

AVOCA SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 37

ESTABLISHED 1870

2921 Illinois Road
Wilmette, IL 60091
www.avoca37.org
847•251•3587
847•251•7742 Fax



Kevin Jauch, Ed.D.
Superintendent

November 21, 2017

Bob Bielinski
Wilmette Village Board President
1200 Wilmette Ave.
Wilmette IL 60091

Dear Mr. Bielinski,

I was very pleased to learn recently that the Village of Wilmette would be pursuing a state grant through the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) for bicycle and pedestrian improvements on Lake Avenue, specifically the bridge over the Edens Expressway. As you are aware, the Edens Expressway bisects Avoca School District 37 into two distinct halves. With Avoca West Elementary School to the west and Marie Murphy Middle School to the east, the Edens Expressway acts as a barrier to all Avoca students at some point in their elementary career.

There is nothing more important to the school district than student safety. Our parents feel the same way, which is why many choose to drive their children to school or pay for transportation services in order to make sure their children make it to and from school safely. We have many families who would prefer to walk or ride their bicycles to school, but the risk associated with crossing the Edens prevents them from doing so. As a result more families drive, which also impacts student safety around the schools, as many more cars than are truly necessary enter and exit our parking lots at least twice each school day. This not only causes congestion in the school parking lots, but also along the narrow side streets and intersections in that vicinity. You may recall that Cook County and the Illinois Department of Transportation recently conducted a traffic study at the intersection of Hibbard and Illinois Roads to consider improvements to that intersection due to the high traffic volume at certain times of the day.

Avoca is a unique school district among those within our township. Drawing children from four distinct municipalities, the school district is the only municipal organization that these children from Wilmette, Glenview, Northfield and Winnetka have in common. Though they have wonderful friendships in the classroom, play dates and other social endeavors are often not possible, because there is no safe passage across the Edens available.

I applaud the Village of Wilmette's efforts to help our students traverse to and from school safely and to provide them the opportunity to socialize with their classmates outside of school hours. Thank you very much for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Jauch', is written over a light grey background.

Kevin Jauch, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools