

**THE OAKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
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MR. LOUIS J. PEPE, RSBA  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

January 25, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

EI Associates has served as Architect of Record for the Oakland Public School District since May of 2006. Their appointment came as a result of a serious need in the district for fiscal responsiveness in addressing infrastructure issues in aging buildings throughout the district. Their demonstrated experience and knowledge in the areas of design, development of bid specifications, project management and engineering services, and client satisfaction placed them at the top of their field for consideration.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to directly work with and get to know Mr. Michael J. Wozny over the past nine years in several districts and Mr. Joseph Donnelly over the past two years. In my tenure as a School Business Administrator serving in three school districts, I am impressed with the knowledge, expertise, and communication, degree of availability and personal service that has become a cornerstone of our professional relationship.

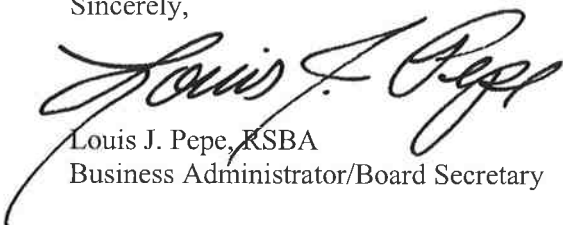
Given the constant rising costs associated with construction, facilities maintenance and the increasing demand for accountability within our budgets, EI provides the necessary support and guidance to effectively and efficiently meet these challenges.

EI has worked with our Board's Facilities Committee in planning cost effective maintenance initiatives in tune with the districts 3 year Maintenance Plan and Long Range Facilities Plan addressing both short and long term goals. Their firm has facilitated the many successful cost saving applications we have been able to obtain through SCC Grants and Debt Service by achieving NJDOE Office of Facilities approval in Trenton resulting in over \$380,000.00 on various projects ranging from doors and windows to roofs and boilers in a two year period. In every case, the administration of these construction projects were completed on time and within or under budget, due in large part to EI's knowledgeable staff and ability to effectively coordinate with district personnel. They have also advised the Board on current and pending needs looking into the future.

They have consistently exhibited professionalism and expediency in their handling of our business. Whenever a member of the building and grounds team, Superintendent or me has encountered a facilities problem, they have always responded quickly and efficiently. Our questions are answered correctly and, when needed, they have provided dedicated time to review documents at their offices in Cedar Knolls. As previously stated, their expertise with the financial aspects of our account has been an invaluable service to the Board in our efforts to try to keep increases as low as possible.

We remain extremely satisfied with EI; they are a full service architectural/engineering firm that knows how to get things done. Best of all their loyalty and fairness in dealing with people and issues define them as an essential compliment to any administrative team. It is with great respect that I recommend them to any district in need of quality architectural/engineering services. Please feel free to contact me should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,



Louis J. Pepe, RSBA  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

**Oakland**  
A Learning Community Committed to Excellence