

February 27, 2007

Mayor McNown,

My name is Tracy Melzer. I am student teaching this semester at West Elementary in Phoebe McCormick's 2nd grade class. I will be graduating from WSU this May with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. I am an alumnus from Valley Center, class of 1993.

I am teaching a unit on President's and we began by learning about local, state, and federal government. For our local government section, I integrated with our Reading time to teach about Persuasive text. Then the students had to write a persuasive letter to you, our mayor, about things that they would like to see improved in the Valley Center area. We were extremely excited to share these thoughts with you and we hope that you enjoy them.

Mrs. Melzer,

Thank you for sharing these letters with me.

I really enjoyed reading and responding to them. Thanks for giving me the time to visit the class.

Mike McNown, Mayor

Thank you for your time,
Tracy Melzer

Date: February 27, 2007

Dear Mayor McNown

I want a
playground behind
my house. Have
you ever met
George Washington?

Aidan,

We have several parks in Valley Center. Hopefully one is close to your house. The City Council is working to add more parks for you and your friends to play in. I have not met George Washington, but I bet he would have been a very interesting person to talk to, don't you?

Mike McNown, Mayor

Your friend,
Aidan

Date:

2-22-07

Dear Mayor McNowin

Could we have a bowling
alley in valley center. I want
the Fall Festival ^{to last} ~~to~~ three days
in a row.

Tony,

It is probably going to be a few years before we get a bowling alley. We have to find a business person who wants to build one. The Fall Festival does last three days. Last year they added an extra day to make the fun last three days in a row.

Mike McNowin, Mayor

Your friend,

Tony

Date:

February 22 07

Dear Mayor McNown,



I think that there
should be a bowling-
alley. If we had a
bowling alley it would
be more fun.

Aryna,

A bowling alley would be a lot of fun. I like to bowl, just like you do. Maybe one day someone will build one here in Valley Center.

I think we should have one too. Maybe there are other things that you like to do for fun in Valley Center.

Mike McNown, Mayor

Your friend,

Aryna

Date:

February 22, 2001

Dear Mayor McNow,

I wish that every Friday
was Fall Festival. Than is you,
you are the best!

I wish that every Friday was Fall Festival. Than is you. You are the best!

Amyah,

It would be fun if every Friday was Fall Festival, but we would probably get tired of the Festival if it was here that often. What is your favorite thing to do at Fall Festival? You, and your friends, are the best! Thank you all so much for your letters.

Mike McNow, Mayor

Your friend,

Amyah

Date:

February 27 2007

Dear

McNown

Can you put
in a bowling
alley right next
to our school?

Can you put in
a Toys R Us? can
you put in a Cici's Pizza?

Lexie,

Is there room next to your school for a bowling alley?

Bowling alleys, Toys R Us stores, and Cici's Pizza

restaurants are all very nice.

If the people who own those

want to build them here, I will

try to find a place for them.

Cici's Pizza is good, but I

also like the Pizza Hut pizza,

and we already have one of those.

Mike McNown, Mayor

Your friend,

Lexie

Date:

February 27, 2007

Dear Mayor McNown

I would like Fall
Festival to last 4 nights
please, I would like
a bowling alley please.

Ashlyn,

I will tell the people at the Chamber of Commerce that you want another day of the Fall Festival. They added an extra day last year, so not sure they can add another day.

Your friend,

I like the Fall Festival, just like you do. It is a lot of fun! Maybe in a few years someone will build a bowling alley, but I can't do that.

Ashlyn

Mike McNown, Mayor

Date: February 27, 2007

Dear Mayor McNow

I want a new pool
and a park.

I would also like the
Fall Festival to last
4 days.

Tyler,

We might be able to do some of what you want. We are building a new park. It is called Arrowhead Park and is in the north west part of the city on Goff Rd. We are also working on trying to get a new pool.

I will tell the Chamber of Commerce that you want another day of Fall Festival. I don't think they can add one now, but who knows what will happen in the future.

Mike McNow, Mayor

Your friend,
Tyler
merriman

Date:

February 27, 2007

Dear Mayor McNow,

Do you have a big pool?
~~to~~ Only you with the Fall
Festival? was there -
really a bowling alley?
I like to go to the park.

Cole,

We have a big pool, but are trying to build a new one, if we can find the money. I do like the Fall Festival. It is my favorite time of the year! We don't have a bowling alley in Valley Center, but there are some pretty close in Wichita. I like the parks also. I am really glad you like to play in the parks.

Mike McNow, Mayor

Your friend,

Cole

Date:

February 27 2007

Dear Mayor McNow

Can you put a bigger pool
and a Wal-Mart in Valley center
because Valley center
is a little small.

Taliea,

We are trying to build a bigger pool for your kids. It may take a while, but we are working on that right now. I don't think we are going to get a Wal-Mart soon. There is going to be one pretty close, but I like the

stores we have better. Yes, Valley Center is smaller than Wichita, but it is nice like that.

Did you know Valley Center is larger than most other cities in Kansas? It really is.

Mike McNow, Mayor

Your friend,

Taliea
Taliea

Date:

February 27, 2007

Dear Mayor McNown

Please put a
Toys R Us in Valley
Center because
I am moving soon.
I am moving into
Valley Center.
PLEASE!!

Kara Lynn,

Toys R Us is a business that is owned by people who have to want to build their stores here. Right now Valley Center is too small for a big toy store like Toys R Us. It is going to be nice having you live here in Valley Center.

Mike McNown, Mayor

Your friend,

P.S. Send a letter back

Kara Lynn

Date: February 27, 2007

Dear Mayor McNown,

Can we have a
Wal-Mart in Valley
Center and a Skating
rink in Valley Center?

Colby,

We probably will not have a Wal-Mart here for several years. The stores we do have are really cool. A skating rink is something that a business person has to build.

Maybe one day someone will have the money and want to build one here. As Mayor, that is not something I can build.

Mike McNown, Mayor

Your friend,

Colby

Date:

^{Ha,}
February 27, 2007

Dear Mayor McNown

I am thinking we
need a new Valley
Center pool. I would like
for us to have a bowling
alley, too!

Hailey,

I am like you. I think we need a new pool too. I just don't know what kind of pool we need. The City Council is working on trying to figure that out. We have to get one that is fun and one we can afford to pay for. We can't build a bowling alley, but maybe some business person will build one when we get a little bigger.

Mike McNown, Mayor

Your friend,
Hailey

Date:

February 27, 2007

Dear Mayor McNown

Can we have a Toys R
us in valley center? And
can we have an Applebee's?

Jonah,

We can have a Toys R Us if the people who own Toys R Us wants to spend the money to build one here. That is the same thing for Applebee's. The people who own those businesses have to want to build stores and restaurants here. Maybe if we get bigger they will want to build their stores here.

Mike McNown, Mayor

Your friend,

Jonah Scott

Date:

February 17, 2017

Dear

Mayor Mike McNowen,

Can we have a new pool in valley center and have a new library?

Elizabeth,

Do you like to read? I like to read. The City Council has been working on seeing if we can build a new pool and a new library. If we can figure out what you need and how to pay for it, we will try to build both of those for you. The adults in Valley Center will have to pay for those, so we need to make sure we can afford to build them.

Your friend,
Elizabeth

Mike McNowen, Mayor

Date:

2-27-07

Dear Mayor McNown

Can we have a
new pool in Valley
Center? Can we
have a Apple
bee's? Can we have
a bowling alley?

Nathan,

We are working on trying to figure out a new pool. Applebee's is a business and the people who own those will have to decide they want to build one here.

That is not something I can do. The same thing goes for a bowling alley. We have to find business people who want to spend the money to build those businesses here.

Mike McNown, Mayor

Your friend,

Nathan

Date:

February 27, 2007

Dear Mayor McNow,

Can we have
an Applebees? Can
we have an Toys Rus
store?

Tyler,

Like I told the others, we can have those businesses if the owners of the businesses want to spend the money to build them here. It would be really cool to have them, but we still have some pretty cool stuff here already.

Mike McNow, Mayor

Your friend,
Tyler

Date:

February 27, 2007

Dear

Mayor McNowin

Is it hard being
a Mayor? Can we please

have a movie theater?

Can we have a bowling alley?

I want to go bowling!

Caroline,

It is fun being Mayor. I do have a lot of meetings to attend and it is sometimes hard to figure out how to get the things we need, but it is a very interesting job.

Maybe some day you will be mayor and get to see for yourself.

A movie theater and bowling alley are things that the City can't build, but are

built by business people who want to invest in our city. Maybe when we get bigger someone will want to do that.

Mike McNowin, Mayor

Your friend,

Caroline

Date: February 27, 2007

Dear Mayor McNown,

I think we need
a new pool and a
bowling alley. Can we
have them? How about
a new park?

Andrew,

Maybe we can get a new pool and park, but a bowling alley is not something I can build. We are working on the pool and we have a new park that we are planning to put sidewalks and playground equipment in. It is called Arrowhead Park.

Mike McNown, Mayor

Your friend,

Andrew
Dundas

Date:

2-27-97

Dear

Mayor McNown,

Can we have a
new swimming pool? Can
we have a new library?

Zak,

Yes we can have both if we can find the money to pay for them. We are working on figuring out what we need right now. I am like you are with your allowance.

I only have so much money, so the Council and I have to decide what we need the most and see if we can find money for the other

things we want and need. Like with your allowance, when you run out of money you can't buy

that candy bar you want, that is what it is like for the Council and me.

Mike McNown, Mayor

Your friend,

Zak

Date:

2-27-07

Dear

Mayor McNowa,

Can we please
have a new
Best Western? Can you
please build a bowling
alley in Valley Center?

Alyssa,

Do you like staying at Best Westerns? Do you have family visiting who like to stay at Best Western? Hotels and Motels are like bowling alleys in that business people build those and not City Councils and Mayors. Maybe one day we will have some of those businesses that you and the other kids would like to have.

Your friend,

Alyssa

Mike McNowa, Mayor

Date: February 27, 2007

Dear Mayor McNown,

Can we get a
bowling alley with
four alleys that have
TV screens and
a go-cart-track?

Kamron,

A go-cart track? That would be really cool. I like go-carts too.

If we ever get someone who has the money to build a bowling alley with
TV screens, I will tell them that you also want a go-cart

track. I bet there are a lot
of kids who would like to drive
them around the track. I know
I would, and you know I am just
a little older than you.

Mike McNown, Mayor

Your friend,

Kamron

Date: February 27, 2007

Dear Mayor McNown,

Can we have a new
pool? With a high dive
and a yellow slide?
Can you make the deep
end deeper because we
might hit the bottom?

Dayne,

I want a new pool too. I am not sure what it will have in the way of slides and diving boards, but we will make sure it is deep enough that you don't hit your head on the bottom. A yellow slide? I will tell the pool people that, but an orange or purple one would also be fun, don't you think?

Your friend,

Dayne

Mike McNown, Mayor



I received the letters at City Hall. Reading the letters was the highlight of my week!

The next day I contacted Mrs. Melzer and asked her if I could meet and talk to the class. On Monday, March 5th I visited the class at West Elementary. I was able to talk to the kids for about 20 or 25 minutes. It was a real joy to be able to talk to them. They had some very interesting and well thought out questions. I hope I am able to do this more in the future.

To all the kids, I had a lot of fun visiting your class and you are a great bunch of kids. Mrs. McCormick and Mrs. Melzer are two very nice and very good teachers. Thank you all for the letters.

Your Friend,

Mike McNown
Mayor, Valley Center