



October 6, 2011

Mr. Leo Palaibis, President
Parma City Schools Board of Education
5311 Longwood Avenue
Parma, OH 44134-3800

Dear President Palaibis,

First, I wish to commend you and your Board of Education colleagues for hiring Dr. Jeffrey Graham as Superintendent. In his brief tenure with the Parma City School District, I believe he has brought needed change and a fresh vision to the District.

I also wish to commend all of you for your foresight in creating the Facilities Integration Team (FIT) and subsequently the Next Steps Committee. The individuals – representatives from the business community, the three cities, parents and educators – who made up these groups committed numerous hours over the course of a year. In that time, they reviewed documents, analyzed data, and sought feedback from the public. In the end they proposed to the Superintendent, and in turn he to the Board of Education, a reasonable consolidation plan with the least impact on the student population and the least cost to implement.

I appreciate that there has been spirited discussion about the proposed plan, and feel that those discussion are important to the process. I urge you and your colleagues, however, to move forward and support the consolidation plan as proposed by Superintendent Graham. I believe the FIT and Next Steps Committees did their due diligence, their data is sound, and as a result so is their recommendation. In my recent dealings with the public, I also feel residents generally support the plan and wish to see the implementation get underway.

The City of Parma stands ready to assist the District in executing the consolidation plan. As you know we have engaged in informal discussions regarding land swaps to allow for expanded parking at Parma Senior High School and Normandy High School. We also stand ready to assist the District to find other uses for any vacated property. We will continue those discussions when the District is ready, and will assist in managing other hurdles where appropriate.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss my support with you further. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. DePiero', written in a cursive style.

DEAN DePIERO

Mayor

cc: Dr. Jeffrey Graham
All members Parma Board of Education
Mayor Mike Byrne, Parma Heights
Mayor David Bentkowski, Seven Hills
All members Parma City Council