

SCHOOLS

El Paso Gridley CUSD #11



97 West Fifth Street
El Paso, IL 61738
Phone (309) 527-4410

Dr. DeAnn Heck, Superintendent

Board of Education: Seth Campbell, Sean Cornell, Dale Hiles, Nathan Hodel, Ben Kingdon, Theresa Miller, Bob Wettstein

April 28, 2025

Livingston County Zoning Board and Livingston County Board

Dear Board Members,

We, the El Paso-Gridley School District Board of Education are writing this letter to notify you that we support the Panther Grove 2 Wind Energy Project. Like most school districts across Illinois, finding funds for our schools is always a concern and a challenge. And, not one of us wants to just "make do" when it comes to our children.

During the current challenges in our nation and world with natural disasters and epidemics among other issues, the financial pinch continues to be evident in all communities. According to the analysis for the Panther Grove II Project put out by Strategic Economic Research, LLC, the Panther Grove 2 Project is estimated to generate over \$160 million over 30 years in local property tax revenue for all taxing districts. Of that amount, approximately \$1.9 million in year one and over \$39 million over 30 years is estimated to be distributed solely to our El Paso-Gridley school district. We recognize this amount would decrease slightly each year, but this would be a stabilizing impact on our district tax base.

This annual property tax in addition to the landowner payments and associated economic benefits from the Project will greatly support our district budget; allowing needed renovations to an aging campus, offering on-going upgrades to technology and most importantly providing continuous safety and mental health support. We know the tax structure in Illinois has an unhealthy reliance on property taxes. Currently over 75% of our budget comes from local taxes and it is our goal to not increase the tax rate of our communities. The best way to guard against increasing tax rates is to have continued growth in assessed value of property in the district. This project will provide a boost to the tax base. This increase in EAV will provide increased funding stability that will benefit teachers and students by supporting all programs for our students. The reality is that it takes money – and a project like Panther Grove 2 guarantees additional sources to share in the financial burden to fund school districts.

Wind Energy is becoming an important driver in our state. Illinois ranks 5th in the nation for wind power capacity. The wind energy project within Livingston County would benefit the EPG community in terms of tax revenues, landowner and community payments, providing over 360 local jobs and a renewable energy source. We are aware there is much to consider about this project, but we want to communicate the value of this project to our local public schools.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Dale Hiles

President, El Paso Gridley CUSD 11 Board of Education

El Paso Gridley CUSD #11



97 West Fifth Street
El Paso, IL 61738
Phone (309) 527-4410

Dr. DeAnn Heck, Superintendent

Board of Education: Seth Campbell, Sean Cornell, Bradley Griffin, Dale Hiles, Theresa Miller, Brian Stoller, Bob Wettstein

January 11, 2025

Livingston County Zoning Board Members,

As the superintendent of El Paso Gridley School District I hope to communicate the impact the Panther Grove 2 Wind Energy Project would have on our district. Like most school districts across Illinois, finding funds for our schools is always a concern and a challenge. And, of course, none of us just want to "make do" when it comes to our children and our grandchildren.

During the current challenges in our nation and world with natural disasters and epidemics among other issues, the financial pinch continues to be evident in all communities. According to the analysis for the Panther Grove II Project put out by Strategic Economic Research, LLC, the Panther Grove 2 Project is estimated to generate over \$160 million over 30 years in local property tax revenue for all taxing districts. Of that amount, approximately \$1.9 million in year one and over \$39 million over 30 years is estimated to be distributed solely to our El Paso-Gridley school district. We recognize this amount would decrease slightly each year, but this would be a stabilizing impact on our district tax base.

This annual property tax in addition to the landowner payments and associated economic benefits from the Project will greatly support our district budget; allowing needed renovations to an aging campus, offering continuous upgrades to technology and most importantly providing continuous safety and mental health support. We know the tax structure in Illinois has an unhealthy reliance on property taxes. In the past years, the fiscal crisis of the state of Illinois and our nation increased the burden local communities have to pay for their school districts. Currently over 75% of our budget comes from local taxes and it is our goal to not increase the tax rate of our communities. The best way to guard against increasing tax rates is to have continued growth in assessed value of property in the district. This project will provide a boost to the tax base. This increase in EAV will provide increased funding stability that will benefit teachers and students by supporting all programs for our students. The reality is that it takes money – and a project like Panther Grove 2 guarantees additional sources to share in the financial burden to fund school districts.

The wind energy project within Livingston County would benefit the EPG community in terms of tax revenues, landowner and community payments, providing over 360 local jobs and a renewable energy source. I understand there is much to consider about this project, but I want to communicate the value of this project to our local public schools.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,


Dr. DeAnn M. Heck

Superintendent



FLANAGAN-CORNELL

UNIT 74

1/13/2025

To Whom It May Concern:

As Superintendent of Flanagan-Cornell Unit 74 School District, I am writing to express my support for the funds the proposed Panther Grove II Wind Project would generate. Our district has carefully reviewed the economic impact analysis for this project, and I am confident it will bring substantial benefits to our schools and community.

Based on the detailed financial projections, the Panther Grove II Wind Project would generate approximately \$1.13 million annually in tax revenue for our grade school district and an additional \$500,000 annually for our high school district. Over the project's 30-year lifespan, this amounts to a total of nearly \$34 million for our grade school district and \$15 million for our high school district. These are transformative numbers for a rural school district like ours.

This additional revenue would significantly enhance our ability to:

- Maintain and upgrade our educational facilities
- Invest in modern educational technology and resources
- Support our dedicated teaching staff
- Expand educational programs and opportunities for our students
- Provide property tax relief to our local residents

In rural communities like ours, securing stable, long-term funding for education can be challenging. The Panther Grove II Wind Project represents an extraordinary opportunity to strengthen our schools' financial foundation.

For these reasons, I enthusiastically support the Panther Grove II Wind Project. The project will help ensure that we can continue providing high-quality education to our students for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ryan Hansen
Superintendent
Flanagan-Cornell Unit 74 School District

PRAIRIE CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 8

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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605 NORTH SEVENTH
FAIRBURY, IL 61739
PAULA H. CRANE, Ed.S, SUPERINTENDENT
TEL (815) 692-2504
FX (815) 692-3195

OPERATIONAL SERVICES

SOUTH ANNEX, 600 SOUTH FIRST
FAIRBURY, IL 61739
FOOD SERVICES TEL (815) 692-2115; FX (815) 692-3489
MAINTENANCE TEL (815) 692-3348; FX (815) 692-2922
TRANSPORTATION TEL (815) 692-3484; FX (815) 692-3489

January 10, 2025

Livingston County Zoning Board of Appeals
Livingston County Historic Courthouse
112 W Madison Street
Pontiac, Illinois

Dear Livingston County Board of Appeals Members:

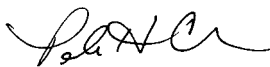
I am writing to communicate with you the benefits the "Panther Grove 2" wind project could bring to the Prairie Central School District. As many of you know, Prairie Central is the largest school district in the county and serves children from nine towns with schools in four communities. The District houses children in six school buildings located in the communities of Chenoa, Fairbury, Forrest, and Chatsworth.

Over the past year and a half, the District has been engaged in a long-range facilities planning project. The need for this plan stems from the age and level of deterioration of our current buildings. Through a full facilities study, the need for extensive repair work in most of our buildings was identified. Our Board of Education has deliberated extensively to attempt to develop a plan that will not further burden our already extended taxpayers. This was no easy task, as this sort of work is tremendously expensive.

If approved, the Panther Grove 2 project is anticipated to bring nearly \$850,000 in new tax revenues to the Prairie Central School District in its first year, averaging over \$572,000 annually over the next 30 years. Prairie Central would appreciate having the opportunity to put this revenue to work, helping us to improve our schools for the children we serve and for the teachers that serve them. This would be a tremendous boost to the financial stability of the District. Because of this, I ask that you give thoughtful consideration to approving the proposed project.

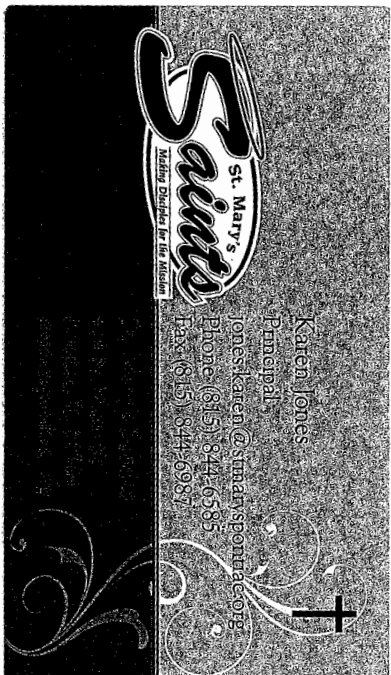
Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or if you are in need of further information. Thank you for all you do for the citizens of Livingston County.

Sincerely,



Paula Crane
Superintendent

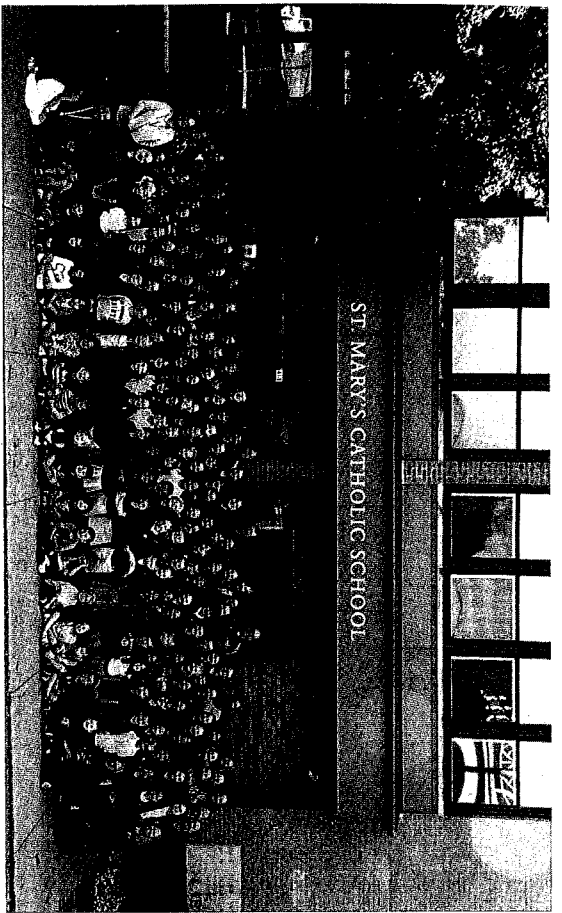
"PRIDE IN EXCELLENCE"



Dear Father Wind and Chris,

Thank you so much
for your generosity with
your donation to our school.
We are blessed to have you in
our community.

Thanks again
Karen Jones

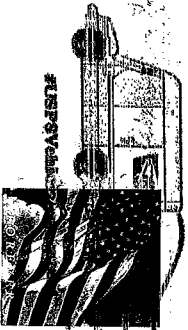


OUR SINCERE THANKS



St. Mary's School CHAMPAIGN IL 618
414 N. Main St.
Pontiac, IL 61764

3 MAY 2025 PM 5 L



Heather Grove 2
c/o Chris Green
600 S. Fayette St
Suite 2
El Paso, TX 79901