



Concord Township, Lake County, Ohio

September 25, 2017

Trustees

Christopher A. Galloway
Caroline N. Luhta
Paul R. Malchesky
trustees@concordtwp.com

Riverside Board of Education
585 Riverside Drive
Painesville, Ohio 44077



Fiscal Officer

Amy L. Dawson
(440) 354-7516
(440) 350-0904 FAX
adawson@concordtwp.com

RE: New School Development

Dear Riverside School Board & Administration:

Administrator

Kathy Mitchell
(440) 354-7513
(440) 354-7511 FAX
kmitchell@concordtwp.com

In light of the recent decision by the Concord Township Board of Zoning Appeals to deny the Conditional Use Permit application made by the Riverside Board of Education, we are reaching out to you, the board and administration, to encourage a new location for the aforementioned project.

Fire Chief

Matt Sabo
11600 Concord-Hambden Rd.
(440) 354-7503
(440) 354-7507 FAX
firechief@concordtwp.com

It has been made clear by concerned residents as well as the Board of Zoning Appeals that the current location you have chosen is not properly suited for the size and scope of the project you propose. As you know, we have repeatedly encouraged other locations for the new school in meetings between members of this board and administration and the Board of Education. In addition, we advised that the location you chose was not a good one from the standpoint of both traffic and lack of sewer connectivity. Lastly, when your administration chose to proceed with that location we advised that the Conditional Use Permit should be applied for before exercising any land contract options. That advice was ignored.

Recreation Director

Community Center
Debra L. Bechel-Esker
7671 Auburn Rd.
(440) 639-4650
(440) 639-4654 FAX
desker@concordtwp.com

It appears the Board of Education believes the only course of action is to litigate the matter. Please know that we do not believe this is a sound strategy. First, the township will fully defend the decision of the Board of Zoning Appeals in court. This will undoubtedly result in lengthy delays that could take years and cost both the township and Board of Education thousands of dollars in legal fees. Second, the damage to both entities in the eyes of the public will be long lasting and detrimental to future relations. Third, the potential to damage the credibility of the Board of Education if it chose to sue the township would be similar to the decade of lost credibility that revolved around the purchase of the county home property.

Service Director

Frank A. Kraska
(440) 350-3226
(440) 357-4463 FAX
fkraska@concordtwp.com

Planning & Zoning Director/ Zoning Inspector

Heather Freeman, AICP
(440) 354-7506
(440) 350-0904 FAX
hfreeman@concordtwp.com

Please understand this letter is not intended to threaten the Board of Education in any way. We are asking you to come to the table and work with us to find a new location that works for both Riverside and Concord Township. We ask this because we fully support the mission of Riverside and wish to see nothing but success and improvement in the school system. To this end, each member of this Board of Trustees has been unequivocally supportive of Riverside's long-term goals to become a premier educational system. However, we are

deeply concerned that a drawn-out process of litigation would be detrimental to that end goal. We want to continue being community partners, not adversaries.

To that end, we ask you to not file litigation with the courts and work with us to find a constructive solution to this matter. We believe such a decision is the most prudent action and would find great support amongst the public that both bodies serve.

Sincerely,


Concord Township Board of Trustees



Paul Malchesky
Chairman



Christopher Galloway
Vice Chairman



Caroline Luhta
Trustee