

ITASCA SCHOOL DISTRICT 10

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
200 N. MAPLE ST.
ITASCA, IL 60143-1722
(630) 773-1232 Fax (630) 773-1342

April 7, 2021

Subject: Testimony to Plan Commission

Dear Itasca District 10 Parents,

Once again, I want to start by thanking everyone for your partnership this year as we have navigated a school year during a global pandemic. It is a year none of us will ever forget but I am thankful we continue to work through this together.

In an effort to keep you informed and ensure that you have accurate information, I wanted to share with you that I am providing testimony to the Itasca Plan Commission tonight. The testimony document and news release will also be loaded to the district website (www.itasca10.org).

During the hearing testimony, I will share District 10 Goals and Mission which call for us to serve all children and hi-light our strong commitment to students with disabilities. This is our culture as a school community and is reflected in the ISBE School Report Card. It is also evident in our commitment to provide both in-person and remote instruction during the pandemic.

The main focus of my testimony will be centered around the adverse economic impact of the proposed development at 860 W. Irving Park Road and the potential safety impact on the schools in our school district. Under varying circumstances, the children of patients at the facility may be eligible to attend Itasca District 10 schools as governed by several laws including residency guidelines, IDEA and the McKinney-Vento homeless law. This would result in additional costs to the school district.

I also will share details about our strong relationship between District 10 and the Itasca Police and Fire departments. One concern being shared is regarding the potential for services at the proposed development, which could impact response time for emergency situations at any of our three schools. In addition, District 10 benefits from both departments being highly involved in our education programs for students through classroom and school-wide presentations and other connections. An additional concern is if that would continue given the potential impact on the police and fire resources.

ITASCA SCHOOL DISTRICT 10

Given all of these concerns, it is important to appreciate our district goals call for fiscal responsibility as our commitment to this directly impacts the quality of education for both current and future students. The existing proposal is economically adverse to our students and the district.

It is not the role of the school district to endorse or sanction proposed developments. However, it is our responsibility to indicate the economic and safety impacts of this proposal on the school district to the Itasca Plan Commission. The economic impact of such a large facility on a small school district is significant and adverse.

I hope this email helps you understand the purpose and focus of my testimony as I know it can be difficult to keep track of all the information related to the proposed development. Once again the District's testimony will be posted on the D10 website (www.itasca10.org).

Sincerely,

Craig Benes, Superintendent



RAYMOND BENSON PRIMARY
301 E. WASHINGTON ST.
ITASCA, IL 60143-2159
(630) 773-0554
Fax (630) 285-7474

ELMER H. FRANZEN INTERMEDIATE
730 N. CATALPA ST.
ITASCA, IL 60143-1465
(630) 773-0100
Fax (630) 285-7468

F.E. PEACOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL
301 E. NORTH ST.
ITASCA, IL 60143-1620
(630) 773-0335
Fax (630) 285-7460