



Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.
330 Pflingsten Road
Northbrook, Illinois 60062
847.272.7400 tel | 847.291.4813 fax
www.wje.com

Advance copy via email

April 14, 2009

Dr. John Ahlemeyer
Superintendent
Gavin School District 37
25775 West Highway 134
Ingleside, Illinois 60041

Re: Gavin Central School
Truss Inspection
WJE No. 2004.2264

Dear Dr. Ahlemeyer:

This letter serves to provide you with our comments regarding the on-going inspection and maintenance of the Gavin School wood roof trusses. We understand that there have been some recent discussions regarding the scope and frequency of these inspections. We also understand that there has been some concern expressed regarding the adequacy of these inspections.

As you know, repairs were made to the wood roof trusses in early 2006. These repairs were made in accordance with a settlement agreement dated November 1, 2005 between the Board of Education of Gavin School District No. 37, Boller Construction Company and Legat Architects. Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE) developed the repair solution and was the Engineer of Record for the repairs. The repair solution was submitted for review and approved by the Board, the consultants to the Board, and by the Lake County Regional Office of Education.

The settlement agreement includes a provision for Legat to inspect the long span roof trusses on the 6-month anniversary of the completion of the repairs, the 1-year anniversary, the 2-year anniversary, 3-year anniversary, 5-year anniversary, 10-year anniversary and 20-year anniversary. All subsequently discovered "cracks" in the long span wood trusses are to be reported to the Board, Boller and WJE. Legat and Boller are to provide engineered repairs similar in design to the repairs previously developed by WJE.

This year is the 3-year anniversary of the completion of the repairs. Since 2006, Legat has inspected the long span roof trusses and Boller has repaired the roof trusses in accordance with the settlement agreement. On the 6-month anniversary, no repairs were required. On the 1-year anniversary, a split was found and plated. On the 2-year anniversary, one partial fracture was found and repaired and two splits were plated. Most recently, one partial- and one full-fracture were found and repaired. These repairs were performed in accordance with details prepared by WJE. Relative to the original (2006) repairs, the subsequent number of repairs is very small.

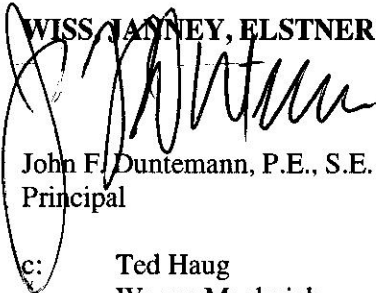
As the Board may recall, and as discussed in open meetings, the fracturing of the truss members is a time-dependent phenomenon subject to several variables including the fire retardant treatment and the inherent characteristics of the wood. The level of safety of the wood truss construction is the same whether the

Board elected to repair or replace the wood trusses. Further, the repair solution developed by WJE included additional redundancy by design consisting of a strongback bridging system. Based on the observations to date, the long span roof trusses have performed as expected.

In regards to the scope and frequency of inspections, adjustments can and should be made as the conditions or changes to those conditions warrant. However, given the relatively small number of fractures that have occurred since the 2006 repairs, we believe the inspection protocol as outlined in the settlement agreement is currently adequate.

Sincerely,

WISS, JANNEY, ELSTNER ASSOCIATES, INC.



John F. Duntemann, P.E., S.E.
Principal

c: Ted Haug
Wayne Machnich
Robert Boller