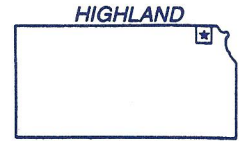




**CITY OF HIGHLAND**  
220 WEST MAIN  
HIGHLAND, KANSAS 66035



May 14, 2015

USD #111 Board of Education  
c/o Supt. Rex Bollinger  
202 W Illinois  
Highland, Kansas 66035

Re: USD#111 Highland, Kansas Grade/Primary School Buildings  
Union Square/City Park (Blocks 57 & 58)  
1961 Lease – 99 Years

To the Board of Education:

This will acknowledge the recent decision of the USD #111 board of education to close the above-referenced buildings per Kansas school law, along with the May 12 brief meeting of officials from the school and city in response thereto. The city council, considering the importance of these matters to the community, met in special session to review these matters and to provide the board with the result of this meeting.

The following represents the unanimous opinion of both myself and the entire council:

1. The 1961 lease was entered into between the City of Highland, the owner of the real estate, and school district #61 and was, thereafter, succeeded to by unified school districts #425 and #111. During said time period, the area reserved in the lease as a “city park” was, as well, turned over to the school.
2. At the time of the lease, it was never contemplated that usage of the building by the school would terminate; as such, the document fails to contain detailed provisions as to the consequences of closing the building, as has occurred.
3. At the same time, there is a requirement that the building be used for “school purposes”, including playgrounds and other school-related functions. Furthermore, it does refer to the right and responsibility of the district for the addition of structures, the repair of structures and the removal of structures, as constructed by the lessee.
4. It is the opinion of the city that the school district retains full possession of, and responsibility for, said real estate and buildings, including the removal of structures, if required, and the return of the premises to its original condition, before and until such lease is terminated.

USD #111 Board of Education

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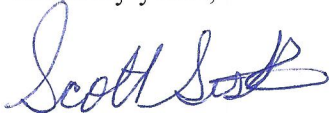
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5. Schools are a critical element of the fabric of a small town. It is the opinion of the city that the existing structures retain potential value for school-related purposes, and perhaps additional functional, economic uses, and that all such potential uses, now or in the future, should be fully explored prior to removal.
6. The city, of course, does not want to see these buildings fall into a state of dilapidation or disrepair; however, we are of the opinion that the dismantling and/or demolition of the existing structures in the short term is not prudent, nor is it in the best interests of the city, the district or this community.
7. Accordingly, the city is willing to continue the lease, and work with the school district, for a reasonable, indefinite period of time, to allow for a mutual, thorough and complete determination and review of the most appropriate manner in which to proceed in the best interests of all concerned.
8. During our recent brief meeting, the district suggested that both entities appoint committees to undertake a review for the possible uses of these buildings, subject to the further study, review and decisions of each governing body. The city agrees with that suggestion and has appointed a committee consisting of the mayor and two council members for this purpose, along with the consultation of the city attorney.

Please contact the city clerk at Highland city hall (785-442-3765) to make arrangements for scheduling meetings to move forward. We look forward to working with the district in serving the best interests of our respective constituents.

Sincerely yours,



Scott Sisk

Mayor, City of Highland