STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING COORDINATION

July 23, 2025
VanDemark & Lynch, Inc.
Christopher O'Keefe
4305 Miller Rd,
Wilmington, DE 19802

RE: PLUS review – 2025-06-03; School Bell Enterprises

Dear Mr. O'Keefe:

Thank you for meeting with State agency planners on June 25th, 2025 to discuss School Bell Enterprises. According to the information received, you are seeking review of a proposed Residential subdivision of 72 single family lots.

Please note that changes to the plan, other than those suggested in this letter, could result in additional comments from the State. Additionally, these comments reflect only issues that are the responsibility of the agencies represented at the meeting. **The developers will also need to comply with any Federal, State, and local regulations regarding this property. We also note that New Castle County is the governing authority over this land, the developers will need to comply with any and all regulations/restrictions set forth by the County.**

Strategies for State Policies and Spending

This project is located in a Level 2 investment area, which is consistent with the 2020 Strategies for State Policies and Spending.

Investment Level 2 reflects areas where growth is anticipated by local, county, and State plans in the near-term future. Because development in Level 2 is consistent with the 2020 Strategies for State Policies and Spending, the Office of State Planning Coordination supports this proposed Site Plan.

Code Requirements/Agency Permitting Requirements

Department of Transportation – Contact Stephen Bayer 302-760-4834

- Any site access points onto State maintained roads must be designed in accordance with DelDOT's Development Coordination Manual, which is available at http://www.deldot.gov/Business/subdivisions/index.shtml?dc=changes.

- Pursuant to Section 1.3 of the Development Coordination Manual, a Pre-Submittal Meeting is required before plans are submitted for review. The form needed to request the meeting and guidance on what will be covered there and how to prepare for it is located at https://www.deldot.gov/Business/subdivisions/pdfs/Meeting_Request_Form.pdf?08022017.

- As discussed in the PLUS meeting the developer has already begun the Traffic Impact Study (TIS) process. Please continue the analysis to identify any necessary frontage or off-site improvements.

- This project is located within the regulated airspace zones of New Castle County Airport (ILG), which is a public-use facility. Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 77 imposes height restrictions on any structures within these zones. DelDOT requires that the applicant for this project submits a "Proposed Construction/Alteration in Airport Zones Notification Form" in accordance with Delaware Code (2 Del. C. § 602). This notification form can be submitted during the plan approval process with the local land use jurisdiction, but DelDOT's Office of Aeronautics is willing to test hypothetical height numbers to prevent any future project complications. Please contact Mr. Austin Gray with the Office of Aeronautics at (302) 760-2145 with any questions or concerns. A copy of the notification form can be found at this address: https://deldot.gov/Programs/aeronautics/pdfs/DropDown/Obstruction%20Validation%20Program%202022.pdf

- Section 1.7 of the Development Coordination Manual addresses fees that are assessed for the review of development proposals. DelDOT anticipates collecting the Initial Stage Fee when the record plan is submitted for review and the Construction Stage Fee when construction plans are submitted for review.

  As necessary, in accordance with Section 3.2.5 and Figure 3.2.5-a of the Development Coordination Manual, DelDOT will require dedication of right-of-way along the site's frontage with School Bell Road. By this regulation, this dedication is to provide a minimum of 40 feet of right-of-way from the physical centerline. The following right-of-

way dedication note is required, "**An X-foot wide strip of right-of-way from the centerline is hereby dedicated in fee simple to the State of Delaware, acting by and through the Delaware Department of Transportation."**

- In accordance with Section 3.2.5.1.2 of the Development Coordination Manual, DelDOT will require the establishment of a 15-foot wide permanent easement across the property frontages on all State maintained roadways. The location of the easement shall be outside the limits of the ultimate right-of-way. The easement area can be used as part of the open space calculation for the site. The following note is required, "**A 15-foot wide permanent easement is hereby dedicated in fee simple to the State of Delaware, acting by and through the Delaware Department of Transportation."**

- Referring to Section 3.4.2.1 of the Development Coordination Manual, the following items, among other things, are required on the Record Plan:

    - A Traffic Generation Diagram. See Figure 3.4.2-a for the required format and content.

    - Notes identifying the type of off-site improvements, agreements (signal, letter) contributions and when the off-site improvements are warranted.

- In accordance with Section 3.8 of the Development Coordination Manual, storm water facilities, excluding filter strips and bioswales, shall be located a minimum of 20 feet from the ultimate State right-of-way along all frontage roads.

- In accordance with Section 5.2.9 of the Development Coordination Manual, the Auxiliary Lane Worksheet should be used to determine whether auxiliary lanes are warranted at the site entrances and how long those lanes should be. The worksheet can be found at http://www.deldot.gov/Business/subdivisions/index.shtml.

- In accordance with Section 5.4 of the Development Coordination Manual, sight distance triangles are required and shall be established in accordance with American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards. A spreadsheet has been developed to assist with this task. It can be found at http://www.deldot.gov/Business/subdivisions/index.shtml.

- In accordance with Section 5.14 of the Development Coordination Manual, all existing utilities must be shown on the plan and a utility relocation plan will be required for any utilities that need to be relocated.

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control – Contact Beth Krumrine 302-735-3480

Staff from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) reviewed the project submitted for PLUS review. The absence of comments regarding specific resources does not indicate that there are not additional constraints or environmental issues on site, nor does it indicate DNREC support of a project.

Stormwater Management

The project proposes greater than 5,000 square feet of land disturbing activities and will be subject to Delaware's *Sediment and Stormwater Regulations*.

- A Sediment and Stormwater Plan must be developed, then approved by the appropriate plan review agency, prior to any land disturbing activity taking place on the site. For this project, the plan review agency is the New Castle County Department of Land Use.

- Additionally, to address federal requirements, construction activities that exceed 1.0 acre of land disturbance require Construction General Permit coverage through submittal of an electronic Notice of Intent for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity. This form must be submitted electronically https://enoi.dnrec.delaware.gov/, (select Construction Stormwater General Permit) to the DNREC Division of Watershed Stewardship, along with the $195 fee.

- Schedule a project application meeting with the appropriate plan review agency prior to moving forward with the stormwater and site design. As part of this process, you must submit a Stormwater Assessment Study.

Plan review agency contact: New Castle County Department of Land Use at (302) 395-5400.
Website: https://www.newcastlede.gov/2420/Land-Use

General Stormwater contact: DNREC Sediment and Stormwater Program at (302) 739-9921.
E-mail: DNREC.Stormwater@delaware.gov.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/watershed-stewardship/sediment-stormwater/

Hydrologic Soils Group

Hydrologic Soil Group C and D, poorly drained soils, have been identified in the eastern portion of the site. These soil types could worsen existing drainage issues if present and are typically not conducive to utilizing infiltration stormwater Best Management Practices such as

bioretention and infiltration basins. These practices must meet minimum infiltration requirements.

- Any stormwater Best Management Practices that propose the use of infiltration or natural recharge shall include a soils investigation.

Contact: DNREC Sediment and Stormwater Program at (302) 739-9921.
E-mail: DNREC.Stormwater@delaware.gov.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/watershed-stewardship/sediment-stormwater/

Wastewater Disposal Systems – Large Systems
For wastewater conveyance offsite by way of a new sewer connection, flow rates exceeding 2,500 gallons of liquid waste per day will require a Wastewater Pollution Collection and Conveyance (WPCC) permit from the Commercial and Government Services section.

Contact: DNREC Commercial and Government Services Section at (302) 739-9948.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/water/commercial-government/

Wetlands and Waterways
Maps from the Statewide Wetlands Mapping Project indicate the potential presence of non-tidal wetlands, as well as a potential blue line stream, in the eastern portion of the site. The application indicates that wetlands have been delineated. The application states that the project does not propose direct impacts to the wetlands/waterways.

State Requirements:

- If plans change and wetlands or waterways are disturbed, please contact the Wetlands and Waterways Section for more information on permitting requirements.

State Contact: DNREC Wetlands and Waterways Section at (302) 739-9943.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/water/wetlands/

Electric Vehicle Charging Requirements
Electric vehicle charging infrastructure is now required for all residential dwellings in Delaware (see 80 Del. Laws, c. 145 § 8001- § 8006) for which:

1. A building permit is issued on or after January 1, 2024 (single family), or
2. The final site plan is approved on or after January 1, 2025 (multi-family).

Requirements are summarized below. Consult the Delaware Code directly for further details.

Single-family Dwellings, effective 2024:

- The developer of a single-family residential dwelling shall install at least one electric vehicle capable parking space at each single-family residential dwelling constructed.

- If the single-family residential dwelling does not have an attached or detached garage, an electric vehicle capable parking space must be provided in the driveway, assigned parking space for the dwelling, or at an unassigned non-street residential parking space constructed as part of the project.

Air Quality – Particulate Emissions
Particulate emissions are regulated by DNREC's Division of Air Quality. To control particulate emissions from construction and materials handling operations, the following is required:

- The applicant must use dust suppressants and other measures during demolition activities, grading, land clearing, excavation of non-paved roads, material movement or storage, and sandblasting activities.

  Contact: DNREC Division of Air Quality at (302) 739-9402.
  Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/air/permitting/

Delaware Emergency Management Agency – Contact Phillip Cane 302-659-2325

Proposed Project Parcel Flood Concern
- This parcel is located within an area of **Minimal Flood Concern of 1000 years or greater**.

Parcel Status within County Evacuation Zone Location
- The parcel is not yet located within a New Castle County Evacuation Zone.

Parcel Status within the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) for the Salem Nuclear Power Plant
- The parcel **is not** located within the 10-mile EPZ for the Salem Nuclear Power Plant.

State Historic Preservation Office – Contact Carlton Hall 302-736-7400

- A tributary of Army Creek runs through the parcel. There is an archaeological site just to the north along the creek on the neighboring parcel. Soils are mostly well drained, with poorly drained soils closest to the creek. The area closest to the creek is forested and has been for most of the 20th century. Historic topo maps show a structure or agricultural complex as far back as 1904 on the southeastern corner of the parcel.

- It appears to have had various numbers of structures at various points, with the final structure being demolished sometime between 1997 and 2002. The potential for precontact archaeological resources is high close to the creek and the potential for historic archaeological resources is high.
- The SHPO recommends an archaeological survey prior to any ground disturbing activities. If there are any questions, inquiries, or concerns, feel free to contact the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office for assistance at 302-736-7400.

Delaware State Fire Marshall's Office – Contact Duane Fox 302-739-4394
This document is for information purposes only and does not constitute any type of approval from the Delaware State Fire Marshal's Office.

At the time of formal submittal, the applicant shall provide; completed application, fee, and three sets of plans depicting the following in accordance with the Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulation (DSFPR):

Fire Protection Water Requirements:

- Where a water distribution system is proposed for single-family dwellings, it shall be capable of delivering at least 500 gpm for 1-hour duration, at 20-psi residual pressure. Fire hydrants with 800 feet spacing on centers are required. (One & Two- Family Dwelling)
- One- and Two-Family dwellings are required by law to offer the homeowner an automatic sprinkler system, therefore infrastructure should accommodate water needs.
- Where a water distribution system is proposed for the site, the infrastructure for fire protection water shall be provided, including the size of water mains for fire hydrants and sprinkler systems.

Accessibility

- All premises, which the fire department may be called upon to protect in case of fire, and which are not readily accessible from public roads, shall be provided with suitable gates and access roads, and fire lanes so that all buildings on the premises are accessible to fire apparatus. This means that the access road to the subdivision from School Bell Road must be constructed so fire department apparatus may negotiate it.
- Fire department access shall be provided in such a manner so that fire apparatus will be able to locate within 100 ft. of the front door.
- Any dead-end road more than 300 feet in length shall be provided with a turn-around or cul-de-sac arranged such that fire apparatus will be able to turn around by making not more than one backing maneuver. The minimum paved radius of the cul-de-sac shall be

38 feet. The dimensions of the cul-de-sac or turn-around shall be shown on the final plans. Also, please be advised that parking is prohibited in the cul-de-sac or turn around.

- The use of speed bumps or other methods of traffic speed reduction must be in accordance with Department of Transportation requirements.

- The local Fire Chief, prior to any submission to our Agency, shall approve in writing the use of gates that limit fire department access into and out of the development or property.

Gas Piping and System Information:

- Provide type of fuel proposed and show locations of bulk containers on plan.

Required Notes:

- Provide a note on the final plans submitted for review to read "All fire lanes, fire hydrants, and fire department connections shall be marked in accordance with the Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulations"

- Proposed Use

- Alpha or Numerical Labels for each building/unit for sites with multiple buildings/units

- Square footage of each structure (Total of all Floors)

- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Construction Type

- Maximum Height of Buildings (including number of stories)

- Note indicating if building is to be sprinklered

- Name of Water Provider

- Letter from Water Provider approving the system layout

- Provide Road Names, even for County Roads

Recommendations/Additional Information

This section includes a list of site-specific suggestions that are intended to enhance the project. These suggestions have been generated by the State Agencies based on their expertise and subject area knowledge. **These suggestions do not represent State code requirements.** They are offered here in order to provide proactive ideas to help the applicant enhance the site

design, and it is hoped **(but in no way required)** that the applicant will open a dialogue with the relevant agencies to discuss how these suggestions can benefit the project.

Department of Transportation – Contact Stephen Bayer 302-760-4834

- The applicant should expect a requirement that all PLUS and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comments be addressed prior to submitting plans for review.

- If possible please consider making a pedestrian connection with the existing development to the north and Old Forge Road.

- Please be advised that the Standard General Notes have been updated and posted to the DelDOT website. Please begin using the new versions and look for the revision dates of March 21, 2019 and March 16, 2021. The notes can be found at https://www.deldot.gov/Business/subdivisions/

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control – Contact Beth Krumrine 302-735-3480

Stormwater Management

- Where the site and soil conditions allow, integrate runoff reduction techniques including infiltration basins, bioretention (rain gardens), filter strips, and pavers to encourage on-site stormwater infiltration and reduce runoff.

- For improved stormwater management, preserve existing trees, wetlands, and passive open space.

Plan review agency contact: New Castle County Department of Land Use at (302) 395-5400.
Website: https://www.newcastlede.gov/2420/Land-Use

General stormwater contact: DNREC Sediment and Stormwater Program at (302) 739-9921.
E-mail: DNREC.Stormwater@delaware.gov.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/watershed-stewardship/sediment-stormwater/

Drainage

- All existing drainage ditches on the property should be evaluated for function and cleaned, if needed, prior to the construction of the project.

- Environmental permits or exemptions may be required by the County Conservation District (Standard Plan), the DNREC Sediment and Stormwater Program (eNOI/NOT), Army Corp of Engineers, and/or DNREC Wetlands and Waterways Section prior to clearing and/or excavating ditch channels.

- All precautions should be taken to ensure the project does not hinder any off-site drainage upstream of the project or create any off-site drainage problems downstream by the release of on-site storm water.

- Any area designated as a drainage/utility easement should be open space and not owned by the individual landowners.

- Any drainage/utility easement should not possess structures such as decks, buildings, sheds, kennels, or fences within the drainage easement to allow for future drainage maintenance. Trees and shrubs planted within a drainage/utility easement should be spaced to allow for drainage maintenance at maturity.

Contact: DNREC Drainage Program at (302) 855-1930.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/drainage-stormwater/

Wetlands and Waterways in Key Wildlife Habitat

The stream on this property is mapped as a Key Wildlife Habitat in the Delaware Wildlife Action Plan because it is part of a large wetland complex block that can support an array of plant and animal species across the landscape.

- As proposed, Key Wildlife Habitat should be conserved to the maximum extent practicable and negative impacts should be minimized.

Contact: DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife, Species Conservation and Research Program at (302) 735-3600. Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/conservation/

Forested Wetlands and Vegetated Buffer Zones

Maps from the Statewide Wetlands Mapping Project indicate the potential presence of forested wetlands on the eastern portion of the site. This habitat type is known to support an array of plants and animals, most notably wetland dependent species such as amphibians.

There is potential for high marsh habitat to exist in the wetland area of this parcel. Several state-rare species, state-listed endangered species, and federally-listed threatened species, particularly birds, nest in high marsh habitats.

To reduce impacts to these species, the following is recommended:

- As proposed, do not disturb forested wetlands. Increase upland buffer to at least 100 feet along all wetlands, waterways, and sensitive habitats, including those containing existing forest or natural vegetative cover.

- Vegetated buffer zones should be identified outside of the Limit of Disturbance on the engineering plans.

- Maintain vegetated buffer zones as native species meadows or forest.

- Vegetated buffer zones should be deeded as community open space and not contained within any lot lines. Signage should be installed at the edge and within the buffer zones to deter residents from encroaching into these common areas.

- Maintain habitat connections to undeveloped open space, which are especially important for species movement across the landscape.

Contact: DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife, Species Conservation and Research Program at (302) 735-3600. Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/conservation/

Air Quality – Design to Minimize Mobile Source Emissions

Mobile sources include a variety of motor vehicles and mobile equipment that generate air emissions, such as ozone, particle pollution, and air toxics. The DNREC Mobile Sources Control Program reduces motor vehicle-related pollution from both on-road vehicles and non-road vehicles.

- This site lies within New Castle County. Ambient air quality in this area may not meet Federal Air Quality Standards.

- Consider designing the project to connect to local pedestrian and bicycle networks, as well as public transit. Designing for travel alternatives has the potential to minimize the overall tailpipe emissions associated with the use of this site.

- Consider designing the project for low maintenance green spaces. Designing green spaces to be less dependent on gas-powered lawn and garden equipment has the potential to minimize emissions associated with the on-going maintenance of this site.

Contact: DNREC Division of Air Quality's Mobile Sources Program at (302) 739-9402.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/air/mobile-sources/

Sustainable Practices

- Incorporate nonmotorized connectivity and install bicycle racks where feasible to help facilitate non-vehicular travel modes.

- Offer the option to install solar or geothermal systems for each home. This allows a purchaser to incorporate the cost into their mortgage, making it more affordable. For community facilities, consider using renewable energy infrastructure such as solar or geothermal to reduce energy costs and further reduce pollution created from offsite generation. Grant funds and incentives are available for Delmarva Power customers through the DNREC Green Energy Fund, which includes several funding types through the state's major electric utilities (https://dnrec.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy/renewable/assistance/).

- Consider planting select areas with native trees. Native trees improve air, water, and soil quality. Planting and nurturing trees is also a nature-based solution to reducing the greenhouse gases that drive climate change. In addition, native trees have an increasingly important role in the survival of native birds and beneficial insects whose habitat is shrinking due to development and climate change.

- Consider planting select areas with meadow comprised of native species. Native plants are well-suited to our climate and require limited maintenance. Mowing in these areas should not occur between April 1st to July 31st to reduce impacts to nesting birds and other wildlife species that utilize meadows and grasslands for breeding habitat.

- Use efficient Energy Star rated products and materials in construction and redevelopment. Energy efficient appliances use less energy over time. This saves consumers and businesses money, while also helping to reduce pollution from power generation.

- Use structural paint coatings that are low in Volatile Organic Compounds to help protect air quality. Air pollution from new construction is generated through the use of maintenance equipment, paints, and consumer products like roof coatings and primers.

- Use recycled materials, such as reclaimed asphalt pavement, to reduce heat island effects on paved surfaces, prevent landfill waste, and lower material costs.

Contact: DNREC Division of Climate, Coastal & Energy at (302) 735-3480.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy/

Delaware Emergency Management Agency – Contact Phillip Cane 302-659-2325

Population

- The county has a population density of 1,321.50 per square mile based on the US 2020 Census report; an increase from 2010 at 1,241.00 persons per square mile. The specific census block(s) the project is located on has a total population of 915, though, with development, this will undoubtedly change. The 18 adjacent blocks aggregated bring the area to a total population of 3,170.

FEMA National Risk Index

- The FEMA National Risk Index is an online mapping application that identifies communities most at risk to 18 natural hazards: Avalanche, Coastal Flooding, Cold Wave, Drought, Earthquake, Hal, Heat Wave, Hurricane, Ice Storm, Landslide, Lightning, Riverine Flooding, Strong Wind, Tornado, Tsunami, Volcanic Activity, Wildfire, and Winter Weather. The FEMA National Risk Index is calculated by multiplying the Expected Annual Loss times the Social Vulnerability and dividing that by the Community Resilience.



- According to FEMA's National Risk Index, the parcel **is** considered **very low** for overall natural hazards risks.

- Community Resilience is a consequence reduction risk component and a community risk factor that represents the ability of a community to prepare for anticipated natural

hazards, adapt to changing conditions and withstand/recover rapidly from disruptions. Social Vulnerability is a consequence-enhancing risk factor that represents the susceptibility of social groups to the adverse impacts of natural hazards.

- Its community resilience is rated as **relatively high** whereas its social vulnerability is rated as **relatively moderate.**

Renewable Energy Commitment

- Regarding energy use and consumption, the census tract utilizes **electricity** as the predominant fuel type for heating purposes.

- DEMA strongly encourages the use of renewable energies and high-efficiency appliances and utilities. Regarding utilities, DEMA suggests incorporating 90% series furnaces/HVAC systems; the closer to 99%, the better, as well as A/C units of 20 Seer or greater. DEMA recommends using tankless water heaters, and battery backup systems for sump pumps to reduce potential water damage from power failure. Lastly, DEMA encourages the integration of modern and emerging technologies, such as the potential for electric vehicles in garages/parking lots, green roofs or solar panels where applicable and allowable, and the like.

Delaware State Housing Authority - Contact Rachel Alfano (302) 739-4263

- DSHA supports the proposal to construct a 72 unit residential development on 54.7 acres at 0 School Bell Road. This is an entry level and market rate project.

- This project is in a stable area according to our Housing Reform Map. This map shows the distribution of affordable housing throughout the state. Stable areas should be supporting a balance of market-rate units with subsidized housing and diverse housing types. Link to Interactive Map.

- DSHA supports the addition of bike paths to ensure the residents have easy access to its surrounding amenities.

- DSHA recommends that this project offers different housing types in addition to single families, such as duplex or townhomes.

  If you have questions or would like more information on the above recommendations, please feel free to e-mail at Rachel.Alfano@Delaware.gov.

Delaware State Fire Marshall's Office – Contact Duane Fox 302-739-4394
Preliminary meetings with fire protection specialists are encouraged prior to formal submittal. Please call for appointment. Applications and brochures can be downloaded from our website:

www.statefiremarshal.delaware.gov, technical services link, plan review, applications or brochures.

Fire Department Comments:

- The fire department is obligated to provide fire and EMS service to this property. Additional new development within their fire/EMS district has put a financial strain on the volunteer fire service. In order to provide quality service within the fire/EMS district the fire department may have to hire career staff to keep up with the demand of service. Currently State and County funding is not keeping up with the growth of the fire district and the burdens placed on the volunteer fire department. The developer and future residents will need to consider financial support, before this becomes a tax burden. Volunteerism is dwindling so future residents need to consider joining the fire department to serve their new community.

Following receipt of this letter and upon filing of an application with the local jurisdiction, the applicant shall provide to the local jurisdiction and the Office of State Planning Coordination a written response to comments received as a result of the pre-application process, noting whether comments were incorporated into the project design or not and the reason, therefore.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at 302-739-3090.

Sincerely,



David L. Edgell, AICP
Director, Office of State Planning Coordination