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Mission: Each student is highly educated, prepared for leadership and service, and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community.

October 20, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am sending this letter home to provide as much information as possible concerning the districts process in evaluating the most efficient use of its schools and administrative offices.

Columbus City Schools is facing difficult economic challenges. With uncertainty around the state budget and ultimately school funding it is imperative that we make the most efficient use of our resources, including our schools and administrative space to right-size the district to our student population.

Columbus City Schools has a responsibility to ensure its facilities (schools and administrative spaces) are used in the most cost-effective and efficient manner possible. However, before any change is made, the district wants to provide as much information as possible to the Columbus School Board, and the Columbus community.

The External Planning Committee was formed to assess data that is being used to consider school and administrative space consolidation and/or closure. This is the same process used previously when schools were closed or programs consolidated. Committee members represent parents and parent partners (PTA), the business community (MORPC and the Chamber of Commerce), community associations (The Urban League and the Neighborhood School Development Program committee), the district's two labor associations (CEA and OAPSE), and the Board's Audit and Accountability Committee.

The committee has met three times since the beginning of October. They have begun to evaluate initial data related to all of the district's schools and administrative spaces. Among the three initial schools that were identified for additional study as a result of the first run of the data template are Brookhaven High School, Fairwood Elementary, and Siebert Elementary.

This is a very early state of the evaluation process, and drawing any conclusions with respect to specific schools or locations at this time is premature.

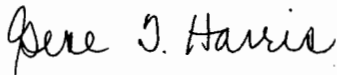
Among the criteria being evaluated by the committee include:

- Building capacity; current and projected enrollment
- Student academic performance
- Ability to maintain feeder pattern (neighborhood schools concept)
- Building age, location, and condition
- Diversity of student population
- Potential for future use or sale
- Other unique features or circumstances that require special consideration

It is anticipated that the External Planning Committee will continue to review the data related to the district's schools and offices through the end of October, and take into account community feedback before making a final recommendation to the Board of Education. Community meetings will take place during the month of November, and the committee's recommendation to the Board is expected in December 2011.

The district will provide updates and a schedule of upcoming community meetings through your school, the media and the district website.

Sincerely,



Gene T. Harris, Ph.D.
Superintendent/CEO

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