



City of Austin

Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office
301 West Second Street, Suite 2030
Austin, Texas 78701
512.974.7819

10 April 2009

Tom Ashley III, FAIA
1209 Xanthisma Ave.
McAllen, Texas 78504

Re: J.J. Pickle Elementary School / St. John Community Center Joint-Use Facility

Dear Tom:

The news of the LRGV AIA and Region One ESC Alliance is a great beginning for the future of school districts in that geographic area. Your efforts to lead sustainable design initiatives are admirable. It is important that school boards understand the costs associated with the operation and maintenance of their 50 – 70 year old facilities and it is imperative that school boards understand the life cycle costs savings of well designed sustainable schools. I believe they would be shocked with the energy, water and maintenance savings.

In 2002, the City of Austin and Austin Independent School District opened a unique joint-use facility that changed how the City of Austin and Austin Independent School District designed, operated and maintained a community center and school. The facility also changed the lives of teachers, parents and students. Teachers became aware of the positive effects of day-lit classrooms, parents saw a difference in teachers' attitudes and the students loved going to school.

Designing a green / sustainable school does not require expensive materials or complex building systems. Some of the best design solutions are simple and inexpensive.

After we opened the Pickle Elementary School / St. John Community Center, the Austin City Manager asked me if we should do it again. I told her we would be stupid not to do so. I remain committed to that belief.

If Stan, Dan, Julie and I can help you in your efforts, please let me know. We would be happy to share the Pickle / St. John successes with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Naccarato".

Nick Naccarato, LEED®AP
Redevelopment Project Manager
Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services Office
301 West Second Street, Suite 2030
Austin, Texas 78701