



File Mansfield Food Waste Transport

File: Dave D. File: BCL

Mansfield Township School District
Board of Education
50 Port Murray Road
Port Murray, NJ 07865
908-689-3212

RECEIVED
MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

2022 MAY -6 A 10: 04

May 3, 2022

Township of Mansfield Joint Land Use Board
100 Port Murray Road
Port Murray, New Jersey 07865
Attn: JoAnn Griffith, Joint Land Use Board Secretary

**RE: Mansfield Township Elementary School District
Opposition to Proposed Mansfield Dump**

Dear Ms. Griffith:

I write to you in my capacity as Board President for the Mansfield Township Elementary School District (the "District"). On behalf of the District, please accept this correspondence with regard to the proposed development of 350 Blau Road in the Township of Mansfield (the "Property"). The District understands that the Property, currently farmland, is proposed to be developed as a food composting facility (the "Facility"). The District's understanding is that the Facility will take in food scraps and similar, organic materials, and employ a decomposition process which will return fertilizer and top soil for farming and related purposes. The District has significant reservations as to the location and scope of the Facility, and (un)anticipated impacts to the Property, our school district and the surrounding area.

The District must express its reservations regarding the prospective size and scale of the Facility. Specifically, the District is aware that the property owner intends approximately twenty (20) truck trips daily to the Property, but estimations from credible sources for similar facilities contemplate up to eighty (80) truck trips daily to the Property. There is great concern that should the Facility be approved at the Property, even the highest estimations of truck trips to and from the Property could be exceeding an estimated eighty (80) truck trips, thereby creating a near, round-the-clock operation of heavy trucks to and from the Property. This could cause safety concerns for our students while they traverse to and from school including impacting our buses and bus stops. Moreover, the heavy truck noise and exhaust created by truck trips would be reason enough to give pause to any rational observer of this application, let alone a voting board member. Without any assurances as to the number of truck trips to and from the Property, and hours of same, it is likely that a "blank check" is being written by the Land Use Board, to the property owner, to operate the Facility in a manner wholly unencumbered, if the Facility is approved.

While it is generally understood that the Land Use Board's concerns regarding traffic safety be limited to ingress and egress of the Property and proposed traffic circulation on the Property itself, it must be noted that the proposed trucking routes, size of trucks to be used and intensity of use of proposed trucking routes gives the District great pause as to whether the Facility is an appropriate use at the Property. Specifically, the ever-changing, truck trip-generation proposed for the Facility does not provide this Board with sufficient facts to evaluate the relative safety concerns associated with the Facility:



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Moreover, due to heavily regulated truck routes in the area of the Property, it is likely that truck traffic will be directed through winding and often-times, treacherous stretches of roadways that are incapable of supporting the size and weight of the trucks expected to traverse to and from the Property. The likelihood of incidents, namely, on Schooleys Mountain Road, in Long Valley, with narrow and tight turning roadways, will likely increase the jack-knifing of heavy trucks. This already occurs with great regularity in the vicinity of the Property. Additionally, those same trucks will be traveling to and from the Property, increasing the likelihood of these occurrences.

Furthermore, the noxious fumes caused by the newly decomposing organic materials shipped by those heavy trucks will cast a lingering odor, emanating from the Property and throughout the truck traffic route, that will negatively impact the well-being of the residents of the immediate and surrounding area as well as our school district community at large. Of equal concern is the risk of odor from decomposition of organic materials at the Facility, regardless of any mitigation efforts that may be employed. Simply stated, the lingering effect of the Facility will not likely be just the mere sight of the Facility, but its smell.

To further elaborate on these and other concerns, a representative from the District will be in attendance at the hearing, in order to speak in opposition to this application. Also, attached to this letter is a resolution opposing the facility that was passed at our April 28, 2022 Board meeting.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter.

Very truly yours,


Krysti A. Mastrolacasa
Board President

C: Dr. Anthony Giordano, Superintendent
Paul DeAngelo, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Governor Phil Murphy
Michael J Doherty, Senator
John DiMaio, Assemblyman
Erik Peterson, Assemblyman
Joseph Watters, Mayor
Glen McGuinness, Deputy Mayor
Joseph Farino, Township Committee Member
Desiree Mora Dillon, Township Committee Member
Ron Hayes, Township Committee Member
Members of the Environmental Commission
Members of the Green Team

Mansfield Township Board of Education

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Extract from the Minutes of a meeting of the
**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF MANSFIELD, WARREN COUNTY, N.J.**
As recorded in the
OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK

The Board of Education of the Township of Mansfield in the County of Warren, N.J. convened a Meeting on April 28, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. in the Township of Mansfield New Jersey.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

Present:

Ms. Annamaria Lavee
Ms. Krysti Mastrolacasa - President
Ms. Cynthia Quinn
Ms. Karri Reyes
Mr. Joseph Rodriguez
Mr. Mark Smith - Vice President
Ms. Linda Watters

Absent:

Ms. Diane Margolin
Mr. Jim Momary

Also present: Dr. Anthony Giordano, Superintendent, Mr. Paul DeAngelo, Business Administrator and Board Secretary, Mr. John Mellitsky, Principal

Community: There were several staff members and community members in attendance.

The following action/(s) was/were taken:

Old Business

1. On a Motion by Ms. Mastrolacasa, seconded by Ms. Lavee and carried by unanimous roll call vote to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, it has recently come to the Board's attention that there is proposed development at 350 Blau Road in the Township of Mansfield ("Property") to be developed as a food composting facility ("Facility"); and

WHEREAS, it is the Board's understanding that the Facility will accept food scraps and similar organic materials, and employ a decomposition process which will return fertilizer and top soil for farming and related purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Board has significant concerns regarding the location, size, and scope of the Facility, and its impacts to the Property, the Mansfield School District and surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, the Board has great concern that should the Facility be approved at the Property, this could result in a near round-the-clock operation of heavy trucks to and from the Property, thereby causing constant heavy truck noise and exhaust; and

WHEREAS, due to heavily regulated truck routes in the area of the Property, truck traffic will likely be directed through winding and often treacherous stretches of roadways for the size and weight of trucks expected to traverse to and from the Property, which will cause a high likelihood of increasing the number of traffic incidents in the vicinity of the Property, including the jack-knifing of heavy trucks, which already occur with great regularity; and

WHEREAS, the noxious fumes caused by the newly-decomposing organic materials shipped by the heavy trucks will cast a lingering odor, emanating from the Property and throughout the truck traffic route, which will negatively impact the well-being of the residents of the immediate and surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, the Board has serious concerns pertaining to the physical safety of students, staff, and parents traveling to and from school due to the anticipated high increase in traffic accidents that will be caused by the numerous heavy trucks that will be traveling to and from the Facility through winding and often treacherous stretches of roadways on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, the Board has serious concerns pertaining to students' abilities to travel to and from school via school-provided transportation, and the correlated effect on student attendance, due to the numerous traffic issues that will be caused by the creation of the Facility, as well as the likely road damage that will be caused by the daily heavy trucks, which the Board foresees will interfere with the location of the Board's bus stops and bus transportation routes; and

WHEREAS, the Board has serious concerns pertaining to students' and faculty's abilities to fully engage and concentrate in school despite the strong odors that will be produced by the Facility's newly-decomposing organic materials, which will permeate throughout the school and have a negative effect on the learning environment; and

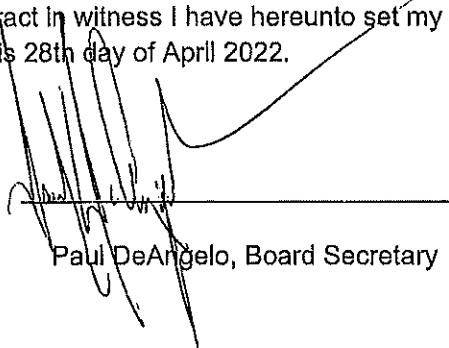
WHEREAS, the Board has serious concerns, both short-term and long-term, pertaining to the health and safety of students and staff caused by the myriad of environmental and air pollution issues that would result due to the creation of the Facility;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education formally expresses its opposition to the proposed development of the Facility at the Property for the reasons contained herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be sent by the Board Secretary to Governor Murphy, our local Legislators, the Commissioner of Education, and the Executive County Superintendent of Schools.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COUNTY OF WARREN

I, Paul DeAngelo, Secretary of the Board of Education of the Township of Mansfield, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey, hereby certify that the foregoing extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Education of said district duly called and held on April 28, 2022, has been compared by me with the original minutes as officially recorded in the minute book of said Township of Mansfield, Board of Education and is a true, complete copy thereof and of the whole of said original minutes so far as the same relate to the subject matter referred to in said extract in witness I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of said Board of Education this 28th day of April 2022.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul DeAngelo', is written over a solid horizontal line. The signature is somewhat stylized and overlaps the line.

AFFIX SEAL:

Paul DeAngelo, Board Secretary