

December 21, 2007

Dear Dr. Gorenz

RE: Manual High School Restructuring Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of Education of Peoria Public Schools District 150 with recommendations that have been developed and submitted by members of the Manual High School sub committees. These recommendations were submitted to the Internal Committee for review, refinement, and configuration into a proposed model of school reform for Manual High School. We are very grateful for the time and effort that many members of our community donated regarding this very important effort.

We are also very thankful for the leadership of Sandra Burke, the Turnaround Facilitator for this effort. One of the responsibilities of the Turnaround Facilitator is to ensure that we follow the processes and plans that were presented in the What Works When Document which was approved by ISBE in the spring of 2007 as the restructuring plan guide for Manual High School. Working effectively with stakeholders meant creating opportunities for members of the sub committees to develop, reflect and discuss as necessary the recommendations around the proposed school reform being recommended for Manual. Consensus was sought and obtained from both Internal and External team members the week of December 17, 2007 regarding the recommendations that are being presented to you and the Board of Education.

In this communication are the following items: (1) Concept Recommendations, (2) Phased Approach to implementing concepts, (3) Relevant Attachments for your information. (4) Report from the external sub-committees. Item I-Concept Recommendations are researched-based and steeped in the latest school reform literature. Where appropriate school reform leaders are identified in and referenced. Item II is a recommended phased approach to implement the school reforms concepts for Manual. At this time we have settled on 4 phases which could be easily collapsed into 3. Item III has three documents. 1) a chart exemplifying the simplified conceptual framework for the Talent Development High School model which includes the structural elements of the model, supports and learning opportunities, as well as the mediating and performance outcomes; 2) an example of a proposed block student schedule; and 3) recommendations for students in special education (Dr. Mary O'Brian). Item IV includes Sub-committee reports from the external committee that address business partnerships, curriculum and technology, parent and community involvement; staffing administration and professional development, school climate and culture; and program evaluation.

While costs associated with this project are not included in this report, it is worth noting that the re-allocation of resources along with funding support from the budgets of Building & Grounds and the Educational Fund will enable us to effectively begin this

effort. If we are able to establish a partnership with the Talent Development High School group from Johns Hopkins in Phase II, they will assist the district in locating additional funds to implement the career academies in Phase II. Initial components impacting cost will be a longer school day, longer school year (5 days) staffing, professional development, and facility renovation. The following funding streams have been identified to support the restructuring of Manual: Title I, Title II, Title V, Building & Grounds, and the Education Fund.

Sincerely,

Dr. Herschel A. Hannah, Jr.
Associate Superintendent

HH/prs
Cc: Ken Hinton