

SEPTEMBER 17, 2021

**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES RESPONSE TO
COMMUNITY INQUIRY REGARDING LONGFELLOW SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY FOR
LISTING IN NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

On Monday, September 13, Downers Grove Grade School District No. 58 became aware that a community member requested an assessment of Longfellow School for its eligibility in the National Register of Historic Places from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (“IDNR”). The IDNR responded that it believes the building would be eligible for listing in the National Register. Based upon our discussions with the IDNR, however, it is our understanding that a formal application for determining eligibility has not been filed with the IDNR, and, more importantly, a final decision on such a designation, which can take up to twelve months, would not prevent the sale of the building.

Furthermore, it is also our understanding that once the property has been transferred to a private owner, private property will not be placed on the National Register if the owner, or in the case of multiple owners, a majority of the owners, object. Thus, a private owner of Longfellow School will be able to reject an attempt to have the property listed in the National Register. While we do not believe that the inquiry made by the public with the IDNR as to the eligibility of the Longfellow School to be listed in the National Register will have any material impact on a potential purchaser of the school, we encourage all potential bidders to perform such due diligence as they deem appropriate to satisfy themselves of any impact on the purchaser’s future use of the property.