

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Scott J. Decker
Mayor of the City of Dickinson
99-2nd Street East
Dickinson, ND 58601

Dear Mayor Decker:

On March 11, 2024, the school board of the Dickinson Public Schools received a presentation from Mr. Steve Josephson regarding expansion of the Renaissance Zone in downtown Dickinson. The short-term impact for the school district of the expansion was clearly explained as well as the potential long-term benefits. Succinctly, after discussion the school board determined that the long-term benefit clearly outweighs the short-term impact.

The Dickinson Public School Board is also aware the City amended its Renaissance Zone Development Plan to incorporate the following changes to N.D.C.C. 46-63.

- The tax-exempt period for an owner-occupied residential property has been increased from five years to eight years;
- The tax exemption for a commercial property may be extended for up to eight years if the investment amount is at least 75% of the current true and full value of the property; and
- Properties that have previously received renaissance zone benefits may be eligible for additional benefits after thirty years have lapsed from the completion of the initial project.

The potential for assisting in the revitalization of the downtown area is an exciting possibility. A vibrant downtown business community improves the appeal of the City of Dickinson and benefits all governmental agencies of the city. The purpose of this correspondence is to verify that the Dickinson Public Schools Board of Education enthusiastically endorses the expansion of the Renaissance Zone. If there is anything the school board can do to assist with this project, please do not hesitate to contact the superintendent, Dr. Marcus Lewton, at mlewton@dpsnd.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kimberly H. Schwartz".

Kimberly Schwartz
Board of Education Vice President