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for **HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

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Bolton Alumni Association  
Jennifer Wright, President and Stephen Tuminello, Vice President  
P.O. Box 13414  
Alexandria, Louisiana 71315

RE: Support of Rehabilitating Original Windows at the 1926 Bolton High School

Dear Jennifer and Stephen:

It was great to meet you both on October 6<sup>th</sup> at Bolton High School, along with Megan Lord (past LTHP board member), staff from the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, representatives of Bolton High School and their architects. As we toured the building and discussed the project proposed by Rapides Parish School Board, we gained a better understanding of the circumstances and what is driving the scope of work.

Kirk Cordell, executive director for NCPTT, and I commented that we were amazed at the excellent condition of most of the original, red cypress windows. Damage to windows appeared to concentrate around locations of downspouts that lead through the attic and then down the exterior of the building. As I was leaving, I noticed that several of the downspouts were clogged with debris and bird nests, preventing adequate flow of storm water and facilitating ongoing damage.

The architects mentioned that the scope specifically targets improvements for energy efficiency. I mentioned that our use of interior insulating windows on the Green Revival House at the Galveston Historical Foundation allowed it to achieve a LEED for Homes Platinum rating. This was the first residential rehab in the country to achieve this level of energy efficiency. A similar result could be achieved at Bolton High School, while retaining the original wood windows. Interior panels could be easily removed in an emergency, to continue providing a means of egress.

From our conversation, I gathered that the district feels that replacement windows were the answer to eliminating maintenance for the next thirty years, until a future bond election could be held. This includes avoiding routine painting of the window exteriors. I suggested that instead of using latex paint and primer, that the architect consider having the windows and sills scraped, conditioned, then primed and painted with linseed oil paint, in the traditional manner. This would create a durable, wickable barrier that would protect the wood by allowing any moisture to migrate out and lessen the chance for rot.

Since Bolton High School is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is eligible for the 25% Louisiana Historic Tax Credit for rehabilitation. Rapides Parish School Board could sell these certificates once the project was completed. I mentioned that replacing the original wood windows could jeopardize the chance to use historic tax credits on Bolton High School in the future.

The Louisiana Trust supports the Bolton Alumni Association's request to Rapides Parish School Board for a condition and operational assessment of the original wood windows at the high school prior to developing construction documents for bid. We feel that this approach has the likelihood of being more efficient and sustainable, while retaining the historic character of Bolton



High School. Most parishes in the state do not have a courthouse of this size, historic character or architectural magnitude.

We are here as a resource for the effort to save the original windows and other historic features of Bolton High School while achieving the goals of the Rapides Parish School Board for a more efficient and sustainable campus. Please let me know how we may help.

With sincerest appreciation,



Brian M. Davis  
Executive Director  
Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation

