



Ann Arbor Public Schools
2555 South State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734.994.2230

Jeanice Kerr Swift, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
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January 30, 2014

Mr. Steve Powers
Ann Arbor City Administrator
301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Mr. Powers,

This letter is in response to the request by the City of Ann Arbor to erect a wind turbine on the property of Pioneer High School. As you know, members of our AAPS staff have worked with representatives from the City to explore this proposal. This research included a visit to sites that currently have wind turbines to determine if the operation of a wind turbine could be beneficial for our school and community. On behalf of the Ann Arbor Public Schools, I am declining to move forward with this project. At this time, the District will not participate in the location of the wind turbine on Pioneer High School property due to a number of concerns, including:

1. The Pioneer area is not considered a high quality location for this purpose due to low average wind speeds. It is doubtful that the operation of a wind turbine at this site would generate savings.
2. The maintenance support for the unit does not seem fully developed. Presently, only two repair technicians work for the wind turbine company in North America performing maintenance and repairs. I hesitate to be the owner's representative for a high profile unit when it may not be repairable in a timely fashion. The unit also needs regular cleaning for appearance sake creating another potential scheduling obstacle.
3. The "ice throw" is an additional concern. In the winter the thaw and freeze process allows ice to form on idle blades. When the unit is set in motion by the wind it releases the ice in a random manner. The blade tips travel at up to 300 mph and ice thrown from the blades could create a potential problem.

For the reasons above, I believe that it is not in the best interest of the District to consent to this project. Thank you for bringing this opportunity to us. I appreciate your understanding of our decision and sincerely hope that we may explore and partner on other City of Ann Arbor – Ann Arbor Public Schools endeavors in the future.

If you should have any additional questions, please contact me at 734-994-2230.

Sincerely,

Jeanice Kerr Swift, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools