

Lawrence Public Schools USD 497  
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CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE  
LAWRENCE, KS



September 18, 2017

Leslie Soden, Mayor  
Tom Markus, City Manager  
City of Lawrence  
6 East Sixth Street  
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Leslie and Tom,

Lawrence Public Schools value our strong relationship with the City of Lawrence and the collaborative spirit in which we work as partners to meet community needs. USD 497 is excited to promote the economic vitality of our community at-large and our neighborhoods by remodeling, expanding and enhancing our secondary schools. The Lawrence community assertively expressed its preference for neighborhood schools by supporting a \$92.5 million bond issue in 2013 to improve all of our school buildings with an emphasis on updating older elementary facilities in central and east Lawrence. In May, the community overwhelmingly approved an \$87 million bond issue for secondary school improvements, including a major focus on modernizing Lawrence High School, a 63-year-old building.

The Lawrence Board of Education desires to spend as much money as possible from this bond issue on students by transforming the community's historic school buildings into modern facilities and creating 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environments with technology enhancements. The plans for these improvements are developing into exciting, student-focused schools. We hope we can count on the city's continued partnership to see these plans through to fruition for the benefit of the entire community. One of the many examples of ways the school district and city collaborate is through public use of school facilities.

We appreciate that city officials have assisted the school district in initial conversations regarding plans for these school improvements. As part of that pre-planning process, it has been determined that, according to city regulations, it will cost the school district an estimated \$180,000 in permit fees to proceed with these projects. We want to be good partners and follow city processes for conducting plan reviews, issuing permits, inspecting the construction, and issuing certificates of occupancy. I'm writing on behalf of the school board to request the city waive half of the permit fees for the \$87 million in bond construction projects approved by our community. This would be a similar arrangement the city and school district agreed to in September of 2014 for the final six projects of the 2013 bond issue.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. The entire community benefits when governmental entities work in partnership and when bond issue dollars can be maximized to improve public schools and support students. We would be happy to discuss this issue further as needed.

Sincerely,

  
Shannon Kimball  
USD 497 Board President

  
Anna Stubblefield  
USD 497 Interim Superintendent