

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
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“Where There Is Unity, There Is Strength”

March 2, 2018

Elizabeth J. Lolli, Ph.D.

Acting Superintendent

Dayton Public Schools

Dr. William E. Harris, Jr.

President

Dayton Public School Board

115 S. Ludlow St.

Dayton, Ohio 45402

Dear Dr. Lolli and DPS Board Members,

Over the past two months, the members of the Dayton Unit NAACP Education Oversight Committee on DPS (5703) Facilities have met with other committed community-based groups around how best to support and assist Dayton Public Schools leaders to provide a quality and equitable education for every child. We oppose closing any school within the Dayton Public Schools District. We, too, are very concerned about our children, especially those who reside in west Dayton whose neighborhoods would be disrupted most.

We have held listening sessions with our community-based groups and want to inform you of the following expressed concerns:

- Closing any school in west Dayton will seriously impact the education of future leaders.
- Closing schools will create more instabilities and disruptions within neighborhoods.
- DPS leaders ignore the community's voice.
- DPS leaders are insensitive to the social relationships and values that schools embody.
- DPS leaders inconsistently implement structures that lead to low performing schools.
- Because city and DPS leaders have chosen to collaborate around closing schools without speaking with spiritual and civic leaders first, distrust and the demand for transparency have increased.

We urge you to consider the following recommendations:

- DPS leaders must vote to keep all schools open and do not close, merge or rename any school.
- DPS leaders must learn from other school districts that have closed schools as well as those that are achieving.
- DPS leaders must apply human resource best practices to hire committed, qualified personnel.
- DPS leaders must use more than enrollment numbers to ensure school improvements.
- DPS leaders must employ effective strategies to convince parents to return students to DPS schools to increase student enrollment.

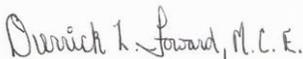
- DPS leaders must conduct a comprehensive needs assessment then make decisions based on data analysis.
- DPS leaders must sustain a greater sense of urgency until all student and adult learners achieve their potentials.
- DPS leaders must share the findings and analysis with the community.
- DPS leaders must remain knowledgeable around education research and practices to become more creative and think outside the box to develop all schools into centers of learning for the entire community.
- DPS leaders must engage in a comprehensive marketing plan that will impact the district climate favorably.
- DPS leaders must convert financially strapped charter schools in West Dayton.
- DPS leaders must reset and monitor financial management.
- DPS leaders must include legislative advocacy as a district responsibility.
- DPS must establish and engage relevant committees that include community members.
- DPS leaders must first demonstrate the ability to be fiscally responsible with each of the current unused 28 pieces of property before deciding to close or repurpose any additional facilities.
- DPS leaders must be true to their promise to the families in this city, “Dayton Public Schools provides a high-quality education in a safe environment that prepares our students for success in school, work, and life by providing a highly effective trained staff working each day with community resources.”
- DPS leaders must work assiduously to work out an action plan until the promise of a high-quality education system is a reality.

As leaders of the Dayton community, you have the opportunity to not only improve the educational experiences of all DPS children but, to show yourselves as caring, collaborative leaders, developing a community- focused educational system. We urge you to make the first item on your agenda improved leadership, teaching and learning.

I look forward to your response in writing very soon and can be reached directly at (937) 307-8351.

May God Bless You, May God Bless the NAACP and May God Bless these United States of America!

Your community servant,



Derrick L. Foward, M.C.E.
President
Dayton Unit NAACP

CC: Dayton Unit NAACP Executive Committee Members
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Fred Cox, President – Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Theta Lambda Chapter
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