



Joyce Carmine, Ed. D.
Superintendent

PARK FOREST - CHICAGO HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 163

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10342

August 14, 2008

Thomas K. Mick
Village Manager
Village of Park Forest

Dear Mr. Mick:

Thank you for the opportunity to express the needs of Park Forest School District 163 with regard to the EJ& E Railroad issue.

The increase in train routes over the EJ&E Railroad will be a tremendous burden upon the school district to transport our children in a timely fashion to our neighborhood schools. Currently, we have a total of 17 regular school bus routes that cross the EJ&E Railroad on a daily basis. In addition, will also have numerous after school programs that will utilize this railroad crossing once the school year commences. In District 163, we do not keep our students on the bus for more than an hour. With the increase in the number of trains at this crossing, our times will increase to close to this hour limit which may mean that we would have to add on additional routes to maintain the hour time limit.

The increase of train routes will also pose a hardship for Administrators, the School Nurse and teachers who regularly travel between buildings for meetings, classes and emergencies. School District 163 has one school nurse which serves all district schools, delays at the railroad crossing could result in a life-threatening situation. Furthermore, any emergency requiring ambulance service could result in a life-threatening situation.

Additionally, I have contacted the Kickert Bus Company who serves the following districts: District 162, 170, Bloom and Rich East. These districts also utilize the EJ&E Railroad crossings with a total of 29 more bus routes.

I am aware that we are able to utilize the viaduct on Orchard to avoid this crossing, however, this route is then utilized by the whole community; which will still impose a hardship on travel for all of students and staff to reach their destination in a timely fashion.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our needs with you on this important issue. Should you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jeanette C. Kreuz
Business Manager

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