

# Discussion Items

August 5, 2016

Board Members  
Township of Union Board of Education  
2369 Morris Avenue  
Union, NJ 07083

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RE: REQUEST FOR USE OF WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING

Dear Members of the Board of Education:

I am writing to request the use of Washington Elementary School located at 301 Washington Avenue in Union, NJ 07083 for the purpose of conducting a series of weekly community learning and education programs for at-risk and/or under-resourced boys and men. The reason that I am requesting use of a Township of Union Board of Education school building and/or facility is to make an investment in our youth. As I am sure that all of you reading or listening to this letter are well aware of the challenges for helping boys and/or men succeed in education are prevalent at all levels.

I believe that one way to do begin to address this longstanding phenomenon is through education and the transfer of knowledge, information, insight, etc. during out-of-school time. I would like to utilize Washington Elementary School to hold series of weekly "discussions" with a group of approximately 30 boys and/or men to explore a list of topics that range from understanding *what manhood is to developing healthy relationships*. Set in the format of *75-minute, weekly sessions that run 12 weeks in the Fall (Sept-Nov) and 12 weeks in the Spring (Jan-Mar)*, I would like to take participants through a loose, yet somewhat pre-defined curriculum using a wide-range of learning tools - art, books, film, lectures, performance, etc. explore a list of topics. I am requesting use of Washington Elementary School on one of either Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays with a flexibility ideal start time of 6pm -7:15pm However, I am also flexible enough to accommodate 7:00pm-8:15pm, or 8:00pm-9:15pm.

Let me take a moment to introduce myself and hopefully add a little context behind my request. My name is Kevin Russ and my wife and I have been residents of the Township of Union for the past three years. We reside in the Five Points section of Union and my son is a rising third-grade student at Washington Elementary School. Both my wife and I are active on local Union Township boards. Additionally, over of course of our residence in Union, we have both been involved in the local community. For the past several years both my wife and I have coached youth sports at the Union Soccer Club, Buddy League Basketball at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Union, and Little League Baseball as well. Additionally, I personally have provided numerous free local community education workshops and presentations at the YMCA, Rock-n-Joe's as well as both the Main and Vauxhall Union Public Library branches.

Why I am I qualified to carry out this request in a professional and exemplary capacity? I have approximately 22 years of professional experience in a broad array of business sectors (i.e. corporate, education, faith-based, government/human service, and nonprofit entities). Nearly 12 years of that experience has been earned both as an administrator at the university level and/or in provide consulting directly related to programming with boys and men. This is an area that I know well and have had demonstrable success, but one which I am highly passionate about and committed to. Additional information about me can be obtained at: [www.kruss-inc.com](http://www.kruss-inc.com). I founded Kruss, Inc in January of 2016 as a nonprofit consulting firm.

I would like to thank all of you for taking time out of you busy schedules and this Board meeting agenda to take this request into consideration. I am requesting that the normal rental fee for facilities be waived given the fact that I am affiliated with a nonprofit and providing these services free of charge. In the meantime, should you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter or information listed on the website please feel free to contact me. I look forward to learning about the outcome of my request.

Warmest Regards,

*Kevin Russ*

Kevin Russ

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