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Orland Park Village Board
Village of Orland Park Plan Commission
14700 S. Ravinia Avenue
Orland Park, Illinois 60462

To Whom It May Concern:

Orland School District 135 proposes to modify the parking lot at Centennial School by creating an exit only drive on Haverhill Lane. This new exit only drive would only be accessed on school days for student drop-off and pick-up times; which are 7:45 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. respectively. The drive would be closed at all other times. The District is prepared to install a gate to ensure the drive will only be accessed as proposed.

The only drive in this parking lot for inbound and outbound traffic is on Brigitte Terrace. The combination of heavy traffic and school buses exiting from the bus drive across the front of the school is creating significant congestion and a hazardous situation. This congestion is heaviest on days of inclement weather when more students are actually driven to school. This is an ongoing problem that will be exacerbated during the 2014 – 2015 school year as the school is projected to be at capacity, and will include Early Childhood students that are 3-4 years of age.

Additionally, there is pedestrian traffic essentially moving from the parking area to the school building and back again. These pedestrians are a combination of adult staff members and some children typically accompanied by an adult. The pedestrian traffic interacting in this inbound and outbound traffic is cause for concern.

Staff considered several options in attempts to resolve this congestion and consulted with FGM Architects and Eriksson Engineering. The plan as proposed is offered as the best solution to the problems associated with the traffic issues. Opening the new drive will allow for the inbound traffic to continue straight out exiting onto Haverhill and not return to the drive at Brigitte Terrace. Staff observations reveal very light vehicle traffic and no pedestrian traffic along Haverhill during these times. A staff review of school bus schedules for District 135 and District 230 has also shown that no stops coincide with this time or location.

In consideration of all of these issues, this plan is proposed and is supported as the best possible solution to this safety issue.

Sincerely,

Dr. Janet M. Stutz
Superintendent of Schools

Michael Carroll, Village Liaison
Board of Education

Jerry R. Hughes, Director
Risk Management & Safety

Greg H. Okon, Safety Co-Chairperson
Board of Education