



March 26, 2014

Dave Corliss, City Manager
City of Lawrence
6 East Sixth Street
Lawrence, KS 66044

RECEIVED

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CITY MANAGERS OFFICE
LAWRENCE, KS

Dear Dave,

USD 497 values its strong relationship with the City of Lawrence and the collaborative spirit in which we work as partners to meet community needs. The school district is excited to promote the economic vitality of our community and its neighborhoods by remodeling, expanding and enhancing neighborhood schools. The Lawrence community assertively expressed its preference for neighborhood schools by rejecting efforts to close more schools and supporting a \$92.5 million school bond issue last spring.

The Lawrence Board of Education desires to spend as much as possible from this bond issue on students by transforming the community's older school buildings into modern facilities and creating 21st century learning environments with technology enhancements. Plans for these improvements are developing into exciting, student-focused schools. We hope to count on the city's continued partnership to see these plans to fruition for the benefit of the community. One of the many ways the district and city currently collaborate is through public use of school facilities. As you know, we welcome Lawrence Parks and Recreation programs into schools at no charge to the city.

The school district, like KU, is not bound to city construction code review. We do, however, want to be good neighbors and plan to follow city processes for site approval and inspections. According to K.S.A. 31-150, the city may provide pre-construction code review and enforcement, but only to codes currently recognized by the Kansas State Fire Marshal. The Kansas Supreme Court ruled on this in *Schneider vs. City of Kansas City*, dealing with a KU Medical School project.

We appreciate that city officials have assisted the district in initial plans for school improvements. As part of that pre-planning process, it has been determined that, according to city regulations, it will cost the district an estimated \$280,000 in building permit fees to proceed. This is \$280,000 that can't be spent on students. I'm writing on behalf of the school board to request that the city waive building permit fees for the school construction projects. Like KU, USD 497 is an educational institution, seeking to spend public monies to educate kids.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to waive permit fees. The community benefits when bond dollars improve schools and support students. I'm happy to discuss this with you and/or help facilitate a discussion between the city commission and school board as needed.

Sincerely,

Rick Doll,
Superintendent

Provided by USD #497

Site	Building Permit Fee
College & Career Center	18,209
Kennedy	21,093
Free State	11,785
Lawrence High	12,077
Schwegler	10,023
Deerfield	12,598
Hillcrest	23,500
Cordley	25,500
Langston Hughes	9,500
Sunset Hill	32,000
Pinckney	20,000
New York	20,000
Woodlawn	10,000
South	2,674
LMCMS	10,829
West	7,517
Southwest	3,312
Quail Run	8,972
Sunflower	10,370
Broken Arrow	6,673
Prairie Park	7,398
TOTAL	284,030