

Sent 10/25/17

# **RIVERSIDE LOCAL SCHOOLS**

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Trustees of Concord Township  
7229 Ravenna Road  
Concord Township, OH 44077

Re: New Concord School

We are writing to respond to your letter dated September 25, 2017. We remain elated that the community supported our 2016 Bond Issue and provided the funding for two great school buildings.

The Board attorney has advised us that Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.37 vests in the School Board the power to: "... build, enlarge, repair and furnish the necessary schoolhouses, purchase or lease sites therefore ... and to make all other necessary provisions for the schools under its control." The Ohio Legislature has expressly and exclusively empowered the publicly elected School Board to locate and build schoolhouses as part of its duty to carry out the Ohio Constitution's mandate to provide a thorough and efficient education for all of the students in the State. The Board has clear statutory powers regarding school buildings and the locations thereof.

While we have statutory authority as to location, we recognize that other entities have concurrent jurisdiction over the project. We intend to fully comply with Ohio Department of Transportation's requirements related to our locating on State Route 608. We also intend to fully comply with the requirements of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency which has jurisdiction over the package plant. We will comply with building codes and many other provisions of law.

The District spent a considerable amount of time evaluating options for the school improvements. We began by evaluating our existing facilities and sites and as you know we concluded, with the assistance of the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, that many of our existing schools were below the OFCC standards and needed to be replaced. We also determined that our Madison Ave. site was still a suitable site for a new school and that a school could be constructed on the site while school was in session. We further concluded that the other existing sites were not suitable for a new school and we would need a new site. This was communicated clearly to the community in the bond campaign and the ballot include language related to land acquisition and the need for onsite treatment plants at both locations.