



## **Unified School District 247 Southeast**

**506 S. Smelter St. Cherokee, KS 66724**

***Home of the Lancers***

**Ph. 620-457-8350 Fax 620-457-8428**

**Dr. Glenn Fortmayer, Ph.D. Superintendent**



15 July 2014

Dear Mr. Gaven Stewart & McCune City Council Members,

The USD 247 Southeast Board of Education has by consensus directed me to respond to your letter dated July 9, 2014. The Board Members appreciate the opportunity for the Southeast School District and the City of McCune to communicate regarding the status of the former McCune School property. The BOE thanks the McCune City Council for understanding the financial pressures that forced the BOE to make the extremely difficult decisions that have occurred.

The leadership of USD 247 likewise wants to assure the McCune City Council and all members of the community that the USD 247 BOE does fully understand the important community roles that the facility plays for the City of McCune. The BOE has expressed and continues to express formally through this letter, and will reinforce through BOE action at the August 11, 2014 USD 247 BOE meeting; that the facility has always and will remain accessible to the the City of McCune for the following, not all inclusive, purposes for as long as USD 247 holds title of the property:

- 1) 24/7 Access to "Storm Shelter" (USD 247 does not warrant the facility as having any specific protection rating, use of the facility for any such storm protection purpose is unsolicited by USD 247 and voluntary by users)
- 2) McCune Alumni Homecoming Reunion and Banquet Activities
- 3) McCune Lions Club Fall Festival Activities
- 4) Homecoming Community-wide Church Service

The USD 247 Board of Education is seeking to assist the McCune community with its goals of having an affordable "Municipal Facility" to house the City Hall, Municipal Court, Maintenance Department, and Recreational Department. Recognizing the significant costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the facility, USD 247 is offering to lease the portions of the facility that the city would actually need to achieve its goals and thus save the City of McCune money by the remainder of the facility still being paid for and used by the district. A lease arrangement would accomplish all goals for both the City of McCune and the District while also creating a mutually beneficial relationship.

The USD 247 Board is proposing the following in regards to the property:

- 1) The McCune City Council develop and communicate through a written proposal a detailed indication of the portions of the building and of the property that the City wishes to lease.
- 2) The BOE will review the proposal and formulate a lease offer to the City Council. The BOE still needs to make a unified decision on the lease offer and the details of such offer, but each of the individual members understand that the lease payment has to be at an affordable payment level to be beneficial for the City of McCune.

Continued next page

There are also several different cost cutting measures that can be explored by the City of McCune and USD 247 through inter-agency agreements. The combining or sharing of resources and services could lead to more efficient and possibly expanded services and cost savings.

The USD 247 Board of Education desires for this arrangement to truly be a win-win for the City of McCune and the district. The lease arrangement prevents the city from having to pay maintenance, repairs, utilities, insurance, and many other costly expenses on parts of the property that would not be used by the city offices listed in the Council's letter. All of the goals of having an affordable "Municipal Center," Recreation Department and facilities, city playground and walking track etc. would be obtained by the city. The district would continue the maintenance and use of the portions of the buildings and property not used by the city. Inter-Agency agreements could assist the city in not having to hire or contract personnel or vendors to support the facility and reduce other costs.

In closing, it is the sincerest hope of the USD 247 Board of Education members that this lease arrangement will convey that the City of McCune is a valued sister community within the district and the success of this lease arrangement is critical to both the City of McCune and USD 247.

Respectfully,

Dr. Glenn A. Fortmayer, Ph.D