



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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TO: Dr. Albert G. Roberts, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Therese M. O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations

RE: Attorney General – Accessibility Complaint #2013-DRC-4805

DATE: December 16, 2014

On July 25, 2014, District 97 was in receipt of an official accessibility complaint specific to Hatch Elementary School (please see enclosed complaint letter and supporting documentation). Upon receipt of such complaint, I was in contact with our legal counsel. Our legal counsel requested a meeting with the District's architectural firm, STR Partners; Michael Padavic, Senior Director of Special Services; the principal of Hatch Elementary School, Sheila Carter; the Senior Director of Buildings & Grounds, Norman Lane, and me.

We actually conducted several meetings with the above group of individuals including Jennifer Costanzo of STR Partners, and a representative from a recommended engineering firm that consults with STR Partners. It was determined that District 97 first had to evaluate the validity of the complaint, which was done and, in fact, all components of the claim were verified. Secondly, recognizing that comparable work had also been done at Lincoln, Longfellow & Whittier Schools, with authority from you, we requested STR Partners to review, evaluate and determine if any similar violations presented themselves at these three schools. This too was done and violations were identified.

Attached is an individual cost sheet for each of the four schools, along with sketches identifying proposed work to be done. Specific to Hatch, these sketches had to be first forwarded to the Attorney General's office for review and acceptance and, as of this past Monday, have been approved.

Briefly, some of the sidewalk panels at Lincoln need to be removed and then lengthening of the existing ramp will be completed; at Longfellow, the existing ramp and sidewalk need to be removed and replaced; at Whittier, removal and replacement of some of the sidewalk needs to occur while maintaining the existing ramp. Clearly the work at Hatch is the most extensive: it includes upgrading a portion of the existing parking lot assuring the slopes are aligned with ADA requirements, striping and the addition of another parking stall needs to occur. The ramp leading up to the entrance needs to be completely removed, all concrete needs to be removed, the sidewalk needs to be reinstalled and then the addition of two more steps will be done to create a switch back accessible ramp.

While only Hatch was cited, it seems prudent for the District to address all of this work in a singular package. Total estimated cost is \$202,340 (\$143,400 for the actual work + \$36,000 set aside for General Conditions & Contingency [which may not be incurred] + \$22,940 for architectural fees. The architectural fees may appear high but because the scope of the work is relatively a small dollar amount, the District is charged on "a time and material" basis rather than a flat percentage.

This work was previously reviewed by FAC back in September but once again reviewed at their meeting this past Tuesday evening, December 9. FAC fully supports the work being done, not only at Hatch but at the other three schools (Lincoln, Longfellow & Whittier).

Because the type of work required to address these accessibility issues is completely different than our other summer Capital Project work, this project will be a stand-alone bid package. We need to get this into the hands of our architectural firm now so that appropriate specifications can be prepared and this project let for bid within a similar time table as our Capital Project work.

tmo

attachments (2 sets of documents)

**cc: James Levi – Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Roddick & Kohn
Christopher Hoffman – Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Roddick & Kohn**