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Statement on Disposition of Personal Property

In 2019, the School District purchased several homes adjacent to Washington School for the planned addition and modernization at that campus. The Board of Education did not exercise imminent domain and instead purchased the properties from the homeowners. The homes were leased rent free to the prior owners until just recently when the properties were vacated. The properties are now scheduled for demolition. Section 10-22.8 of the Illinois School Code allows a school board to sell "any personal property belonging to the school district ... and not needed for school purposes". 105 ILCS 5/10-22.8.

The homes have previously been vacated with the prior owners' taking their possessions with them as part of the move-outs. Any items left within the homes will be disposed of during the upcoming demolition. The items left in these homes are not subject to Section 10-22.8 as they were never "needed for school purposes" and are not personal property. Items left at these homes include doors, installed cabinetry, windows, attached plumbing such as toilets and sinks, and garage doors.

These items are properly defined as fixtures, are attached to the homes, and considered part of the real estate and not personal property. Removal of these items would likely compromise the structural integrity of the homes and create a public safety hazard pending demolition.

Given that the items remaining at these homes were never needed for school purposes, are fixtures and not personal property, and the public safety considerations, the Board of Education acted prudently in scheduling these homes for timely demolition.