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Key School lawsuit dismissed

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A judge dismissed a lawsuit a group of residents filed to keep the Key School from turning the Annapolis Golf Course into an athletic complex.

Judge Paul G. Goetzke's ruling, issued this week, clears the way for the school to use the 70-acre course for athletic fields and outdoor education. The group of Annapolis Roads residents who filed the lawsuit can file an amended claim by March, according to the court order.

The golf course's future had been an ongoing source of debate since the Key

School purchased it. In the 1970s, then-owners of the course sued the Annapolis Roads Property Owners Association over their rights to develop the land. In the 1980s, the golf course and association came to an agreement that restricted land use to a golf course, nurseries and conservation uses.

In 2005, St. Mary's High School's plans to develop the course into ball fields and homes were thwarted when residents protected and bought that 33-acre parcel.

The golf course is about two miles from the Key School's Hillsmere campus and would "greatly enhance

the school's athletic, outdoor and environmental programs," school officials said at the time of the purchase in November.

But members of Preserve Annapolis Roads filed a lawsuit shortly after the sale, saying the school's plans violated land-use covenants. Pamela and Chester C. Buckenmaier III and Patricia and Gregory Strott sued the Key School, golf course developers Ribera Development LLC and course owners George and Linda Graefe.

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