



City of Parma Heights, Ohio

Office of Mayor Michael P. Byrne

www.parmaheightsoh.gov

6281 Pearl Road

440-884-9604

Parma Heights, Ohio 44130

September 26, 2016

Dear Superintendent Hilling,

I fully understand and in no way would ever minimize the extremely difficult challenge facing the PCSD and school board. The need to overcome a \$7 million deficit this year, as well as the \$8 million projected deficit for school year 2017-18 is a daunting task. I speak for the residents of the City of Parma Heights in stating that the potential for the State of Ohio to take control of district decisions is undesirable and as such we must all work together to prevent such a development.

While I am deeply concerned, rumors continue to persist regarding the District Fiscal Recovery Plan Recommendations and a movement to support a two high school plan with Normandy High School being one of those high schools; I am reserving judgement and public comment until your proposed plan is released. Please understand however, that as Mayor of Parma Heights, I have an obligation to our residents and taxpayers to address any proposals which would close either Valley Forge High School or Parma Park Elementary School.

As you well know, quality education of our children is the cornerstone of our local economy and the future of our communities. Parma Heights is placing an emphasis on attracting and retaining young families whose housing decisions are significantly influenced by the strength of the local school district and the quality of education.

Parma Heights residents have a proud history of supporting the Parma City Schools. We are also very proud of the partnerships our city has forged with our neighborhood schools, particularly Valley Forge High School, Parma Park Elementary and the STEM program at Pleasant Valley Elementary.

While being cautious not to overstep my authority, if a one or two high school plan is being proposed and/or if you intend to close elementary schools, I would appreciate the opportunity to present my viewpoint on behalf of the residents of my city.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael P. Byrne". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "M" and "B".

Michael P. Byrne
Mayor

cc: PCSD School Board Members
Parma Heights members of City Council
David C. Crowley, PCSD Treasurer/CFO
Rusty Kuse, PCSD Business Manager
Mayor Timothy DeGeeter, City of Parma
Mayor Richard Dell'Aquila, City of Seven Hills