RCVD 09NOV'09 08:37

STUDENTS STAFF PARENTS COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64 PARK RIDGE-NILES

164 S. Prospect Avenue Park Ridge, IL 60068-4079 (847) 318-4300 FAX (847) 318-4351 www.d64.org

November 4, 2009

Mr. James Keefer
Manager, Chicago Airports District Office
Federal Aviation Administration
2300 E. Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Dear Mr. Keefer:

School District 64 has learned of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) decision to remove Carpenter Elementary School from the funding eligibility list for sound abatement insulation. This information was announced – to our complete surprise – at the September 11, 2009 O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission (ONCC) meeting.

Our Board of Education and the entire Park Ridge-Niles community are shocked and extremely disappointed to hear that this long-anticipated project at Carpenter School will not be funded as planned.

Carpenter School was added to the eligibility list in 2004. It was officially recognized in ONCC Resolution 2005-1. All the other schools – eight of them – named to that eligibility list in 2005 have since received sound insulation funding. Carpenter School was ninth.

Please consider these facts:

- The children attending Carpenter School right now are currently experiencing – and will continue to experience – very high noise levels that can affect the quality of their learning.
- The FAA made a good-faith commitment to fund sound insulation for Carpenter School almost six years ago. We have waited patiently on the eligibility list all this time, while all the other projects were completed ahead of us.
- It is unfair and misguided to change the rules for Carpenter, just because it was numbered ninth on the list.
- The decision is based on a computer model – *not field measurements* – of the *predicted* sound level conditions that *might* exist based on *anticipated* runway configurations and conditions when the O'Hare project is eventually completed many years from now, *if* the schedule does not shift.
- This is an unprecedented action. The FAA has never removed a school placed on its approved funding list.

Therefore, we request that the FAA honor its long-standing commitment to fund sound insulation at Carpenter School *before it applies any new standards to new candidates for funding*. Furthermore, we understand that our neighbors at Elk Grove High School and Ridgewood High School also have been removed from approved lists as well, and encourage their efforts to be reinstated.

The FAA has been very supportive in the past of the school sound insulation program. We appreciate that commitment. We only ask that you continue this close cooperation, so that the quality of the educational environment can be preserved for our elementary school students at Carpenter School.

We look forward to an early response of how the FAA intends to resolve this critical issue at Carpenter School, which affects the entire Park Ridge-Niles community.

Sincerely,

Sally Pryor, Ed.D.
Superintendent

cc: Sen. Richard Durbin
Rep. Jan Schakowsky
Rep. Peter Roskam
Mayor David F. Schmidt
Ald. Don Bach
ONCC