



"To support the academic process by providing a safe and comfortable environment for students, staff, and community."

July 29, 2010

RE: Gene Abell AIA, Abell Architectural Group, Inc.

To Whom It May Concern:

In November 2006, the community of Medford passed a \$189 million bond for new construction and renovation projects for all the school facilities. To assist Medford School District in managing and designing this large undertaking, the District acquired the services of architects and project managers.

Abell Architectural Group partnered with OPSIS Architects and was selected through a "Request for Proposal" process to design five elementary school projects. The projects assigned to this design team included: Jefferson, Washington, Oak Grove, Jackson and Roosevelt Elementary Schools. These projects were very complex requiring thorough building assessments, programming, design and construction administration at all five schools.

The Architect team was able to assess the needs at all five schools and work within the budget restrictions to create wonderful learning environments. The Jefferson project included a full building renovation with a creative way to connect two buildings for improved site security. The Washington project included the addition of cafeteria space in an area that was under-utilized. Most of the construction on both these projects occurred during the summer months. Gene Abell and his team were able to identify and resolve issues in a timely manner. The total budget for the Jefferson and Washington projects totaled \$ 11,567,750.

The Oak Grove project was the most challenging of all of our renovated school projects. The school was fully renovated over a 15 month period while students remained on site for the school year. This was accomplished with excellent planning and organization from both the architect team and general contractor. This project included a new administration area, new gym and new commons area. The remaining buildings were fully renovated to provide a modern learning environment for the Oak Grove students. The total budget for this project was \$10,090,000.

The other two projects designed by this architect team were Jackson and Roosevelt Elementary schools. These projects were very similar to each other with both new construction and renovation work done at both schools. The construction budget for both schools was \$25,520,000.

Both Jackson and Roosevelt were originally constructed in 1911 with additions in 1949 and 1996. After assessments were completed for both buildings, it was determined that the 1911 original building would be replaced with new construction consisting of 31,508 sq. ft. and the 1949 addition renovated consisting of 11,667 sq ft. Both projects also included a free standing gym consisting of

4,890 sq. ft. All construction and renovation work was completed to meet current code requirements for seismic, fire protection, access and energy efficiencies. The architect team spent a lot of effort and did an outstanding job presenting alternative designs and finding options to keep both projects within the District's budget.

Gene represented himself and Medford School District in a very professional manner. He always communicated effectively with the project managers, contractors and the District. I found Gene's technical and organization abilities to be very strong. Gene and his team provided the District with a design that met our programming needs while staying within budget. Gene and his team were also able to identify and resolve very complex issues during the construction phase of these projects.

All five of the project assigned to the team of Abell Architectural Group and OPIS Architecture were very successful for the District and Community of Medford. All five projects were completed on time and under budget. This was largely due to the Architect team's dedication and commitment to the District.

I truly appreciate Gene's contributions to make all the projects very successful. The District and Community are very proud of these schools. These schools will be appreciated by future generations of students and parents. I would highly recommend Gene Abell and his team for elementary school projects for all phases of building assessments, programming, design, and construction administration.

Thank you for your consideration and time to review Gene's qualifications. If I can be of any assistance in your review process, please contact me at 541-842-1123.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Button', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Button, Facilities Manager
Medford School District
2801 Merriman Road
Medford, OR 97501