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WARREN, PENNSYLVANIA 16365

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June 1, 2005

VIA E-MAIL and FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dr. Norbert J. Kennerknecht
Buildings and Grounds Director
Warren County School District
185 Hospital Drive
North Warren, PA 16365

RE: Playground Requests

Dear Norbert:

I understand that with the closure of the Warren elementary schools, several groups have contacted you asking permission to salvage playground equipment from those schools. You inquired as to what type of documentation would be appropriate in the event the District elected to give away or sell playground equipment. In thinking through the documentation, I come to a slightly different conclusion – permit me to respectfully suggest that the playgrounds not be disturbed at this time.

For several reasons I believe the District's ability to sell the unused facilities will be enhanced by leaving the playgrounds intact.

1. The intact playgrounds may very well be an attractive component to potential purchasers. Past purchasers of unused school buildings have included a church and the EOC. Groups such as these may be inclined to pay more because of the presence of a playground.

2. We should not allow the playgrounds to be salvaged piecemeal. The value of the properties will be degraded if only the easily removable sections of playgrounds are salvaged. Some of the playgrounds are quite complex and a partially-salvaged facility would prove not only to be an eyesore but also a clean-up element for any potential purchaser. Therefore, if we were to engage in salvage operations, we would need a fairly complicated contractual arrangement whereby the party doing the salvage operation posted a bond to guarantee the ultimate clean-up of the entire playground facility.

Dr. Norbert J. Kennerknecht

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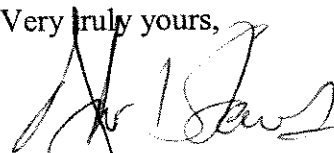
3. The party bidding on the unused school facility may enjoy a significant income tax advantage by acquiring the intact playground. A potential buyer of a school facility may choose to give away the playground to one of the charitable organizations that have posed requests to you. While the School District would enjoy no tax benefit by giving the unused playground equipment to these charitable groups, a potential buyer might well enjoy the tax advantages to be gained from making a charitable transfer of the playground equipment. Since some of the playgrounds were installed at a relatively high cost, the resulting tax benefit could be significant. This potential tax benefit might result in a higher bid from any party that can make use of such tax advantages. In preparing bid packages for the unused schools, we can note the interest in playground equipment and the potential tax benefits.

4. If you adopt my suggestion the District will also be saved the costs of putting together bid documents and advertising for the playground equipment.

In the short term, my recommendation will disappoint the groups who are interested in the playground equipment. However, my recommendation will maximize the opportunity for return to the District. Also, in the long term, the groups who have expressed interest to you will still be able to acquire the playground equipment from any party who purchases the unused school buildings and who has no use for that playground equipment.

The advice expressed in this letter does not reflect a legal mandate – please let the Board of School Directors know that they are free to disregard my advice.

Very truly yours,



Arthur J. Stewart

AJS:lag

cc: John Grant, Superintendent
Jacki Nuttall, Board President

RUSSELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

250 Route 62

Russell, Pennsylvania 16345-9799

Phone: 814-757-4507

FAX: 814-757-8776

Deborah H. Deppas

Principal

May 23, 2005

Mr. Richard Pascuzzi
Chairperson Physical Plant/Facilities Committee
Warren County School District
185 Hospital Drive
Warren, PA 16365

Dear Mr. Pascuzzi:

A committee, representing Russell Elementary School met on April 11, 2005 to begin pursuing the task of replacing the playground equipment at Russell Elementary School as there is a definite need for new equipment and additional activities for the students. Approximately 30 parents were in attendance. After additional meetings and a thorough selection process, we decided to pursue purchasing a sale playground from Gametime once adequate funding could be raised. In addition to the actual playground structure it is the hope of the playground committee to also install additional freestanding swings, a basketball court, a backstop, outdoor picnic tables, and benches. The Russell Elementary PTA Association will be fundraising and assuming all financial responsibility for this project.

During this process, we have begun to inquire about the existing playground equipment at both the North Warren Elementary School and the Jefferson Elementary School. It is our understanding that these structures will not remain with the buildings and will be disposed of separately. Both of these playgrounds are Gametime Playgrounds. After contacting the representative of Gametime, Dennis Bolitho of Bitting Recreation Inc., regarding the feasibility of relocating an existing Gametime structure, we have found that it would be both an economical and realistic alternative to purchasing a brand new structure for the Russell Elementary School. Mr. Bolitho indicated that both structures could be uninstalled from their existing locations and reinstalled at the Russell Elementary School with additional costs including a transitional piece to combine both structures in order to create a larger unified playground unit which would adequately meet the 100-150 student capacity, the uninstal/reassembly fees, new posts and other cemented-in end supports, and new hardware. Both structures have the identical color schemes and would complement each other nicely.

Both playgrounds have been purchased from Bitting Recreation Inc. by the respective school's PTA/PTO organizations and have become the property of the Warren County School District. These playgrounds were purchased with the intention of providing a safe and regulatory play facility for the students of the Warren County School District. Russell Elementary would like to see these playgrounds continue to serve the students of the Warren County School District.

We are asking the Warren County School District to consider permitting the Playground Equipment currently located at both the North Warren Elementary School and the Jefferson Elementary School to be relocated to the Russell Elementary School. In addition to the playground structures, we would also like to request the relocation of the freestanding swings at North Warren Elementary, the benches at both North Warren Elementary (2) and Jefferson Elementary (3), the picnic tables at Jefferson Elementary (3), the bike rack at Jefferson Elementary, and the rubber access ramp at Jefferson Elementary. We realize

Bridges & Goals

An Equal Rights and Opportunities School District

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the Jefferson Elementary playground equipment would not include the track ride that will be incorporated into the new structure at Warren Area Elementary School or the older wooden playground structure at Jefferson Elementary. Upon the Warren County School District authorizing this relocation, the Russell Elementary PTA will assume all costs associated with the relocation and additional parts required to place the equipment back into usable condition of all requested items and likewise, be the responsible party for making all arrangements and coordinating the relocation with both the Warren County School District and Bitting Recreation Inc.

This authorization would provide an immediate solution to our current need at Russell Elementary School. We have some funding set aside in our current PTA funds to help facilitate this project. It is our hope that the additional funding necessary to complete this relocation could be raised during the months of June – August 2005 and the equipment would be in usable condition for the Fall 2005 school year.

We realize that there have recently been significant funds (approximately \$200,000.00 or more) drawn through fundraising efforts from the Warren County community for the newer playgrounds located at various Warren County School District Schools. It is our hope that, if we are permitted to relocate these structures, the cost of such an event will minimize fundraising needs from the same organizations throughout Warren County.

Should the Warren County School District request a final financial quotation to relocate and place these structures in usable condition, we would be able to provide it with the assistance of Bitting Recreation Inc.

We appreciate your consideration in this matter and request this subject be addressed at the June 21st Physical Plant/Facilities Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Heather C Gray, PTA
Debra Deppas
Debra Deppas, Principal at Russell Elementary

Committee Members:

Heather & Richard Gray
Susan Yovich
Sandy Adams
Amy & William Harvey
Pam & Brian Kupchella
Kay & Randy Eadie
Teresa & Dan Nizzi
Susan Loutzenhiser
Kim Angove

Enclosures: Photographs of requested equipment to be relocated

Cc: Mr. John H. Grant, Superintendent
Dr. J. Hugh Dwyer, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Norbert J. Kennerknecht, Director of Buildings and Grounds Services
Mr. Kevin Freestone, Physical Plant/Facilities Committee
Mr. David Come, Physical Plant/Facilities Committee

Russell Volunteer Fire Department

PO Box 66
Russell, PA 16345

May 22, 2005

Dear Dr. Kennerknecht,

Werner Park located on Route 62 North in Pine Grove Township is owned and maintained by the Russell Volunteer Fire Department.

Currently we are in the process of upgrading the facilities at Werner Park and we would like to know if some of the playground equipment from the elementary schools that will soon be closed will become available.

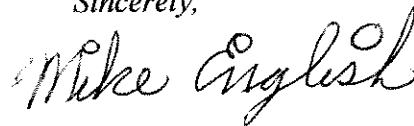
Is there a bid process or would the equipment be disposed of in some other manner?

We are especially interested in a swing set or possibly two swing sets depending on the size.

We may also be interested in any other playground equipment that would be available.

If you need to contact me, my phone number is 757-9276 or you can email me at knightcoach@kinzua.net.

Sincerely,



Mike English
Chairman, Werner Park

Bldgs & Grounds

MAY 24 2005

JAMES A ZAVINSKI JR

5 Church Street
North Warren Pa
726-3034
Jaz@westpa.net

May 18, 2005

Mrs. Deppas
Principal North Warren Elementary School

I am writing you in regard to the playground shed on school property. It is my understanding that the school district will be liquidating materials from all the elementary schools slated to be closed. I am interested in submitting a bid for the above mentioned shed. The shed itself has become somewhat of an eyesore since the art smart program streaked paint on it. It also serves as a place for teenagers to conceal themselves. I feel the neighborhood would benefit from it being removed from it's present location. I would like to use the shed for my children as a playhouse. My proposed bid would be \$50 for the shed. I consider this a fair price considering the doors will need replaced, the entire structure stained and possibly new roof shingles installed. I am unsure of the procedure that needs followed, but felt you would be a logical first contact. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
James Zavinski