

17.



City of West Allis Matter Summary

7525 W. Greenfield Ave.
West Allis, WI 53214

File Number	Title	Status
2006-0326	Communication	In Committee
Communication from Kurt Wachholz, Superintendent of West Allis-West Milwaukee, et al. School District, regarding Annual West Allis Park Assessment.		
Introduced: 5/16/2006		Controlling Body: Administration & Finance Committee

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

approval with 3-yr inflationation

ACTION DATE:	MOVER	SECONDER		AYE	NO	PRESENT	EXCUSED
<u>MAY 16 2006</u>			Barczak	✓			
			Czaplewski	✓			
			Dobrowski				
			Kopplin				
		J	Lajsic	✓			
			Narlock				
			Reinke	✓			
			Sengstock				
			Vitale				
		J	Weigel	✓			
			TOTAL	5	0		

SIGNATURE OF COMMITTEE MEMBER

[Signature]
Chair

Vice-Chair

Member

COMMON COUNCIL ACTION

APPROVAL

ACTION DATE:	MOVER	SECONDER		AYE	NO	PRESENT	EXCUSED
<u>MAY 16 2006</u>			Barczak	✓			
			Czaplewski	✓			
			Dobrowski				✓
			Kopplin	✓			
			Lajsic	✓			
			Narlock	✓			
			Reinke	✓			
			Sengstock	✓			
			Vitale	✓			
			Weigel	✓			
			TOTAL	9	0		1

EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION CENTER

School District of West Allis - West Milwaukee, et al.

9333 West Lincoln Avenue • West Allis • Wisconsin • 53227-2395
(414) 604-3000 Fax (414) 546-5795



TO: Mayor Jeannette Bell
City Administrator Paul Ziehler
City of West Allis Common Council

FROM: Superintendent Kurt Wachholz *KW*
School District of West Allis - West Milwaukee

RE: Annual West Allis Park Assessment

DATE: April 24, 2006

On behalf of the West Allis-West Milwaukee School District, I would like to thank the City of West Allis for their cooperation and partnership as we work together to improve services for our constituencies. This continues to be especially important during the current very fiscally challenging times for both of our governmental bodies. We have accomplished much over the past three years that has benefited the students and residents of the School District and our community.

As we have discussed for the last two years, in addition to serving the same constituents, the District and City both operate under significant revenue restraints. However, the difference is that the revenue cap imposed on school districts in 1993 has been much more restrictive.

West Allis-West Milwaukee School District revenue shortfalls since the 1993 school year have amounted to over \$14 million. This has resulted in continued program and service reduction, as well as infrastructure cuts. Currently, we are anticipating another \$1.6 million reduction for the 2006-2007 school year. In the past, we have met these shortfalls by closing schools, increasing class sizes, eliminating elective courses, reducing staff positions, combining athletic teams and classroom grade levels, trimming services, etc. These and other reduction and elimination decisions unfortunately do not benefit the West Allis children or the community. Our challenges continue as uncontrollable costs and unfunded mandates rise.

We are, however, committed to continue to staff City parks and offer community-based programs from pre-school age to senior citizens at School District expense. Besides community classes for all ages, athletic leagues and venues, and wellness/activity programs, other examples include the District serving as an active partner in the Celebration Committee, Independence Day parade and festivity coordination and implementation, National Night Out, CAAD, etc. We also offer our facilities as polling places for city use.

RECEIVED

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CITY OF WEST ALLIS
CLERK/TREASURER

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In addition, we do provide significant financial reimbursement annually to the City of West Allis. An example of this is the police liaison program. For the 2005-2006 school year, the amount will be \$125,000 and for the 2006-2007 school year it will be \$150,000. The District is also charged upwards of \$45,000 a year to lease City parks that the District staffs on behalf of the community.

In November of 2004, the School District presented a proposal that would alleviate the District from paying an approximate \$45,000 annual rental fee for City parks. The proposal came after approximately 1.5 years of informal discussion. At that time, the City requested and the District agreed to table the request until this winter. Therefore, at this time, the School District is formally restating the following request:

Waiver of the annual fee structure assessed by the City of West Allis to the School District of West Allis-West Milwaukee for use of the City Parks beginning with the 2006-2007 school year.

The rationale for this request centers on the fact that the District provides staffing and programs for the parks as a service to the City and its residents. For many years, the School District has shouldered, without complaint or remuneration, costs related to elections, the staffing of City parks and playgrounds, park rental fees, the coordination and staffing of such major events such as Independence Day, the City Celebrations, National Night Out, Family New Years Eve, and CAAD events, among others. In addition, the District has a long history of providing the free use of its facilities for a variety of activities, including Neighborhood Watch groups. Unfortunately, due to increased financial constraints, we are requesting relief of some of this financial burden through the waiver relief request.

Several years ago the City made a conscious decision to move to a fee structure for services provided to the School District. Last year our records show that we reimbursed the City over \$25,000 for additional miscellaneous expenses. The School District respects and understands this action. The effects of over 10 years of revenue caps to its educational program have now taken their toll on the District. We must now take a similar approach.

We hope that you will find our request fair and equitable. We strongly feel that The City of West Allis and the School District of West Allis-West Milwaukee accomplish much when we work together in the spirit of cooperation. Together, through meaningful dialogue and collaboration, we can achieve much more to and for our shared constituents.