



CARDINAL LOCAL SCHOOLS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONSOLIDATION STATEMENT FROM THE CARDINAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Middlefield, OH - In light of recent conversations regarding school consolidation the Cardinal Board of Education would like to update the community on recent discussions. First, the push from local leaders to once again join the consolidation discussion caught many of us by surprise. Not only did our board vote to opt out of the discussion back in 2015, but our voters in Middlefield Village, Middlefield Township, Parkman, and Huntsburg overwhelmingly supported the Cardinal district by passing two levies in 2017 - one was a new levy and the other was a renewal levy. Based on those outcomes, we feel our voters and families spoke clearly in their support of our district and desire to keep Cardinal, Cardinal.

All five board members attended a Middlefield Village Economic Development Committee meeting on Thursday, October 25, 2018. We once again listened to the discussion of consolidation and presented our findings on why the board voted to opt out the first time, and why we continue to believe a consolidation is not in the best interests of our district at this time.

We submitted a letter to Mayor Ben Garlich and the Economic Development Committee to share our thoughts. This excerpt from the letter captures the sentiment of all five board members, "The Cardinal Board is not opposed to acknowledging that the future is unknown and that holding a "never consolidation" viewpoint isn't realistic, however, we have done our investigation into consolidation and our view remains unchanged, consolidation is not right for our district at this time."

We fully support our students receiving a top-notch education, which is why we have many programs in place such as college credit plus, advanced, and honors classes to help them achieve this. We fully support our students being able to graduate high school and have the skills necessary to join the tremendous work force already in place here in Middlefield, which is why many of our students attend the Auburn Career Center for two years to help perfect their crafts and trades. We fully support our students having access to technology, which is why every student in grades 9-12 is issued an iPad for coursework, and there are over 900 chromebooks for students in grades K-8 to utilize during the school year. We fully support our students participating in fine arts programs which is why we offer music and art classes starting in Kindergarten running all the way up through twelfth grade - and provide opportunities like marching band, choir, Cardinaires, Fall Play and Spring Musical to our students. We fully support our students and the educational opportunities they are already receiving here at Cardinal.

We fully support the Cardinal Local School District and hope future conversations with the Village will involve ways we can all work together to enhance the foundation that's already in place here. Strong schools yield strong communities, by working together, we all succeed.

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