

Norridge School District 80
8151 W. Lawrence Avenue
Norridge, Illinois 60706
708-583-2068

Inspiring Educational Excellence in a Nurturing Environment

November 8, 2017

Mr. James Prather
Rhodes Elementary School
8931 Fullerton Avenue
River Grove, IL 60171

Mr. Prather:

The Norridge School District 80 Board of Education (hereinafter, the Board) and administration are committed to inspire educational excellence through a nurturing environment by enhancing our programs with greater learning opportunities for *all* students. The district has worked tirelessly to build greater capacity at each grade level where one special education teacher is solely dedicated to service our students in district. Furthermore, I wanted to remind you that the Norridge School District 80 Board of Education passed a *Resolution Regarding Special Education Services* and, per your request, a letter clarifying our concerns (attached).

As stated in our most recent letter, the Board passed a resolution as follows (attached):

Administration is hereby charged to investigate the special education services currently provided to the District and to report and/or make recommendations to the Board of Education with regard to:

- 1. The cost of special education services provided inside and outside the District to its students with IEPs.*
- 2. Expanding or reducing any services provided in-District.*
- 3. The academic performance of the District's students with IEPs.*
- 4. Options for revising the District's relationship with LASEC.*
- 5. Improving the services and delivery thereof to the District's students with IEPs*

Furthermore, the administration on behalf of the Board, provided clarification for the LASEC Executive Board to consider changes to the special education services as follows:

In other words, Norridge School District 80 is pursuing, but is not limited too, the following options for review, discussion and action: 1) modifying and changing the by-laws i.e. changing the voting rights of all districts, 2) forming a separate cooperative within the cooperative, 3) withdrawing from the LASEC cooperative, 4) negotiating the rate each district pays to the cooperative and 5) forming our own local cooperative.

The administration has solicited input from members of the LASEC Committee of the Whole and based on the feedback, it is clear, option 5) *forming our own local cooperative*. was not accepted by our local members. However, the district is not satisfied with the review and discussion of options 4) *negotiating the rate each district pays to the cooperative and 2) forming a separate cooperative within the cooperative*.

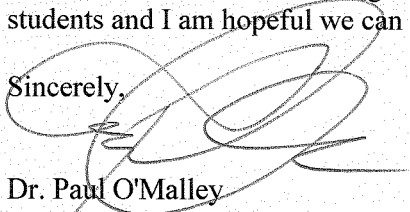
That said, the district requests the Executive Committee place ***action*** items on the agenda for November 14, 2017 at 9:00am at the LASEC district office for the following motions for action:

- 1) *I move to accept for consideration an **amendment to the LASEC by-laws to institute an equitable funding formula based on the Operating Expense Per Pupil** for members of the Cooperative commencing on July 1, 2018 subject to a final by-law document to be presented to the LASEC Committee of the Whole; and*
- 2) *I move to accept for consideration an **amendment to the LASEC by-laws to institute a separate cooperative within the cooperative** commencing on July 1, 2018 subject to a final by-law document to be presented to the LASEC Committee of the Whole.*

In order to keep all options open for as long as possible, our Board may adopt a withdrawal resolution in accordance with the timeline(s) in the Joint Agreement. Adopting that resolution does not necessarily mean that we will limit our interests to that one alone. Our goal, at all times, is to provide the best possible services and outcomes for our students. We presume you share that interest.

Again, I am available to discuss this issue, in person and upon my request, in greater detail with the Executive Board and all voting members. Respectfully, it is our goal to create the best programs for our students and I am hopeful we can agree to better our relationships.

Sincerely,



Dr. Paul O'Malley
Superintendent of Schools

Cc: Dr. Mindy McGuffin, Director of Special Education for LASEC
Mrs. Sarah Buslik, Recording Secretary for Norridge School District 80