

November 11, 2022

Jill Lofald, School Board Chair
Duluth Public Schools
4316 Rice Lake Rd., Suite 108
Duluth, MN 55811

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Office of the Superintendent

Dear Ms. Lofald,

The Denfeld Historical Organ Restoration and Preservation Alliance is a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the state of Minnesota and is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. DHORPA was formed to complete the restoration of the George Kilgen and Sons hybrid classical pipe organ installed in the Denfeld High School Auditorium. For the past year DHORPA's Board of Directors and advisors has laid groundwork to make this one-of-a-kind instrument sing again. We have registered the organ's historic value with the Organ Historical Society and are presently working with the Minnesota Historical Society to help fund a Conservation Assessment, Condition Report, Treatment Plan, and Total Restoration Cost Estimate. Once this assessment and cost estimate are complete, DHORPA will seek bids from reputable organ builders for the complete project. We are also working on plans for a major capital campaign to include individual donors, local businesses, foundations, and corporations.

The George Kilgen and Sons organ is important to Duluth, the surrounding area, and the state of Minnesota as one of only two pipe organs installed in Minnesota high schools, Denfeld and Hibbing. Our board and advisors include a professional organ builder, a professor of organ, local organists, educators, professional grant writers and fundraisers, a legal advisor, Denfeld staff and others from the community, including many Denfeld graduates. Our brochure is Included with this letter listing the board members and advisors, DHORPA's mission statement, a brief history of the organ, and a funding appeal.

DHORPA's goal is to have the organ completely restored in time for the 100th anniversary of the 1927 organ installation and dedication concert. It is also the goal of the Denfeld Historic Organ Restoration and Preservation Alliance to use this instrument to bring hope and vision to the entire community of Duluth, and the surrounding communities and beyond. This one-of-a-kind instrument will provide musical performances by students and professionals alike as well as provide another local resource for individual student lessons. Other areas of learning will include design, physics and engineering, electrical work and carpentry, metal work, and provide an example of fine hand craftsmanship.

DHORPA requests that the Duluth School District and School Board formally recognize DHORPA as the legal and responsible entity for the Denfeld Auditorium George Kilgen and Sons pipe organ, its complete restoration, security, and its continued preservation and maintenance.

Sincerely,


Carol M. Donahue, Chair

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Restoration & Preservation Alliance
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Cc: Duluth Schools Superintendent John Magas, Denfeld Principal Tom Tusken, Steve Overom, DHORPA legal advisor