



THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS

August 29, 2009

Dr. David Gearhart, Chancellor
University of Arkansas
ADMN 425
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Dr. Bobby New, Superintendent
Fayetteville School District
P.O. Box 849
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Dear Dr. New and Dr. Gearhart,

I have been following the dialogue concerning the location of the proposed new high school with great interest. While most of us at the City feel that it is not our place to try and dictate where a new high school should be located, we certainly think that we can, and should, be working for the benefit of the Fayetteville School District, the University of Arkansas, the citizens, parents and students of the district. It is in the best interest of the City to have state of the art, 21st Century schools for our kids.

Since the University withdrew its offer to purchase the existing site followed by the school board decision against a counter offer, it appears that the discussion of land and construction of a new building are limited to the existing site. While I certainly do not have all the answers, I would like to offer a suggestion that I hope can be helpful.

If our city staff and I can help facilitate an exchange of ideas focusing on the existing site, it may be possible to come to a favorable conclusion where the District, the University, and the City may all come out ahead. I see possibilities in such things as:

- 1 altering our existing street layout to increase available land for construction and to improve mobility for both the U. of A. and school district
- 2 sharing parking and public transit, planning specific routes for our trails system for bicycles and pedestrian traffic for both high school and university students
- 3 resolving long-standing issues with university game day traffic
- 4 sharing sports facilities
- 5 sharing educational facilities
- 6 sharing usage of the Walton Arts Center Baum Walker Hall to keep from having to build an expensive performing arts hall.
- 7 Improving 6th Street (MLK Blvd.) to make it a much more safe, convenient, and attractive corridor for high school and university traffic, and to our Walton Arts Center, Dickson St., and entertainment district patrons

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- 8 Collaborating with the University's Applied Sustainability Center and City's Sustainability division to develop a plan that promotes the local sustainability movement and help the school district, the City and the University design and build a progressive, energy efficient project

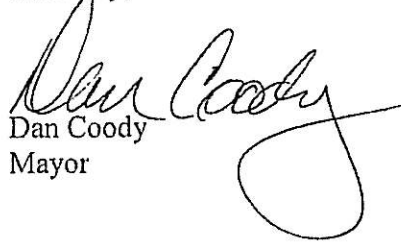
I am not sure how the logistics may work to remodel or build a new school at the existing site, however, I am optimistic that we can work together to find solutions to this problem.

If you would like, I would be very pleased to tap our planning department to help in the facilitation of a public discussion on the design and infrastructure needs for a new high school. After the successes of our Downtown Master Plan, the 2025 Plan, and Walker Park Plan, I believe we could help bring together the district's architects, representatives of both the Build Smart and Student's First organizations, the University, and city engineering and planning staffs, the school board, the city council, and the public to see if we can't resolve this issue. I am certain that we can. Also, I am sure that if a decision can be reached that satisfies most people, a campaign to approve funding for a much-needed new school would stand a much higher chance for success.

We appreciate all the good work both the Fayetteville School District and the University of Arkansas do for us. I look forward to doing whatever I can to help develop a cohesive, holistic, plan for the area and for the future of the school.

Please let me know if there is any way we can be of service to you.

Sincerely,


Dan Coody
Mayor