



# Alexander Valley Union School District

Les Crawford  
Superintendent-Principal

Mr. Peter Witter  
AXIA Architects  
250 D Street  
Santa Rosa, Ca 95404

April 2, 2008

Dear Peter:

I am writing on behalf of Alexander Valley School District and want to let you know how pleased the school board, staff, students, and community are with the wonderful improvements made to the school during the modernization and new construction project. Your architectural firm, and especially architect John Guill, did a fantastic job with planning and implementation. I have personally worked on numerous building projects, and without question, this project was exemplary. I took over as superintendent when school was out, and the day after students were gone, demolition began. The entire school was gutted and modernized. In addition, new modular buildings were brought in for a library and restrooms. Amazingly, the entire project was completed in time to open school. From start to finish the project took 11 weeks. This is unheard of in construction projects.


Let me talk more about John's role. John was on the site on a regular basis and he not only kept the project moving but he kept me informed as to how we were doing and was very candid and honest when there was a problem. We had many meetings with the general contractor, subs, and inspector and we worked as a team to identify problems and find solutions. John always kept me informed so I was able to effectively represent the district. He was flexible when appropriate, and tough when needed. We had a number of issues with the engineers and the county and John was adroit it navigating through the mine fields.

One of the factors that stand out in my mind is how effectively we were able to add value to the project and remain within budget. We did some horse trading when appropriate and made compromises when necessary. Without John's expertise I would have been making decisions in the dark. With his advice we were able to be creative and maximize the opportunities presented.

I would be remiss if I didn't also praise the work of Karen Pragler. How else would we have made such good choices in color combinations? And last, but certainly not least, I give you kudos for the leadership you provide for your organization. Good things don't happen in a vacuum, leadership makes a huge difference.

Again Peter, let me thank all the people at AXIA who helped make the Alexander Valley project a resounding success.

With warm regards,

  
Les Crawford, Superintendent  
Alexander Valley School District