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Bolton Alumni Association

Jennifer Wright, President and Stephen Tuminello, Vice President

P.O. Box 13414

Alexandria, Louisiana 71315

September 18, 2023

Dear Ms. Wright and Mr. Tuminello,

I write to the Bolton Alumni Association to lend the full support of the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans to your stance that a complete conditions assessment should be undertaken to determine the state of each of the more than 500 windows in the historic Bolton School before any actions are taken that would lead to alteration or removal of the historic windows. As a property that is listed on the National Register of Historic Properties, and as one whose maintenance is funded by taxpayers, this is entirely appropriate and prudent action.

Should a conditions assessment be completed for the windows in Bolton High School, what the report will inevitably show is varying conditions throughout the building. While some windows may need complete replacement due to rot, it is entirely possible that many of the school's windows could be made like-new with some basic repair and maintenance. This could save a tremendous amount of money in the long run, sparing unnecessary replacements of windows that are perfectly salvageable. In addition to being a more economical approach, "recycling" salvageable windows instead of throwing them away and replacing them unnecessarily is a much more environmentally sound action.

But to return to economics: I urge you all to remember that the school's current windows have, so far, withstood heat, humidity, pests and inclement weather for a century. With repair and maintenance, many of these windows could last decades more, if not much longer. If vinyl windows are inserted, they will likely need full replacement within 20 years. Thus, a cheaper cost in the present merely delays future spending. Historic window complaints such as energy efficiency and sound infiltration have solutions in modern products, such as Magnetite; and skilled carpenters and mill shops can replicate historic windows with modern lumber. For the sake of spending, the environment, and the historic integrity and look of the Bolton School, it is my hope that a conditions assessment will be undertaken; and that it will bear out the wisdom in repairing as many historic windows as possible, only replacing windows as needed.

Sincerely,

Danielle Del Sol

Danielle Del Sol

Executive Director

Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans