

Paintsville Independent Schools

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July 26, 2012

Terry Holliday, Ph. D.,
Commissioner of Education
Kentucky Department of Education
Capital Plaza Tower
500 Mero Street
Frankfort, KY 40601

**RE: BG 12-099 PAINTSVILLE IND. PAINTSVILLE ELEM.
RENOVATION/ADDITION - REQUEST FOR WAIVER**

Dear Dr. Holliday,

We, at Paintsville, appreciate the leadership you have provided to the school districts of Kentucky during your tenure. Your drive for continuous improvement is refreshing and we look forward to the continued progress of public education under your stewardship. We realize the implementation of Senate Bill 1 and restructuring the federal accountability model for the state has been taxing and time consuming. However, we have no doubt the end result will be positive for the students of this great commonwealth.

The Paintsville Board of Education also has a desire to create positive changes for the students under their care. One of the ways they are trying to bring this about is through our current renovation project on the campus of Paintsville Elementary. After the Board approved a preliminary schematic design, a meeting was scheduled yesterday July 25 to review the plan with Tim Lucas of KDE. During the review it was discovered that the plan met the model program and the requirements of 702 KAR 4:160 for elementary schools similar in size to Paintsville Elementary except for the multi-purpose room. Because of this finding, we are formally requesting a waiver to be granted by the Commissioner to continue with the desired plan. If you feel necessary, we have submitted this proposal at an early stage for inclusion on the August State Board agenda.

This multi-purpose room (net program area of approximately 6,000 sq. ft) will not only meet the needs of elementary students, but it will also enhance programs for middle and high school students in our district. The following list includes just some of the benefits of this proposed multi-purpose space:

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

"We think children first"

Paintsville Independent Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.



MEMBER SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION
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- **District Use**

1. Essentially the elementary gym becomes the MS/HS auxiliary gym for after school activities for practice and games (Elementary & Middle/High School campuses are located within a close proximity -1/2 a city block- students travel during and after the school day to participate in shared district programs such as band, gifted/talented, etc...)
2. With the MS/HS using this gym there is not opportunity for the Elementary students to use the gym
3. After school activities run late into the evening, ending sometimes at 9:30pm due to lack of space
4. This makes it difficult for students to finish activities and get home to do homework and rest for next day's activities.

- **Title IX** The Proposed Multi-Purpose Room as designed has a volleyball court striped on the floor for the High School and Middle School volleyball teams to use for practice and possibly games, to provide adequate facilities

- **Economic Sense**

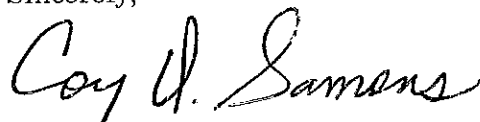
1. Construction of a Multi-Purpose Room for the elementary students to use after hours at the elementary is a more economical solution, rather than constructing a second gym at the MS/HS building (if land were available)
2. Size and finishes of the Multi-Purpose Room geared toward the elementary use
3. The Multipurpose space can be part of the overall larger project, including other additions and renovation.

- **Arts & Physical Activities**

1. Provide space for drama and dance program practice and performance
2. Provide adequate and safe space for implementation of the National Archery in the Schools Program
3. Provide additional performance space for the Band and Choral Programs K-12
4. Provide adequate space for elementary youth sports programs
5. Provide additional space for our 21st Century After School Program

We wish to thank you in advance for your consideration. If your office has additional questions or concerns about this waiver request please feel free to contact me at any time. My cell phone number is 606 793 3909.

Sincerely,


Coy D. Samons