



# City of Hilliard

DEC 14 2005

Don Schonhardt, Mayor

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December 12, 2005

Hilliard City School District  
Mr. Dale A. McVey  
Superintendent  
5323 Cemetery Road  
Hilliard, Ohio 43026

Dear Dale McVey:

As you know, for over a year the City of Hilliard has been involved in the discussions of the preservation of the Big Darby Watershed through the efforts of the Darby Accord. Early last week, during a meeting of the elected officials of the cities and townships that are members of the Accord, the City of Hilliard and the City of Columbus announced an agreement in principle to exempt Hilliard City Schools from any proposed extension of the Watershed moratorium, so that the consideration for a new high school to be built in the Darby Creek Watershed could remain open.

This is an important step that followed many months of discussion and negotiations with Columbus City officials. We regard it to be a significant agreement that, ultimately, will benefit parents, students and taxpayers in the whole of the Hilliard City School District.

We regard this exception to be well advised because we believe there is great public benefit by expanding options and alternative sites for a new high school in that area of the district where the greatest growth has occurred and is likely to occur. That 47.5 percent of the students in the Hilliard City School District now reside in the Columbus portion of the District suggests this is a fair, equitable, timely and welcome development.

By contrast, only 36 percent of the students reside in the City of Hilliard and the remaining 16.5 percent reside in the unincorporated township portions of the District. It only makes sense that school construction should follow District growth, which for many years now has been greater in Columbus than in the other political jurisdictions.

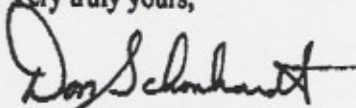
Likewise, we believe should construction of a school in the Watershed occur, it creates a development option that represents no threat to the sensitive environment of the Darby Creek and, subsequently, meets the objectives of those of us who recognize the imperative need to protect this environmental treasure.

Finally, I think this option meets the demands of voters in the District who have voiced their concerns about construction of a school at the Cosgray Road site and who have consistently rejected plans to build a high school at that location. Their concerns mirror our concerns about the additional traffic burden in the area and the impact on residents who live in the community adjacent to the Cosgray site.

I hope you will interpret our efforts as our ongoing commitment to Hilliard City Schools and our determination to assist you in grappling with the growth issues you face. All of us are stakeholders in the quality of our schools, but there are no greater stakeholders, in our opinion, than the students who represent the future of our community.

I look forward to a continued and cordial working relationship with you and members of the administration of Hilliard City Schools.

Very truly yours,



DON SCHONHARDT  
Mayor, City of Hilliard

- CC: Dick Hammond
- Denise Bobbitt
- Doug Maggied
- Andy Teater
- Cheryl Ryan