of new developments in our area. The scale and density of the area will present significant challenges for our district.

We are already operating near or above capacity at several of our school sites. Adding multiple new residential units, many of which are expected to house families with school-aged children, will strain our ability to provide a safe, high-quality education to all students. Therefore, Lake Pend Oreille School District is opposed to development and any new development that does not take into consideration our growth needs.

Recently, some Idaho School Districts have had developers approach them with an option of a voluntary support contribution per housing unit. Even though voluntary contributions will certainly not fully fund new schools, they would give the District an avenue to save for land acquisition and building upgrades. As such, we encourage the developer to engage with the district in good faith and provide voluntary support in the form of monetary contributions, land dedication, or other meaningful mitigation efforts.

The quality of our public schools is a vital part of our community's appeal and long-term sustainability. Responsible development must include planning for the impact on schools. We look forward to working with planning agencies and developers to find a balanced solution that supports both housing and educational needs. If you have any questions or want to discuss the direct effects of development on our district, please contact the District Office at 208-263-2184.

Sincerely,

Dr. Becky Meyer

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