



# CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-2724

---

24 March 2010

Jay Vogt  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
900 Governors Dr.  
Pierre, SD 57501

## *Office of the Mayor*

300 Sixth Street

605-394-4110

Fax: 605-394-6793

E-mail: [mayor@rcgov.org](mailto:mayor@rcgov.org)

Dear Jay Vogt,

Thank you for forwarding the Certified Local Government Report Application for my review and signature.

My understanding is that an application was submitted for:

Rapid City High School (Dakota Middle School), 615 Columbus Street, Rapid City,  
Pennington County, South Dakota

The application was submitted by the Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission without input or discussion with the public property owner (Rapid City Public School System) or without the consultation or approval of the City of Rapid City.

This situation is being addressed by amendments to the Historic Preservation Commission's bylaws which would require City Government's approval of any property the commission wishes to nominate without the concurrence of the property owner.

As Mayor, I do not support the application for the Dakota Middle School because there was no attempt to get the concurrence of the Rapid City School District in support of this application. In addition, no public notice was given and no public meeting was held to seek input from either the property owner or the public.

I have held discussions with representatives from the school district, and they have taken formal action to request the Mayor to appoint three members of the Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission to act as advisors for the remodeling of the theater. The school district has expressed concerns about the method in which the application was made without input from the property owners and also about any cost associated due to delays that could occur with the listing of Dakota Middle School. The design is underway and any additional delays will only add to the cost of construction.

I believe that the agreement with the school district to allow three members of Historic Preservation Commission to serve in an advisory role will protect the historic relevance of the theater. Therefore I request that you decline the application at this time.

Best regards,

Alan Hanks  
Mayor  
City of Rapid City



EQUAL HOUSING  
OPPORTUNITY

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

**RAPID CITY AREA  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 51/4**  
300 Sixth Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701-2724



**Board of Education**  
**(605) 394-4031**

December 3, 2009

Mr. Jay D. Vogt  
South Dakota State Historical Society  
900 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501-2217

Re: National Historical Preservation Issues

Dear Mr. Vogt:

The Rapid City Area School District 51-4 (the "District") has been advised by your correspondence of November 6, 2009 that it has been nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. The Board of Education for the Rapid City Area School District 51-4 would like to advise the Historical Society that the District is opposed to the placement to the Dakota Middle School on the Historic Registry and would ask that it not be included on the Historic Registry.

The Dakota Middle School is currently being used as an active, operational middle school and will continue to be used for schooling purposes for the foreseeable future. The District, by necessity from time to time, will have to make changes and modifications to the building as necessary to meet the educational needs as mandated by the state and federal agencies or as just general building improvements or changes in programming are necessary.

As you are well aware, these are very challenging fiscal times for all governmental entities, and especially for school districts. The District is mindful of the historic value of the Dakota Middle School and of course, will at all times be mindful of that historic value with regard to any work done at the building or improvements or additions made. But, frankly the District is not in a position to accommodate all of the various demands and requirements necessary to accommodate historic registered properties. When additions, changes, modifications or repairs are necessary, the District most often must act very quickly to accommodate those changes and must do so with the lowest bid and in the most fiscally, prompt, and responsive manner as possible. The District understands this could cause issues with regard to a historic registered property.

South Dakota State Historical Society

Page - 2 -

December 3, 2009

As a separate, political subdivision of the state of South Dakota, the Board of Education of the District is charged with the responsibility of providing a free and appropriate public education to all of the students of the District. With that charge, and with the challenging financial times, the District must have maximum flexibility with regard to modifications, additions, and all repairs necessary with all school buildings, including Dakota Middle School. That flexibility can only be maintained with the District able to plan for additions, modifications or repairs to be done by the lowest responsible bidder at the lowest possible cost and design cost for the necessary work-being mindful of the safety and health issues for the students attending school in that facility.

Accordingly, for all of the above reasons, we would ask that the Dakota Middle School not be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The District plans to have representatives of its school board and administration present to address this issue further and answer any thoughts or questions you may have in that regard.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rapid City Area School District 51-4

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wes Storm". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Wes Storm  
Board of Education President