

**W.H. Lincoln School**  
**Green Team and PTO**

19 Kennard Road  
Brookline, MA 02445

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February 28, 2024

**Brookline Public Schools School Committee**  
**Capital Improvement Subcommittee**

Helen Charlupski (Chair)  
Suzanne Federspiel  
Sarah Moghtader  
Mariah Nobrega

cc: Dr. Linus Guillory, Superintendent of Schools  
and Alexandra Vecchio, Director of Parks and Open Spaces

Dear Helen, Suzanne, Sarah, and Mariah:

As representatives of the Lincoln School PTO, Green Team, and concerned parents, we want to bring to your attention the state of the grounds at Lincoln. We understand that updating the Lincoln playing fields and school grounds is part of the Town of Brookline Capital Improvement Plan in upcoming years. However, based on the current state of our field, play areas, and accessible spaces, we are writing to urge you to accelerate the timeline for Lincoln grounds improvements.

**For background**, the Green Team works closely with our principal, Brian Denitzio, and Alexandra Vecchio's team at Parks and Open Spaces. We are familiar with the funds we can request for annual improvements to our grounds. And we know that—at this point—the damage due to the age of our playgrounds, continued wear and tear from everyday play, and serious erosion problems from continuous, alternating dry and wet seasons has pushed us way beyond the Parks team's budget and anything the PTO can contribute.

Here are just a few examples of what's happening on school grounds to highlight our concerns.

**Play Structures, Upper and Lower Playgrounds**

Our play structures are past due for replacement (which is why are on the CIP schedule). There is damage to these play structures from normal wear and tear that has and will continue to cause injury to students. We need accessibility compliant and sensory play areas for all of our students—in particular the Adaptive Learning Center students whose educational home is Lincoln School.

**Primary Playing Field**



With each new rain, the primary Lincoln playing field has a river of water running down the sidewalk that borders our field. This river cascades onto the field below, causing the field to flood and fill like a pond in the bowl-like area along our historic wall. In the dry seasons, the grass does not grow back sufficiently to soak up this water in any measurable way. In the past we could count on winter snows to allow the field a natural rest and restoration: those days appear to be in our past. The runoff from the sidewalk above and the lack of drainage in the field below need to be addressed immediately, or we will lose the use of the field for days or weeks at a time.





### **The Back Hill**

Our back hill bordering our neighbors to the north, has had massive erosion through summer rains and winter snows. The grounds outside our Kindergarten classrooms have been compacted from foot traffic. And there is no longer any vegetation on our back hill. These issues combined with an ongoing drainage problem from the roof above have created a fissure down the hill that is channeling runoff straight toward the classrooms below. According to our building custodian, our auditorium (which has a door at the bottom of the back hill) has flooded twice in the last two months, damaging the new carpets installed just last summer. And no one wants to see mold blooming in our auditorium or classrooms as spring rains approach.

### **Kindergarten Accessible Evacuation Routes**

Due to the unique layout of our school grounds, our Kindergarten classroom doors are positioned between the back hill described above and a steep staircase. As a result, these three classrooms have no accessible evacuation route external to the building. In an emergency, teachers and staff would be forced to choose between evacuating students down the eroding hillside pictured here or down the stairs. Any students with mobility issues or requiring mobility aids are going to be in a dangerous situation potentially requiring staff to carry them and their mobility devices down these steep exit routes.

**At this point,** we are asking for your support to accelerate the timeline of the redesign and development of the Lincoln School grounds as part of the town's

Capital Improvement Plan. We'd like to set up a meeting to discuss this further. Please let us know your availability to meet in person or via Zoom.

**Thank you** for your attention,

Sarah Pagliaccio, Green Team Co-Chair, Outdoor Classroom Task Force Member, and Lincoln Parent (sarah.pagliaccio@gmail.com)

Sandra Wesemann, Green Team Co-Chair and Lincoln Parent (sandra.wesemann@gmail.com)

Jon Stahl, Outdoor Classroom Task Force Member, and Lincoln Parent (jonmstahl@gmail.com )

**In partnership with:**

Brian Denitzio, W. H. Lincoln Principal

Alejandra Traub, Lincoln 7/8 Science Teacher & Green Team Member

Mireille Michele Wankenette Pettiti, W. H. Lincoln PTO Co-President

Stephanie Fagan, Lincoln Parent and W. H. Lincoln PTO Board Member

Gizem Acarlar Bayram, Lincoln Parent and PTO Board Member

Sarah Maxwell, Lincoln Teacher

Libby Kun, Lincoln teacher

Katie Flynn, Lincoln Teacher

Margaret DeBruin, former Lincoln parent, current Lincoln Extended Day teacher

Sara Scott, Lincoln parent and PTO Board member

Nick Caramello, Lincoln Parent and Brookline ZEAB Member

Chandan Sharma, Lincoln parent.

Jody Calabro, Lincoln parent

David Mann, parent

Pam Vaughn, Lincoln parent

Amie Lindenboim, Lincoln parent

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Maxim Piryatinsky, Lincoln parent

Dick Radford, Lincoln parent

Emily Reale, Lincoln parent

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Eric Beasley, Lincoln parent

Yin Wang, Lincoln parent

Hugh Moran, Lincoln parent

Celina Chang, Lincoln parent

H Kaleb Chang, Lincoln parent

Myriah Freitas, Lincoln parent

Eric Streed, Lincoln parent

Joanne Anthony, Lincoln parent

Scott Anthony, Lindoln parent

Emily Case, Lincoln parent

Julie Di Bernardo, Lincoln parent

Omar Mabrouk, Lincoln parent

Helen MacDonald, Lincoln parent

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Maura McGill, Lincoln parent

Callie Liebmann, Lincoln parent

Eduardo Fontes, Lincoln parent

Fernanda Pace, Lincoln parent

Senofer E. Mendoza, Lincoln Parent

Adrian Mendoza, Lincoln Parent

Jessica Mols, Lincoln parent

Michael Hewitt, Lincoln parent

Ilker Bayram, Lincoln Parent

Esty Lobovits, Lincoln parent

Karen Kraut, former Lincoln parent, member of Brookline Mothers Out Front

Micaela Coady, Lincoln parent

Nathan Freitas, Lincoln parent

Deane Coady, Lincoln grandparent, member of Brookline Mothers Out Front

Katie Pasciucco, Lincoln parent

Ken Berman, Lincoln parent

Stuti Mehta, Lincoln parent

Saori Shimada, Lincoln parent

Kenichi Shimada. Lincoln parent

Apoorva Bhandari, Lincoln parent

Cyndi Drake, Former Lincoln Parent