



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Jim Ardis
Mayor

July 14, 2006

Council Members,

On Wednesday, July 12, we met with Peoria School District 150 Superintendent Ken Hinton, Treasurer Guy Cahill, and School Board President Dr. David Gorenz to discuss the site of the new community school in the Woodruff High School attendance area. We reiterated our desire that this new school incorporate the current Glen Oak School site.

We proposed a configuration of land parcels comprising approximately 10 acres. This is triple the acreage of the current school site and is the same acreage of the School District's proposed footprint at Glen Oak Park. Our configuration allows for the opportunity for future expansion, as well as synergy or partnerships with other social service agencies that wish to have an East Bluff presence. This configuration minimizes the impact on homeowners, as it includes a number of commercial parcels and empty lots.

The estimated market value of this configuration, using three times the assessed value, is approximately \$1.3 million. We indicated our willingness to seek City Council approval for contributing approximately \$500,000 to the purchase efforts, understanding that the School District still has approximately \$1 million in their site acquisition fund that can be used toward the purchase of this land. Through our own review and discussions with City Manager Oliver and Finance Director Scroggins, we identified certain funds budgeted but not yet expended in the 2006 Capital Budget that may be available for this purpose, as well as other funds that are reserved for limited purposes. We would not use any funds currently budgeted in the City's Operating Budget.

This offer of financial assistance to Peoria School District 150 is not unprecedented. Currently, the City provides the School District with approximately \$236,000 annually from the Southtown TIF for debt service associated with the Valeska Hinton School. The 2006 Capital Budget includes \$575,000 designated for the community school program, neighborhood school program, and the neighborhood school safe sidewalk program. Our operating budget includes over \$300,000 of costs for providing liaison officers, school crossing guards, and public safety education to the School District.



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We sincerely believe that our offer to assist Peoria School District 150 in retaining and strengthening its presence in the heart of the East Bluff neighborhood best serves the interests and welfare of students, parents, the neighborhood, and the community as a whole. We have demonstrated our commitment to assist Peoria School District 150 through our actions and tax dollars, and our recent offer is further evidence of our role as a strong partner.

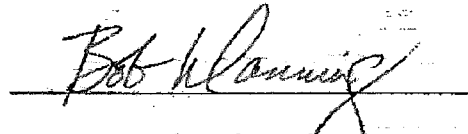
We hope that District 150's Administration and School Board give our offer serious and deliberate consideration. This is the first of a number of new school projects that the School District is planning, and it is essential that a positive and strong two-way partnership remains between the School District and the City of Peoria. We look forward to their comments, suggestions, and other ideas. We believe that there is enough common ground and public support to reach a reasonable solution.

By no means is this a signal that the City has the resources to be able to contribute to additional District 150 building projects. We feel there will be strong Council support for this initiative, due to the impact the new school will have on this neighborhood, which is in desperate need of community backing. As you know, the entire Council will have to discuss and approve any funding that may be made available for this project if the District is interested in the offer.

Thank you for your consideration.



Jim Ardis, Mayor



Robert Manning, Councilman

JA/BM/kc

City of Peoria
Activities Associated with Peoria School District 150

2006 Operating Cost Associated with Activities Relating to Peoria School District 150:

Four Liaison Officers provided at no cost to the School District	\$ 285,373
School Crossing Guards:	
Cost of providing school crossing guards	\$ 82,620 *
Amount charged to Peoria School District 150 for services provided	<u>\$ 68,000</u>
Net cost of providing school crossing guards to Peoria School District 150	\$ 14,620
Fire Prevention Efforts for District 150 Schools (Fire Safe House, Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest, Halloween Fun at the Firehouse, Fire Safety Presentations, Fire Drills, Fire Station Tours)	\$ 11,112
Total Operating Cost Associated with Activities Relating To Peoria School District 150	<u>\$ 311,105</u>

2006 Capital Cost Associated with Activities Relating to Peoria School District 150:

Community School Program	\$ 100,000
Neighborhood School Program	\$ 75,000
Neighborhood School Sidewalk Program	\$ 400,000
Total Capital Cost Associated with Activities Relating To Peoria School District 150	<u>\$ 575,000</u>

2006 Debt Cost Associated with Activities Relating to Peoria School District 150:

Southtown TIF - Valeski Hinton School	\$ 236,000
Total Debt Cost Associated with Activities Relating To Peoria School District 150	<u>\$ 236,000</u>
Total 2006 Cost Associated with Activities Relating To Peoria School District 150	<u>\$ 1,122,105</u>

* This is only the direct cost relating to crossing guards. This does not take into consideration the time provided by the Police Department's traffic division to oversee the operation as well as providing parking enforcement officers as back ups when school crossing guards are not available.