



## NETTLETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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3300 One Place, Jonesboro, Arkansas • 870.910.7800. • [nettletonschoools.net](http://nettletonschoools.net)

October 18, 2023

To whom it may concern,

My name is Karen Curtner and I currently serve as the Superintendent for Nettleton Public Schools. Please accept this letter in opposition to construct the proposed Savannah Hills Apartments (934 E. Craighead Forest Road).

The Board of Directors and I were recently made aware of this proposed housing development that could significantly impact the needs and services of our students. Safety is our top priority, specifically in transportation and traffic patterns found within the boundaries of the school district. Over 60% of the students at both Fox Meadow Elementary School and Fox Meadow School of Creative Media currently utilize bus transportation to and from their homes. This has led to increased traffic congestion in an area that already experiences such congestion due to the number of buses that are required to transport such a large number of students.

Given the location of the proposed building site, additional bus stops may be required along Craighead Forest Road. This road is not conducive to frequent traffic stops, particularly those made by a school bus. Therefore, the buses would be required to enter the apartment complex to pick-up and drop-off students, causing congestion within the complex, and experiencing impeded access for drive-throughs and turn-arounds.

In addition, as our district continues to grow, we are involved in additional building projects to accommodate our students and families. The south side of our district is already heavily populated as illustrated by the number of students at Fox Meadow Elementary School (411) and Fox Meadow School of Creative Media (454). If approved, the construction of these apartments will increase the overall population of our students in our district, which could require a requested school tax increase due to the cost of construction, personnel, and supplies. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Karen Curtner, Superintendent