

## **To Warren and Washington West School Boards and Officials:**

### **Re: Warren School Renovation Plans**

One aspect of the current renovation proposal that has been brought to the attention of several previous Boards and that has not been addressed in the current remodeling plans is the complete uselessness for its intended purpose and hazardous nature of the kitchen loading dock.

The current dock which hasn't been altered since the school was built is angled incorrectly for any truck to back up to it and is too high for most of them. As it is under the eaves of the 2 long roofs above it the paved area in front of it is continually drenched with meltwater that freezes to the ground and as there are no stairs up to the dock level it also freezes to the seat of the plastic bucket chair that people use to climb in and out of that kitchen entrance and the trash and recycling area, as my wife did daily during her 24 years as the school lunch lady.

Due to the unsatisfactory nature of the loading dock, the present delivery scheme is to park your truck either in the middle of the teacher's parking lot or in the "buses only" circle, and offload your goods onto a dolly or hand truck, roll it approximately 100 feet into the front entry, and through the double doors. Once in the main lobby, go immediately left through the corridor between the reception office and mail boxes on one side and the nurses' office and coat closet on the other, and from there through another door into the kitchen.

However the new plans for renovation requires a somewhat longer haul to the new double door entry, passing through both sets of outswinging doors with a wheeled dolly or hand truck and directly through the busy main lobby, because the narrow passageway with a door into the kitchen has been eliminated. From there delivery personnel must proceed through lines of students and teachers lining up for breakfast or lunch at least 4 times daily, and then between the students leaving the lunch counter with their trays or returning their trays to the food waste and paper bins. Then the dolly has to be wheeled through the only door between the kitchen and the inside of the building and then make two sharp right-angle turns around the appliance cluster and past either the range on one side or the dishwasher and sink on the other where someone may be standing at work, to finally get to the place where the goods can be unloaded. Then the same awkward and hazardous route must be taken back with the empty cart back out to the parked truck.

I submit that this plan is needlessly long and cumbersome to the delivery person, not to mention hazardous to students and others that may be encountered along the way, with their attention focused on some completely different task than to avoid getting run over by a heavy hand truck.

Also, I would like to remind you that the Warren School is a designated emergency shelter that could be used either briefly or for an extended period by people fleeing a natural disaster or perhaps an industrial one. The emergency management plans for Warren would greatly benefit from a storage place adjacent to the gymnasium-auditorium for cots and blankets. Also a dual shower that currently exists in each storage area, though never used, would be greatly appreciated by people who could arrive covered with mud or ashes from whatever the emergency was. The shower areas themselves, could also serve as storage areas for wheeled gurneys for storage of the cots, blankets, and other items used only in such an emergency.

Sincerely, Barry Simpson, Warren Director of Public Works, January 24, 2017.