

Date Stamp	I am a(n)...	Region	Extent of Engagement	District Choices	District chosen NOT to make recommendations	Program vs Building Actions	Timing	Your ideas about District Rec	Ideas about Rec's not made	Implementation	Timing of Recs
05/22/19 10:00 AM	Resident (Local Business Owner)	Northeast Region	No engagement (this is your first experience with the process)	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Agree	Please do NOT close this school. Closing our Tremont Montessori school would create a gap of need in this and surrounding communities.	Please keep this school open, it is a vital part of the growth of our community. Council Cimperman was correct in adapting the school and knowing that this school is an integral part of our community.	Monies investments have been in this Tremont school building...knowing that it is detrimental to the community. New windows etc... Keep it open . It can be further made into a “ magnet “ school if needed.	NOW
05/21/19 9:57 PM	Resident	Northeast Region		Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Tremont Montessori is the only public school in Tremont proper. If you want people people to actually move into and stay in the city stop taking away resources such as this.			
05/21/19 9:49 PM	Resident	Near West Region	No engagement (this is your first experience with the process)	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Disagree	Disagree	Tremont Montessori is centrally located and is a safe neighborhood that attracts students from throughout Cleveland - Tremont is a growing neighborhood with a 55% increase in the under 5 age group in the past year - Tremont community members and Friends of Tremont Montessori have raised over \$200,000 for Tremont Montessori and completed a Strategic Plan for the school - The Tremont community has partnered with CMSD for over 10 years to create quality educational outcomes at Tremont Montessori			
05/21/19 2:37 PM	Parent/Caregiver, Resident	Near West Region	Passive engagement (did not attend one of the April regional meetings BUT spent time on the website)	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	closing tremont school. do what you feel is best. do not feel pressured to make everyone happy. thanks.			
05/21/19 1:51 PM	Resident	West Region	No engagement (this is your first experience with the process)	Agree	Agree	Disagree	Disagree				

05/21/19 1:26 PM	CMSD Employee	East Region	Passive engagement (did not attend one of the April regional meetings BUT spent time on the website)	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree				
05/21/19 12:12 PM	Parent/Caregiver, Resident	Near West Region	Active Engagement (attended one of the April regional meetings OR provided feedback through the website)	Disagree	Disagree	Disagree	Disagree	As a parent of a Tremont Montessori student, I can say with confidence that the Montessori program is not the only draw for Tremont Montessori. For many families (particularly those on the eastside), the primary draw is its location. It is a safe location that is also centrally located and easy to get to. Many of these families will likely not follow this program if it is relocated to the east side in a neighborhood they may be trying to get their kids out of. And certainly, many families from the west side in particular will not follow the program to the east side (which I understand to be the most likely intended location). This will erode the program. In addition, as a parent, I have heard that some teachers may also not follow the program if it relocates to the east side. Again, this will further erode the progress we've made with increasing the number of Montessori certified teachers after layoffs in years past also eroded that number. This recommendation is sending a message that CMSD does not fully support this program. If they did, they would look at the findings of the Strategic Plan that highlighted the importance of community involvement in the program. I urge CMSD to talk to the teachers. The teachers will tell you that Tremont is the first community, after being shuffled around to at least two other communities, that has fully embraced the program. Please reconsider this potentially destructive decision.			
05/19/19 7:48 PM	CMSD Employee (CTU)		No engagement (this is your first experience with the process)	Agree	Agree	Disagree	Disagree				

05/19/19 11:08 AM	Resident	Southeast Region	Passive engagement (did not attend one of the April regional meetings BUT spent time on the website)	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	I see the west side is always having plans drawn up for new buildings.	The K-8 model DOES NOT WORK.	These schools stay politicized.	
05/17/19 5:40 PM	Resident	Near West Region	Extensive Engagement (Attended one of the April regional meetings AND spent time on the website)	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Where will Tremont Montessori move? There is no new building available that will house 400-500 students, the current TM enrollment. Also, if TM is merged with a current school will the whole school convert to Montessori? If not, TM will have no chance of being accredited as Montessori, essentially forfeiting the only public CMSD Montessori in the district. If the whole school is converted to Montessori you are forcing families in a neighborhood school to convert to a program they are unfamiliar and may not want.	Tremont Montessori has a 45/55% east west side compliment of low and middle income students , including special needs. A representative mix of all of cleveland. They have a centralized , vibrant and safe community with an active group of residents who want a CMSD school and have supported the school I've the years. Why would you deprive the students who travel to this school and the local community of this asset?		
05/17/19 4:02 PM	Resident, Community Partner	West Region	Passive engagement (did not attend one of the April regional meetings BUT spent time on the website)	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	The closing of Tremont Montessori School is both short sighted and absurd. It is a school in a growing neighborhood, full of young families including a 55% increase in children under 5 just this year. It is in a safe neighborhood, where children walk to school every day. Teachers and staff are committed, raising over \$200,000 to keep the school open and providing high quality, unique educational opportunities. Tremont does not need another luxury apartment building, it need a beautiful, safe, functioning school for the families that live here. I am deeply concerned and disheartened by the potential closing of this school.			
05/17/19 2:01 PM	Resident, Community Partner		Extensive Engagement (Attended one of the April regional meetings AND spent time on the website)	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Agree	Strongly Disagree	Tremont Montessori needs to remain in Tremont. Moving the school will destroy the Montessori program and most students will not bus their children to a non central, less safe neighborhood (currently 45% from east side and 55% from west)			

05/17/19 12:29 PM	Parent/Caregiver	West Region	Active Engagement (attended one of the April regional meetings OR provided feedback through the website)	Strongly agree	Agree	Agree	Disagree	My child currently attends Tremont Montessori and I love the program, teachers, and staff; however, the building is a HUGE concern. I agree with relocating the school. It would be nice to have a rough draft list of building in consideration for moving Tremont Montessori.	If CMDS declines to relocate Tremont Montessori what improvements are they willing to make to the building especially with the HVAC or lack thereof! Would they be willing to use available funds like Hawaii did with electric grids that powered and cooled the school? Are they willing to relocate restroom facilities so that minor children (i.e. pre-k and kindergarteners) aren't alone on the other side of the building just to use the restrooms and at that time have to deal with older students (i.e. 7th and 8th graders) or if something happens they have to figure out how to protect themselves.		
05/16/19 10:22 PM	CMSD Employee (Teacher: Denison School)	West Region	Extensive Engagement (Attended one of the April regional meetings AND spent time on the website)	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	Most worrisome is the possible difficulty of finding a location to keep the new building in Brooklyn Center since Denison is the ONLY school located in our area and most students walk to school. Concerns with consolidating Denison and Mooney and process of combining the staff from two buildings. Concern regarding the loss of student population from the Denison building if forced to move to swing site.	The plan still seems uncertain which may deter any new enrollment at Denison to increase our small numbers.	Please consider carefully the plan to relocate Denison. There are four CMSD K-8 schools south of the valley currently operating. We need to keep a school in Brooklyn Center to continue to support students and families from our area. Ideally, it would may be best to not use swing sites, so as not to impact the school success of our 'B' on the State report card.	Two years to rebuild and relocate Denison seems reasonable, but the staff is concerned with loss of students to nearby charter schools, which would then in turn, decrease the number of staff needed from both buildings.

05/16/19 7:23 PM	Parent/Caregiver	Near West Region	Passive engagement (did not attend one of the April regional meetings BUT spent time on the website)	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	I agree to the boys' academies being blended and relocated.	My question is how will the location be decided? My son went to valley view, I pulled him for numerous reasons. I was a mber of the PTA, I question location because it was the only boy academy in westpark. I felt it was a positive for the surrounding boys. But in the pts meetings, they were having activities schuduleD on the easyside? And the 8th grade boys were taken for dances on the east side girls verses the girls school on the west. Not sure the boys academy, valley view was being guided for the neighborhood. Also they had many issues with discipline and not enough people and or staff to help. Also not enough security, using the security guard as an aid verses his job title for security and protection of full building.		
05/15/19 10:53 PM	Resident		Active Engagement (attended one of the April regional meetings OR provided feedback through the website)	Disagree	Disagree	Strongly agree	Agree				
05/15/19 6:12 PM	N/A			Agree	Disagree	Disagree	Strongly agree	I am unclear if the schools that are being co-relocated are being merged into a single school or just sharing a building. If it's building sharing - is that a sufficient solution for improving the schools that are currently D or F rated? What will allow them to leverage lessons/strategies by the stronger schools?	I'm assuming this lives in a different plan, but wondering about the academic improvement plan for F schools which are not being closed		
05/14/19 8:51 PM	Parent/Caregiver, Resident		No engagement (this is your first experience with the process)	Agree	Agree	Agree	Disagree				

05/14/19 4:02 PM	Parent/Caregiver, Resident, CMSD Employee		Passive engagement (did not attend one of the April regional meetings BUT spent time on the website)	Agree	Agree	Agree	Disagree	Still waiting for JMG school to Be remodeled. The school is in such bad conditions not sure if fixing it will be better in the long run.			
05/14/19 3:25 PM	Parent/Caregiver		Passive engagement (did not attend one of the April regional meetings BUT spent time on the website)	Disagree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Agree				

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05/29/19 4:05 PM	Parent/Caregiver, Resident	West Region	No engagement (this is your first experience with the process)						More recess and outdoor time. Ignoring the fact that kids OF ALL AGES need free play and time outdoors is a detriment to their learning. If you want scores and mental health to improve, let the kids be kids for at least an hour of the school day.		
05/29/19 9:28 AM	Parent/Caregiver, Community Partner, Other (Chef)		Passive engagement (did not attend one of the April regional meetings BUT spent time on the website)	Strongly Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Agree	Please keep tremont Montessori school open It's critical to the neighbors and the neighborhood Thank you Rocco Whalen Chef / Owner Fahrenheit CLE			

05/28/19 11:50 PM	Resident	West Region	Passive engagement (did not attend one of the April regional meetings BUT spent time on the website)	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree		I understand the numbers are important. I understand that having enrollment gets more money. But what about the academics Valley View is bring the academics without having the tools it is bring the community / values that are necessary for our next generation of young boys to succeed. I want you to sit an ask your self will you send your kids to a school that looks nice but has an F rating. I understand combing the schools could be potentially beneficial but your disrupting the culture of both of those schools have. This shouldn't even be passed on enrollment this should be based on the quality of the education. Combing to great schools would only hinder us. Because now the students that go to either might not even have the opportunity to travel to where the new school location is. This isn't about money this about providing our children with the best education. People move to the suburbs to gain better education but why can't cleveland be like that for our kids. I hope that this decision of these school are thought out thoroughly and taking into though of what affects this will have on our kids and think about if these were your kids having to experience this not everyone has the opportunity to go to a private school and there parents have the ability to move. These families have brought there children to this school in extreme temperature with no AC to go to this school so that means something and they are excellling and doing better than the schools with no facilities.	I think that there should still be two separate boy school one for the east and one for the west side. I believe that if these schools were remodeled that there would be an increase in number of students you can't have an increase if there not enough room to put the students.. families shouldn't have to travel to get a better educations from there children.	
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05/28/19 11:31 PM	Other (Former student)	West Region	No engagement (this is your first experience with the process)	Strongly Disagree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Agree	I went to vvbla for 8 years straight and i have to say that those were the best school years of my life , staff and students are treated like family and our family lives strong threw student who are in highschool you cant break our family			
05/28/19 9:48 PM	Community Partner	Near West Region	No engagement (this is your first experience with the process)	Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	I would like some information about the potential closure of Tremont Montessori. I worked with the preK and K classes this year as a visiting artist and I have also lived in the neighborhood for over ten years. With six classes for just early childhood, I can't imagine where these children would be redistributed, although I do realize some live outside of the neighborhood. This means heir parents are actively choosing this school for their earliest educational experiences. That says a lot! I can be reached via email at [REDACTED] Many thanks for your time and anticipated assistance.			

05/28/19 6:32 PM	Resident, Community Partner	Near West Region	Passive engagement (did not attend one of the April regional meetings BUT spent time on the website)	Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Agree	Regarding the closing of Tremont Montessori: I have been a Tremont resident for a decade, and I am a small business owner that works with children. I teach dance classes for children (Dance Arts by Regina), and I am very concerned this recommendation, as it seems completely out of touch with what I have lived in this neighborhood over the last 10 years. Tremont is, and this is NOT arguable, one of Cleveland's most desirable neighborhoods to live in. One of the biggest changes is how many families are deciding to stay in the neighborhood: ten years ago and before, having a child meant immediately looking to move out of the city. If we want to continue building the Near West Side communities and making the city more family-friendly in general, a school like Tremont Montessori is absolutely integral to the success of the neighborhood. I haven't even begun to mention how much new residential development there is in the neighborhood and surrounding (Duck Island). These are huge, high-price developments. We want families to stay! I sincerely hope you will reconsider. Thank you!			
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05/28/19 2:13 PM	Parent/Caregiver, Resident	Near West Region	Passive engagement (did not attend one of the April regional meetings BUT spent time on the website)	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Agree	Agree	As a resident and homeowner of Tremont as well as a parent of a Tremont Montessori student, I am terribly disappointed to hear that the BOE has recommended to move the program to a different location. Tremont must have a high quality school in the neighborhood if Cleveland wants families with young children to consider staying in the city. As a resident of the neighborhood I want a high quality school in my neighborhood. As a parent, I want to be able to continue sending my children to Tremont Montessori. As Cleveland tax payer, I can't find a good reason to relocate a school that draws students nearly equally from the East and West side, when there is not a suitable centrally located alternative, and moving the school out of a central location will certainly affect enrollment. Please consider keeping Tremont Montessori in Tremont!			
05/28/19 11:26 AM	Resident, CMSD Employee	Northeast Region	Passive engagement (did not attend one of the April regional meetings BUT spent time on the website)	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Disagree				

05/28/19 10:43 AM	Resident	Near West Region	No engagement (this is your first experience with the process)	Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Agree	I do not agree with the recommendation by the district to relocate Tremont Montessori school. With more and more development coming to the area, Tremont is becoming a safe place for children and families to live and stay in the city without moving to the suburbs. Montessori education has proven benefits and more parents are turning to alternative forms of education thanks to gaps in the basic school curriculum. Taking an elementary school out of the Tremont neighborhood would be a detriment to the community.	Keep Tremont Montessori in Tremont, a safe, walkable neighborhood, and invest in this historic building rather than relocating elsewhere.	It's not clear why the resolution is to re-locate rather than invest in the school that already exists.	
05/26/19 12:07 AM	CMSD Employee	Near West Region	Extensive Engagement (Attended one of the April regional meetings AND spent time on the website)	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Agree	Agree	Moving the Montessori program is troubling. Tremont is centrally located and the community has supported the program since 2005.	A new building in Tremont, possibly replacing the old building, should be built for Tremont Montessori. The program has persevered through numerous challenges and has found a forever home in the Tremont community and now has a strong administrator and advocate for the Montessori program. The children, families, and staff deserve a new building in the same area.	Utilize a swing site for a year while the building is constructed.	Begin construction in June of 2020 with the goal of occupancy being August 2021.

05/25/19 2:39 PM	Community Partner	Near West Region	No engagement (this is your first experience with the process)	Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	I strongly disagree with the recommendation to move Tremont Montessori School out of its current community. A newer building is needed, yes, but one in that same community. The school is quite an integral part of the community, which needs it as much as it depends on the community for its Montessori learning process, always community-based. I've volunteered in the school for five years and love the great spirit in that school, which definitiely spills out into the community. KEEP IT NEARBY when rebuilding...please!			
05/25/19 1:37 PM	Resident	Near West Region	Active Engagement (attended one of the April regional meetings OR provided feedback through the website)						Fulfilling commitment to build new Montessori school in Tremont.. Growing neighborhood in both housing and children and the need of the district for a new Montessori school building..		
05/24/19 9:08 PM	CMSD Employee	Near West Region	Active Engagement (attended one of the April regional meetings OR provided feedback through the website)	Disagree	Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Why would you move a school from an area where families feel safe? It is clear that parents do not want to send children to school in their neighborhood, so much so that they bus them even though there is a closer choice.	Tremont school is not healthy and needs a rebuild. But families are flocking their from all over the city. There is a reason for that.		

Date Stamp	I am a(n)...	Region	Extent of Engagement	District Choices	District chosen NOT to make recommendations	Program vs Building Actions	Timing	Your ideas about District Rec	Ideas about Rec's not made	Implementation	Timing of Recs
06/04/19 8:21 AM	Other (employee/intern of community partner)	Not Applicable	Passive engagement (did not attend one of the April regional meetings BUT spent time on the website)	Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	The district is recommending relocating Bolton school to the Hough neighborhood, which all ready has three k-8 schools and would require Bolton students to cross the busy and dangerous intersection of 61st and Chester. Quality k-8 schools are central to the health and vibrancy of neighborhoods, and Fairfax is trying to attract new residents by building 500 new units of housing and investing in Opportunity Corridor.	n/a	n/a	Community partners all ready had a plan in place to merge Bolton and Dike with Karamu house, making it a school focused on arts and sciences through partnerships with CWRU and the Cleveland Clinic. This plan makes more economic long-term sense than displacing Bolton students to Hough.

06/03/19 3:00 PM	Resident	Northeast Region	Active Engagement (attended one of the April regional meetings OR provided feedback through the website)	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Leave a K-8 school in Fairfax area.	<p>The plan is to merge Bolton and Dyke Elementary, currently in Central. Dyke is the CMSD lower school of the Arts.</p> <p>The plan has been to merge the 2 schools and locate a new school next to Karamu House that would have an arts and science/technology The issues are:</p> <p>1. Every neighborhood needs a quality school and Fairfax should have a school. Not having a school is disinvesting in the Fairfax neighborhood and a form of academic redlining.</p> <p>2. The Hough neighborhood has 3 k – 8 schools, why do they need 4?</p> <p>3. The school they want to relocate Bolton to is Margaret Ireland at 61st &amp; Chester. The school is currently vacant and boarded and directly across from a pre-release center, Oriana House. If students had to walk they would have to cross Chester Avenue to get to school.</p> <p>4. With all of the planned investment and 500 new units of housing how do we attract new residents to the neighborhood without a school?</p> <p>5. With all of the new businesses planned for Opportunity Corridor the goal is to have people moving into the neighborhoods along the corridor and being able to walk to work and have a school for their children to attend in close proximity.</p> <p>6. This plan does not consider the impact on children, families or neighborhoods.</p> <p>7. It would be hard to support a levy for Cleveland Public Schools.</p>		
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06/02/19 10:00 PM	Parent/Caregiver, Resident	Near West Region	Active Engagement (attended one of the April regional meetings OR provided feedback through the website)	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	As a resident of Cleveland who lives across the street from Tremont Montessori as well as a parent whose children have attended the 5Star Prechool/Kindergarten program there I am very upset with the recommendation to move the program to another location. As a resident I grew up across the street from William Rainey Harper when it closed and saw the devastating effects first hand: a decrepit building, increased vermin, overgrown ground and drug use and homeless persons living in the abandoned school. Crime increased during the neighborhood at that time. I will not stand for that happening again across the street from me! In addition, and even more importantly, the Montessori program is central to both sides of the city while housed in Tremont, they are an active community partner, a wonderful neighbor to surrounding residents and it has been a joy to walk my children to school each day. The Montessori School is valued by students and parents on both sides of town and moving it anywhere but a central location will alienate others. The program has also made great strides with Ms. Celeste and I could see the cultural shift of the building becoming more Montessori. Finally, as a former board member of Tremont West Development Corporation, the school is the foundation of our neighborhood. Residents do not view nearby schools such as Luis Munoz Marin or Buhrer the same way. I am pleading with you to reconsider and keep the Montessori program at Tremont Elementary. As a resident, tax payer and parent of a CMSD student we deserve it.	I would have liked to have seen a remodel of the building - I think just adding air conditioning would suffice rather than an entire tear down and rebuild which is what others have been proposing. I would be ecstatic to keep that building occupied with children rather than closing it down.		
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05/31/19 9:53 PM	Resident	Not Applicable	No engagement (this is your first experience with the process)	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree		I don't understand why Tremont Montessori is not being rebuilt as promised in the past when a bond issue was passed for that purpose.		
05/31/19 9:04 PM	Resident	Not Applicable	Passive engagement (did not attend one of the April regional meetings BUT spent time on the website)	Disagree	Disagree	Disagree	Disagree	My hope is that Tremont school continues to be supported. Anything I can do as community building facilitator would be welcome.			

05/31/19 11:37 AM	Parent/Caregiver, Resident	Southwest Region	Extensive Engagement (Attended one of the April regional meetings AND spent time on the website)	Disagree	Agree	Agree	Agree	Regarding Tremont Montessori, I am worried about the recommendation to close the current facility and relocate. My older child is a Pre-K student at Tremont, we hope to send our younger there as well. In addition to being a parent, I am also a Tremont resident, and the potential closing of that school site is very concerning to me. I have read through the school planning website, and SO MUCH is still unclear about the thought process behind this recommendation. For example, while you have noted that only 11% of students live within a mile of the school, you do not appear to have examined why the school so successfully draws so many students from around the district. I believe that the current location probably has a lot to do with the school's viability as a district-wide destination. Tremont is centrally located and is also directly off of several highways. If the school is relocated to another location, would it still be successful in terms of enrollment? I suspect not, and as a parent, no one has reached out to me (or to other parents that I know of) to gather information about why we choose this school. It seems like your team has not fully gathered info relevant to what makes the school work/not work before making the recommendation to relocate the school. I do understand that the building is in very rough shape, but that building condition and the location of where students live cannot be the only major data points in coming to such a big decision about the school's future.	If you are going to recommend closing the current school and relocating Tremont Montessori to a different location, we must also simultaneously discuss where the school would go, and what would happen to the site. I cannot support an open-ended and ambiguous notion of closing my child's school and vacating a central neighborhood hub without understanding the other half the equation. Where will our kids end up??? What happens to the current school site?	The proposed decision/implementation timeline really concerns me. Your staff has proposed to relocate away from the current Tremont Montessori facility, but offered no other information about either the fate of the Tremont site or potential new locations for the school. I don't believe you can separate different facets of the same decision as "planning" vs. "implementation". As I understand your proposed timeline, CMSD plans to make decisions about where to relocate the school during 2019-20, and then having the school in the new facility the following school year. This timeline is VERY concerning to me. I attended the April meeting, where CMSD staff talked of an open process. To me, this openness now seems untrue. If the school is going to move so quickly to a new location - just a few months after the decision of where to go is supposed to be made - then that timeline indicates that there must already be a short list of potential options. I	These recommendations came out at the very end of the school year, and there is only one meeting scheduled per area to discuss your findings/recommendations about very important issues about the future of our school. Further, for me, as a resident of Tremont and a parent at Tremont Montessori, the community meeting is on a Saturday. I will be out of town and cannot attend, and am extremely frustrated there are no additional meeting dates. If you want to get true community support, you should have more time for outreach and meetings, particularly when the recommendations include such major issues as closing or relocating
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										<p>assume these options would be existing schools that will be closed as a result of the ongoing planning process. I feel you need to be upfront with residents/parents/stakeholders about this, because the potential relocation site is crucial information. I may support tough decisions about schools, programs, and facilities, but I CANNOT support such big decisions when I am only being given partial information. In the case of my children's school/our neighborhood school, Tremont Montessori, there is no way to separate a potential decision to move the school from decisions about where the school will go, and what will happen to the existing site if the facility is vacated. As a parent, I would not support moving Tremont Montessori to a distant location that is not easily accessible to my family. As a Tremont resident, I am also very invested in the future of the Tremont Montessori site, and would need more information</p>	<p>schools. These are really important issues, and members of the community are going to have lots to say. I know that holding multiple meetings is a lot of work, and that some of the feedback is going to be negative, but honestly, I think that's exactly why more outreach is needed. Tough issues require time to work through. If you want to truly build consensus, it is going to take time and lots of hard work with all the stakeholders.</p>
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05/31/19 10:07 AM	CMSD Employee	Southwest Region	Active Engagement (attended one of the April regional meetings OR provided feedback through the website)	Agree	Strongly Disagree	Agree	Agree	I worry that the district is looking at a snapshot in time with the long success of Tremont Montessori. Poor planning on changing the rules of the admission of the program have adversely affected the program. I want the district to remember that this program has been around for 30 years and has been very successful. It is just a bump in the road and we need to support it, not do things that will destroy it.	A new building is vital. The old building is not suitable but moving it out of Tremont is almost worse than remaining in the old building. The community is in deep support of the school and we would lose that if moved. Many families do not utilize their neighborhood schools because of safety. They are willing to put their child on a bus to another part of town for that safety. We would lose those students to other schools if moved to the east side.		I understand the timing, but I don't agree with it. The Tremont area has supported levy's to keep the school there. They have been very supportive of the program. The area is perfect for the Montessori model.
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Date Stamp	I am a(n)...	Region	Extent of Engagement	District Choices	District chosen NOT to make recommendations	Program vs Building Actions	Timing	Your ideas about District Rec	Ideas about Rec's not made	Implementation	Timing of Recs
06/10/19 8:26 PM	CMSD Employee	Near West Region	Extensive Engagement (Attended one of the April regional meetings AND spent time on the website)	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	I would like to point out that Ms Eleqad wanted to hear from more parents from Tremont Montessori but we have had many parents speak on our behalf including a very passionate speech from one PAC parent at then last meeting. Yes the community as well but also from many parents. We had several at the last community meeting.			
06/10/19 6:11 PM	Parent/Caregiver , Resident	Southwest Region	Extensive Engagement (Attended one of the April regional meetings AND spent time on the website)	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Combining the boys schools will lose everything that Valleyview has changed over the last several years. As a parent, the change has been amazing! The academic push is beyond what I've seen at other schools. The school is like a family. Our boys are cared for by staff as if they are their own kids.	Combine the girls west side school and the boys west side school separating them by different floors or wings. Both schools produce academically. To move Valleyview, you will lose quality students from the district. Many parents are talking of sending their children to charter schools in the area. CMSD is a school choice district. I chose CMSD and Valleyview for this program AND it's locat. My boys will attend west part community if this merger happens.	Please do not implement. Please consider other alternatives.	Give Valleyview a couple of years to continue their change of culture and academic growth. Attendance will rise as the word spreads of how amazing the school is.

06/10/19 5:37 PM	Parent/Caregiver	Near West Region	Extensive Engagement (Attended one of the April regional meetings AND spent time on the website)	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Agree	Agree	Why would Tremont Montessori move to the east side? The two original Montessori schools were merged to Tremont so that the program would be at a location that all Cleveland students could attend without riding a bus for 45 minutes or longer. Do not move this program to the east side and do not move it into two buildings and destroy it as noted in the alternative recommendations dated June 8.	Give Tremont a new building in Tremont on the same spot.	West side parents will not bus their children to an east side location. I will not. I also will not put my children in an other CMSD school because the Montessori program is the best.	This has been dragging on and on for Tremont Montessori. Just stick with the original plan and build the new building in Tremont where the community supports the Montessori program.
06/10/19 5:28 PM	Parent/Caregiver	Near West Region	Extensive Engagement (Attended one of the April regional meetings AND spent time on the website)	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	The Montessori program needs to remain centrally located. Tremont is the ideal location so that students from both the east and west side have equal access. DO NOT MOVE THE MONTESSORI PROGRAM OUT OF TREMONT! Parents like myself will not send children on longer bus rides to go to the east side or the west side.	Tremont Montessori should be rebuilt in Tremont.		Utilize a swing site for the 2020-2021 school year while the new building is constructed in TREMONT.

06/10/19 2:26 PM	CMSD Employee	Near West Region	Extensive Engagement (Attended one of the April regional meetings AND spent time on the website)	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Do parents know about meetings? Board wants to hear from them but they need to be informed. Also please note that 100 children were enrolled at Tremont Montessori as a result of a closed failing charter. This is nearly 1/4 of the school. This along with open enrollment at any grade makes it very hard to implement a Montessori program with very specific curriculum.			
06/05/19 1:40 PM	Resident		Active Engagement (attended one of the April regional meetings OR	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	Strongly agree			What will be done with the building if closure does happen?	



Date Stamp	I am a(n)...	Region	Extent of Engagement	District Choices	District chosen NOT to make recs	Program vs Building Actions	Timing	Your ideas about District Rec	Ideas about Rec's not made	Implementation	Timing of Recs
06/14/19 12:59 PM	Parent/Caregiver	Near West Region	Extensive Engagement (Attended one of the April regional meetings AND spent time on the website)	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	Strongly agree			PLEASE consider keeping Tremont Montessori in Tremont. We send our children to the school because of the convenient location and the incredible community support that Tremont offers. The Montessori model has been incredibly beneficial for my Pre-K child and I do not want to lose it. If the school moves to the East side, we will be forced to send our children elsewhere. Tremont Montessori deserves a new building in its current location!!	
06/14/19 9:57 AM	Parent/Caregiver	Near West Region	Active Engagement (attended one of the April regional meetings OR provided feedback through the website)	Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Agree	I don't really understand why the Montessori program would move to the eastside. About half the kids are from the west side, and half the kids are from the east side. Tremont is in the middle. I thought that is why it was moved to Tremont years ago. My kids will not attend if the program is moved. There is a Montessori school on the east side. I like the Tremont neighborhood. Not a good choice for the program. Just build a new school right where it is.			
06/13/19 8:39 PM	Parent/Caregiver	Near West Region	Extensive Engagement (Attended one of the April regional meetings AND spent time on the website)	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly agree	Agree	Why was it never mentioned in all the community meeting that Tremont Montessori's emerging recommendation was to have the program moved to the EAST SIDE. All paperwork handed out never said EAST SIDE. It just said the program would be relocated. THAT INFORMATION SHOULD HAVE BEEN SHARED AT EVERY SINGLE MEETING INSTEAD OF JUST POSTED LAST WEEKEND AND MENTIONED AT THE MEETING ON JUNE 11. An East side move will lead to the end of the Montessori program. The only alternative recommendation that should happen should be a new building for the Montessori program in Tremont. Why move the program east??? Just because there is a building available??? Use that building for an east side school that needs to be rebuilt or renovated. LEAVE THE PROGRAM WHERE IT BELONGS IN TREMONT!			
06/13/19 12:11 PM	Parent/Caregiver	Near West Region	Passive engagement (did not attend one of the April regional meetings BUT spent time on the website)	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	Tremont Montessori: I understand the recommendations to move location due to low enrollment. Property taxes have tripled in this location and life long residents are being priced out of this thriving community. This community has turned around and so can its school. I chose this school for my daughter because of the excellent preschool Montessori program, its safe location, and their access to its wonderful public facilities such as Lincoln park and Tremont Library. Its a community our family loves being a part of.	i am unaware of the full extent of damages that need upgrading at Tremont Montessori, but i would rather stay at this location than move to an East Side location with no community support/involvement. I also support this school becoming a full credited Montessori program.		
06/13/19 10:43 AM	Parent/Caregiver, Resident, Elected Official							While I send my oldest child to preschool at Tremont Montessori and I am considering it for K-8 education, it is not my first choice school for grade school. The Montessori program for Children's House is excellent, but the later grades do not have the Montessori program fully implemented. If the school was a full Montessori school in Tremont, there would be no other choice for my children!			
06/13/19 10:12 AM	Parent/Caregiver, Resident, Elected Official		Extensive Engagement (Attended one of the April regional meetings AND spent time on the website)					I currently send one of my children to Tremont Montessori for preschool, and if the school remains a Montessori school in Tremont I will send my other child when he is old enough. However, if the school moves to the east side or out of a central location, I will not be able to send my children due to the logistics of travel and schedule.			

06/12/19 5:00 PM	Parent/Caregiver	Near West Region	Extensive Engagement (Attended one of the April regional meetings AND spent time on the website)	Agree	Disagree	Strongly agree	Disagree	I don't like that the district is recommending the school be moved permanently to another location. The location that it's currently in is prime and easily accessible. I grew up on the eastside of Cleveland attending Eastside schools and I hated every bit of it. The environment was terrible, the teachers(most) had crappy attitudes, hated coming to work, talked terribly to the kids and my kids have experienced some of what I did in attending schools in certain areas. And I prefer westside schools.		I am a parent who's children attend Tremont Montessori. And I think rebuilding Tremont has to be done, but the relocation of the is unacceptable, inconvenient, and does not make any sense other than for the children being moved temporarily while the school is being rebuilt. Tremont is located in one of the best locations in Cleveland. The neighborhood is safe, the commute and access to the school is perfect. There is access to all the major freeways which is great for The Teachers, Parents, School bus drivers who brings kids in from all over Cleveland. We parents love Tremont and recommend that it be rebuilt in it's same location. I bring all 4 of my children to school everyday from the Eastside of Cleveland. My kids have attended other CMSD Schools and they hated every bit of it. Due to certain circumstances I am unable to relocate from where I currently live that's why I choose to at least relocate where my children get their education. Tremont is a great school and to permanently move it from it's current location would be a disaster for several reasons. Mainly being that if it's relocated to the Eastside you would loose more then half of your students(even though a lot come from the Eastside) and that reason is because of the montesorri experience and location. The Eastside would be very uncomfortable for Tremont's diverse group of students. Safety is a really big concern, and Tremont Montessori is a great school in which all Love and want to see at it's full potential. The teachers show the students so much love, compassion, and patience. Tremont rebuilt in it's current location would be great success for students, teachers, parents, and the district. Montessori learning is amazing and as long as the Great Teachers Tremont Currently have are equipped with all the tools they need I promise they will make this school one of Cleveland's best Schools in the district. Tremont needs severe updates so that the teachers can teach the kids comfortably and they comfortably.	
06/12/19 4:06 PM	CMSD Employee	Near West Region	Extensive Engagement (Attended one of the April regional meetings AND spent time on the website)	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	The Montessori program is a beautiful concept. It is a gem in the district. We have a huge diverse population socioeconomically culturally and racially. Looking only at a report card does not give the true scale and magnitude of what we do. So many of our children go on to excel at some of the top high schools in the district and off to college. Many of ours Former students love her program so much that they have brought their children back to our school for the same experience. I have had three grand students in my classroom and I'm going to have another this coming year. I invite any boardmember to join our Preschool Facebook page to see photos of what a Montessori preschool/Kinder classroom looks like. Tremont Montessori Children's House I know in my heart that a safe new building in the Tremont area will attract families. If you build it, they will come! As it stands we fill six classrooms of preschoolers every year that is upwards of 90 to 100 children that use our program intentionally despite where they live despite no transportation as they are in preschool. Come from all sides of town and out of the district even to utilize our Montessori program			
06/12/19 4:02 PM	Parent/Caregiver		Extensive Engagement (Attended one of the April regional meetings AND spent time on the website)	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	I am a parent of four Tremont Montessori students. I am very disappointed to see that they are considering relocation. Tremont is easily accessible for all students and it it a perfect neighborhood for the Montessori method.	The Tremont Montessori school should be rebuilt. If we give people a new safe building in this central neighborhood it will thrive.		Proper access to clean water should be provided to all children while waiting for these building plans to be finished.

06/12/19 11:41 AM	Parent/Caregiver, CMSD Employee	Near West Region	Active Engagement (attended one of the April regional meetings OR provided feedback through the website)	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	I really hope that the district chooses to continue the Montessori program! I know right now they're are decision floating around right now. I LOVE the Montessori program, I started as a general Pre k - 3rd grade teacher at Tremont, I did not know much about Montessori prior to being a long term sub at the building. I was giving the opportunity to take a summer training and I truly feel like such a better educator since!! I have found my students excelling in their abilities at such a young age. I live within the CMSD and when my daughter turned 3 I had no doubt that she will be a Tremont student! She was reading by 4 years old!!! My current! kindergartener is reading at a 2nd-3rd grade reader!!! She's adding and subtracting double and triple digit numbers!!! Tremont Montessori is a great school and we have great potential!! I have students who left after preschool thinking other schools were a better option but have since returned seeing our program at Tremont was best for their children!!!			
06/12/19 9:26 AM	CMSD Employee	Near West Region	Extensive Engagement (Attended one of the April regional meetings AND spent time on the website)	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	An East side location is not a good choice for a program that is a citywide draw. Tremont was selected 14 years ago because of its central location when Dike and Booker were merged. Families include children of many former students of both schools that love the location. Additionally, suggesting as an alternative that there be two Montessori schools within a school would surely destroy the program. In order to be done with fidelity, the Montessori program requires many components that can not just be abruptly split in two and placed within two other schools. We have a Montessori credentialed administrator that is working tirelessly to ensure that our school becomes an authentic Montessori school. Splitting between two schools within schools would diminish and eventually destroy the program. Our entire sense of community that we have built would no longer be viable. Reducing the program to PreK-3 would likely cause families that have multiple children never to select the program because once one child would become a fourth grader, that child would no longer have a seat in a Montessori classroom. Families like to keep their children together. My own children attended Tremont Montessori and despite my LOVE of Montessori education and my faith in the program at Tremont, I do not think I would place my children in a school within a school program or a PreK-3 only program or a building on the east side. We need a modern facility in Tremont. The families, community, and staff want to stay! Please listen to the feedback!			

06/11/19 3:50 PM	Parent/Caregiver	Southeast Region	Active Engagement (attended one of the April regional meetings OR provided feedback through the website)	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree			I'm very concerned that parents do not understand how to give feedback. The website is confusing on how to reach. Pigeonhole you into questions rather than allowing open comments. parents don't know or understand how to be organized necessarily and board meetings are Timothy eating. Parents don't understand how the process works or how to be able to make comments. Timid eating. Parents don't understand how the process works or how to be able to meet timelines Tremont and Story is very diverse and you are hearing from parents that have knowledge and are community and politically connected. Many of our parents for particularly those who come from poverty don't know how to be involved with the process. It's important that you make your question and access to Feedback more accessible for everybody. Please don't make decisions until you can get their information or feedback from parents. Even on the website the way to give feedback is buried with in buttons and the way the survey is set up it's not inviting for open comments. Our parents whether they can speak it out or not show that this location is important because they put their kids on the bus to get there rather than choosing a community neighborhood school. Parents do you choose the school especially early in preschool but are drawn into the next best thing like campus where there's tons of support. Given the same support in a safe school building we would retain parents particularly in that community	
06/11/19 2:52 PM	Parent/Caregiver, Resident, Elected Official	Near West Region	Extensive Engagement (Attended one of the April regional meetings AND spent time on the website)					As a resident of Tremont as well as a Tremont Montessori parent, I must voice my discontent at the current recommendation that Tremont Montessori be relocated to an east side location. It makes no sense to take a viable, popular program and relocate it away from a central location for many reasons: 1) central location is key for a school that draws nearly equally from all neighborhoods of the city, and if it must be relocated it should be as central as possible on the near west side, as more students come from the west than the east; 2) Tremont is one of the most vibrant and fastest growing neighborhoods, and closing Tremont Montessori would leave the neighborhood with zero CMSD presence; 3) moving the program to a location that is already modernized, yet NOT set up as a Montessori school, will cost CMSD more money in the long run as CMSD will need to spend the money to reconfigure the school to Montessori standards in order to achieve Montessori accreditation; 4) this program is most popular with the Children's House, Pre-K and Kindergarten students, and Pre-K students cannot be bused and many parents will not make a commute across town; 5) Tremont West Development Corporation and Friends of Tremont Montessori have made investments and support of Tremont Montessori based on it being a Montessori school within Tremont, any decision made that does not honor that commitment and support is a slap in the face of constituents and tax payers who have given their good faith support to this plan and waited patiently for their turn; 6) Tremont residents have very vocally opposed the current building becoming a charter school or development opportunity, they want it to remain a CMSD school of choice that reflects the makeup of the neighborhood of invested, committed residents of Tremont and Cleveland.	Alternative #1 is no compromise at all, as it takes a success program and tears it apart, both in location and in program, and CMSD would need to hire double the amount of Montessori-accredited staff and faculty to have a Montessori program in two locations.  Alternative #4 is not a valid option as it eliminates the Montessori program from CMSD, which I cannot believe a single stakeholder of any kind actually wants or would support.  Alternatives #2, 3 & 5 are the ones we must focus on. Alternative #3 is the best solution, as building a new Montessori School in Tremont fulfills the promise made to this community, the students and the taxpayers who supported the original plan. It is unfortunate that another school must wait in order for this to be achieved, but Tremont Montessori is an asset that must be saved. Alternatives #2 & 5, while less desirable, would allow Tremont Montessori to continue to exist and improve while waiting for new funding sources to be identified so that Tremont Montessori can truly reach its potential.	The residents of Tremont, the students of Tremont Montessori, and the stakeholders who have put so much effort into creating, maintaining and supporting the school deserve nothing less than a new school in its current location, but absolutely require the CMSD board to make good on their promise to invest in the program. If a new school cannot be built in the current location right now, please strongly consider investing in the program as it is now, and make it a priority to find funding in the next funding cycles to fully commit to the original vision of a Montessori school in Tremont.	

06/11/19 2:37 PM	Parent/Caregiver, Resident	Near West Region	Active Engagement (attended one of the April regional meetings OR provided feedback through the website)	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	I am extremely concerned about the possibility of moving Tremont Montessori. One of the best things about this school is how diverse it is because of its central location. If this school were to be moved to the east side, I think there would be a decrease in enrollment from the current 55% of students who come from the west side. The same thing could happen for east side families if the school is moved further west. The best thing about Tremont Montessori is its preschool program. No where else in the area is there a free Montessori preschool program, and there are very few programs in CMSD that begin at age 3. Transportation is also not provided for preschoolers, so the enrollment of this amazing program would decline if the school was moved too far away from its current location. The preschool program at Tremont Montessori gets children beyond prepared for kindergarten. Shouldn't this be a goal of CMSD?	Why can't Tremont Montessori stay in its current building for a few more years until the district can find a better solution that does not have such a negative effect on so many people? I think that having an amazing Montessori program is far more important than moving into a new building far away from its current location and losing half of the school's population.	I also worry that there isn't a named site for the new location of Tremont Montessori. Would the students be moved to a current school forcing those families to find a new school?	Let's just stay put for a few more years and work hard on getting our children an excellent Montessori education.
06/11/19 2:29 PM	CMSD Employee	Near West Region	Extensive Engagement (Attended one of the April regional meetings AND spent time on the website)	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Tremont area has been the perfect location for the Montessori program. It's a safe central location with so many opportunities in the neighborhood and community resources. We can walk to the library we can walk to the park weve been able to partner with Merrick house. The ice cream store and various businesses have been very supportive. I know a new building would bring families in. We have former students bringing their children there. Central location is key because it is safe. We will definitely lose families if we move to the east side. From both east and west families. It would be too far for west families to go in is families are choosing not to send their children to the Eastside intentionally because it is not safe. I absolutely love the neighborhood infield at the art community in Greece is us. We have so many partnerships with the art museum in the library partly because of the Tremont location. The art museum is building an out reach site very close to Tremont Montessori school and has already reached out and planning for the partnership.			

Date Stamp	I am a(n)...	Region	Extent of Engagement	District Choices	District chosen NOT to make recommendations	Program vs Building Actions	Timing	Your ideas about District Rec	Ideas about Rec's not made	Implementation	Timing of Recs
06/24/19 10:15 AM	Parent/Caregiver, Resident	Near West Region	Extensive Engagement (Attended one of the April regional meetings AND spent time on the website)					Keep Tremont Montessori in Tremont. We are committed to the Montessori program. A new building will bring new families. The teachers are great and the program is the best in the district. Tremont is the best location.			
06/21/19 11:11 AM	CMSD Employee	Near West Region	Extensive Engagement (Attended one of the April regional meetings AND spent time on the website)						Thank you for your support of the Montessori program at Tremont Monetssori. Please vote in favor of a new building on our current location. Tremont is the ideal location for the Montessori program. We receive great community support, and there is no doubt a new building will help to recruit additional families that have been interested in the Montessori program but have not been pleased with the condition of the building. No air conditioning, water and plumbing issues, technology not being up to par, and general building deterioration has had a negative impact on our enrollment. The location is perfect. We just need a new building. The Montessori program with thrive and students will excel!		Make this happen for Tremont Montessori!
06/20/19 4:08 PM	Resident	Near West Region						Looking forward to a new building for Tremont Montessori so I can send my children to a safe, modern facility in Tremont with an exceptional Montessori program Yes! Finally!			

06/20/19 9:48 AM	Parent/Caregiver, Resident	Near West Region	Extensive Engagement (Attended one of the April regional meetings AND spent time on the website)					I am hoping that on June 25 the Board of Education votes in the same way that they showed their support on June 18. Build a new school for Tremont Montessori on the current location! This will attract many families that are interested in the Montessori program for their children, but have not pursued it because of the horrible condition of the building. The teachers and program are outstanding. The children deserve a new building. I am so hopeful that this will actually happen after years of waiting.			
06/19/19 11:17 AM	CMSD Employee	Near West Region		Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree			Thank you for listening! Please continue to show your support by building a new building for Tremont Montessori on its current location!			

Date Stamp	I am a(n)...	Region	Extent of Engagement	District Choices	District chosen NOT to make recommendations	Program vs Building Actions	Timing	Your ideas about District Rec	Ideas about Rec's not made	Implementation	Timing of Recs
06/25/19 11:15 PM	Parent/Caregiver, Resident	Near West Region	Passive engagement (did not attend one of the April regional meetings BUT spent time on the website)	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	I understand that the Tremont Montessori School building is old and outdated. If the program is to be relocated to a more modern building it should be moved to a building on the near West side of Cleveland. This will provide the least disruption for parents and caregivers.	Why not build a new school on Tremont School property. It seems like there is enough room to build a new school building while still using the current one. This would lead to the least amount of disruption.		



**From:** Kerry McCormack [mailto:kmccormack@clevelandcitycouncil.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 12:54 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Response to Tremont Montessori

Eric,

Please see my response to the recommendations around Tremont Montessori. I would like to discuss this with you personally. Can you please call my cell at [REDACTED].

I would like to talk with you about reconsidering this decision as I believe it conflicts with now only how the school and community have operated, but it also conflicts with the Mayor's and City's vision of growing out population and ensuring quality of life amenities like quality public schools in all Cleveland neighborhoods.

Thank you,

Kerry



CITY OF CLEVELAND  
Office of the Council

[www.clevelandcitycouncil.org](http://www.clevelandcitycouncil.org)

**Kerry McCormack** COUNCIL MEMBER, WARD 3

COMMITTEES: Health & Human Services - Development, Planning & Sustainability - Safety

May 16, 2019

Mr. Eric Gordon  
CEO  
Cleveland Metropolitan School District

Dear CEO Gordon,

I am writing in response to the recent announcement made by CMSD that Tremont Montessori is on the list of schools to be closed in Cleveland. This recommendation is extremely short-sighted, misguided and against many years of community engagement, conversation and planning for the future of the school and neighborhood.

In 2010 Friends of Tremont Montessori (FOTM), a group of volunteer parents, community members and activists was created to support Tremont Montessori and to shepherd the school to a successful future. Understanding how important a high quality public school in central Tremont is to the future of the neighborhood, as well as to socioeconomic equity, FOTM and the community at large have spent countless hours advocating for, supporting and helping to guide the school. Recently, we welcomed the first montessori certified educator as principal on the way to establishing the school as a high performing fully accredited public Montessori.

In 2016 I joined you, supporters of CMSD and the community for a rally in the gym of Tremont Montessori to support issue 108. The Tremont community overwhelmingly supported issue 108 with the full expectation that CMSD would be an integral part of the future of central Tremont. Instead, with the recent proposal to eliminate Tremont Montessori, Central Tremont will be left with **NO CMSD PRESENCE AT ALL**.

What message does it send to Cleveland residents that our City school district is retreating from a growing neighborhood that has had a 50% increase in children under 5 years old and a 35% growth in young people between the ages of 25 and 34? What message does it send that we are removing a public school in a diverse neighborhood that now more than ever needs high quality, inclusive and equitable public education options for children of all different backgrounds and socioeconomic statuses?

I highly encourage you to reconsider this decision and I stand ready to continue to support CMSD and Tremont Montessori moving forward.

Thank you,

Kerry McCormack  
Cleveland City Councilman , Ward 3

**From:** THOMAS COOK [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 2:16 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Tremont Montessori closing and relocation

Eric, thanks for the quick reply. Please understand I am not suggesting CMSD is making" an attempt to abandon Montessori ". I am simply pointing out that the actions you are contemplating, although unintended, will result in slow and painful death of the program. As a member of the Friends of Tremont Montessori I am very familiar with the accreditation process. Facilities and the comprehensive training of staff are two important components for Montessori accreditation, both of which will be severely impacted by a move.

The community, with support from you and your team, has been working the plan for 9 years. Let us complete the plan.

Sincerely,

Tom

Sent from my iPhone

Tom Cook  
[REDACTED]

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On May 17, 2019, at 1:12 PM, Gordon, Eric <[Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org](mailto:Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org)> wrote:

Mr. Cook,

Thank you for the feedback. I will share it with my planning team and the Board of Education and will also post it with all of the other public feedback received. This is not an attempt to abandon Montessori and, in fact, the Cleveland Teachers Union and District are currently discussing a Memorandum of Understanding that would better enable the school and faculty to become fully accredited. We will certainly take your and all feedback into consideration before finalizing any recommendations we will make to the Board of Education.

Again, thank you for sharing your feedback. I do appreciate it.

Sincerely,  
Eric

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**From:** THOMAS COOK [[mailto: \[REDACTED\]](mailto: [REDACTED])]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2019 3:33 PM



**To:** Gordon, Eric <[Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org](mailto:Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org)>

**Subject:** Tremont Montessori closing and relocation

CEO Gordon, I have read the [cleveland.com](http://cleveland.com) announcement regarding the relocation of Tremont Montessori along with the other school changes. I have also read the response from Cory Riordan, TWDC Executive Director, to you. I completely agree with Cory- this decision is a mistake.

In addition to the reasons put forth by Cory I offer these additional points.

1- Your analysis cites having 17% of students from the Tremont area as a rationale for moving the school. This is only a negative if the objective is that all K-8 schools in Cleveland are generalized “neighborhood” schools. You would not use this metric to evaluate the Cleveland School for the Arts, would you? As a “magnet” school specializing in Montessori we should view drawing 45% of children from the east side and 55% from the west side as positive affirmation by Cleveland families that they support Montessori and Tremont. Additionally, local parents have shared with me that the uncertainty of whether Tremont was committed to Montessori or not and whether a new building was forthcoming influenced their decision to choose a different school. They wanted to choose a stable, improving school and program that would be in place throughout their child’s K-8 years.

2-If you are moving to a full “neighborhood school” approach and abandoning Montessori please say so (I could at least better understand the difficult choice being made if this were the case). If you somehow believe that the Montessori programs will survive once relocated, you are wrong. Parents will choose to not bus their children to a non-centralized east or west side location (anywhere from 45% to 55% of the current students depending on where the school moves). Renewed uncertainty concerning the district’s commitment to Montessori will impact enrollment. Montessori trained teachers will choose to work at a different school, CMSD and otherwise- another wasted investment. The new location will not be designed for Montessori, a critical next step in our strategic plan for the school. The Friends of Tremont Montessori will no longer be there to help drive and support the continued improvement of the school. The new school will be forced to compromise any commitment to Montessori to meet minimum enrollment standards.

You may view the current CMSD situation as “half empty” with a need to sacrifice the upside of a high performing public Montessori built in a vibrant, growing, safe and central location- Tremont- so you can fill currently empty seats in a new building elsewhere. Moving children around while disrupting teaching and program improvements will not make our schools better. Please consider our situation at Tremont Montessori as “half full” and allow us to finish the plan we started 9 years ago.

Respectfully,

Tom Cook

Sent from my iPhone

Tom Cook



**From:** Yvonne Bruce [mailto: ]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 12:25 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Save Tremont Montessori

Dear Mr. Gordon:

I write to implore you to save Tremont Montessori School, a valuable member of the CMSD system and an irreplaceable member of the Tremont community.

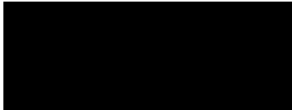
According to this year's Tremont West Development Corporation's Annual Report, the number of children under the age of five living in Tremont has increased by more than 54% in the last year, a statistic with multiple implications for our neighborhood. But one of the most important implications is that those children, if their parents are to remain in Tremont, need an accessible and sound educational opportunity, which Tremont Montessori offers.

Tremont continues to grow and diversify. Tremont Montessori is key to our ongoing development.

Please save Tremont Montessori!

Sincerely,

Yvonne Bruce



From: JOE BIALEK [mailto: ]  
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2019 1:50 PM  
To: Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
Subject: Re: Closures, consolidation and new buildings recommended for Cleveland elementary schools

Thanks Eric. I think one can surmise this given the history of closed school buildings in Cleveland. It would be nice to see these buildings converted to job-creating factories such as computer assembly. Is there any chance of saving Willow School?

Joe

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-----Original Message-----

From: Gordon, Eric  
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2019 12:41 PM  
To: JOE BIALEK  
Subject: RE: Closures, consolidation and new buildings recommended for Cleveland elementary schools

Good morning Joe,

We have no redevelopment plans for Willow school and have not had any conversations about it becoming an apartment building or anything else. Is there a rumor that it is?

Thanks!  
Eric

---

-----Original Message-----

From: JOE BIALEK [mailto: ]  
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2019 6:42 PM  
To: Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
Subject: Closures, consolidation and new buildings recommended for Cleveland elementary schools

<https://fox8.com/2019/05/15/closures-consolidation-and-new-buildings-recommended-for-cleveland-elementary-schools/>

Eric, is Willow School slated to become yet another apartment building?

Joe Bialek



From: Margy Judd [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2019 12:53 PM  
To: Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
Subject: RE: Keep Tremont Montesorri open

We love having the Montessori school....having a magnet for one specialized type of schooling brings all kinds of kids into the Tremont neighborhood from all over the city and it's a healthy mix.

But if Montessori isn't making the cut, was at least need to have an elementary anchor school in Tremont or we will never get families with school aged kids to stay in our neighborhood.

Thanks for listening!

Margy

Margaret M. Judd (AKA Margy, with a hard G)

President and Owner



.....creating first impressions of NE Ohio for job candidates, new hires and their families since 1979.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2019 12:40 PM  
To: Margy Judd < [REDACTED] >  
Subject: RE: Keep Tremont Montesorri open

Ms. Judd,

Thank you for sharing your feedback. I will share it with our planning team and the Board of Education and will add it to the public commentary on our website as well.

Do you have an opinion as to whether the Montessori program itself is important or whether having a school (whether it is Montessori or not) is more important?


Again, thank you for your feedback.



Sincerely,  
Eric

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-----Original Message-----

From: Margy Judd [mailto:  
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2019 7:03 PM  
To: Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
Subject: Keep Tremont Montessori open

Eric,

Seriously - we have a vibrant community with young families w/ kids and we will soon have no CMSD option? That's crazy. I've been in Tremont 20 yrs and we need this anchor in our community!!! We need this Montessori school where it is.

Margy

Margaret (Margy-hard G) Judd  
President  
Executive Arrangements, Inc.  


**From:** Danielle Vigh [mailto: ]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 6:04 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Tremont Montessori

Hi Mr. Gordon,

Thank you for your response.

Enrollment was closed early in the building to limit the number of children entering in middle grades without Montessori experience. Tremont Montessori had pushed for this and it was put into place this year. The building principal or Cory, the Tremont West Development Corp president could explain it best.

I am not myself a huge Montessori advocate. I have experience with IB and believe in that program fully. That being said, I would chose the Montessori school over Campus because it is my neighborhood and I could be an both an active parent partner and a community member. I love how TMS currently utilizes the neighborhood both as a partner and as opportunities for the children to engage in meaningful learning in their community. Their PreK program is wonderful. With the new towpath just a few blocks from the school, the opportunity to partner with the Metroparks could be huge for the school.

I dont know if most families choose TMS because of the Montessori program. I do know that people choose TMS because it's in a safe neighborhood in a community that has actively supported the school. The community support is key to a schools success. The businesses and the residents are fully in support of TMS and it's presence in the neighborhood.

If the school were rebuilt as an IB school I would be happy as a clam. I do think that the district needs a portfolio of options for families to choose from and that Montessori should be an option.

With a 50% increase in Tremont residents 5 and under, in a neighborhood that is thriving, surrounded by other neighborhoods with tremendous growth (Ohio City, Gordon Square, Clark/Fulton. How could one not see the long term potential in keeping a building that would draw from all of those neighborhoods as well as others?

We honestly thought the last time we had to fight for the school would be The Last Time.

We were promised the school would remain open and just last year we were promised a new building. These promises are seeming to be broken often. We want to support you and your vision for the district. We want to help improve report card scores by enrolling in public and being active parents. At a certain point people are going to stop trusting that you and the BOE mean what you say and then stop supporting the districts children.

Please let me know what I or any of my neighbors can do to be helpful. I know you don't want to close any schools and the the decision is a hard one.

Kind Regards,

Danielle Foran

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On Fri, May 17, 2019, 12:38 PM Gordon, Eric <[Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org](mailto:Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org)> wrote:  
Ms. Foran,

Thank you for this feedback. I will share it with our planning team and the Board of Education and will also post it with all of the other public comment received.

I am curious as to the statement that the enrollment was closed at the school. It should not have been so are you saying that the school chose to stop enrolling students? We do have a "capping" protocol when a classroom or grade reaches a maximum capacity but we don't ever close an entire school to enrollment. Could you share more information on this?

I am also curious as to how important the Montessori program itself is compared to a new school for the neighborhood as this is something my team and I have been considering. Do you as a potential future parent have a particular point of view as to the Montessori vs. non-Montessori?

Again, thank you for sharing your feedback which my team and I will absolutely consider before making final recommendations to the Board of Education in June.

Sincerely,  
Eric Gordon

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**From:** Danielle Vigh [mailto: ]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2019 7:51 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <[Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org](mailto:Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org)>  
**Subject:** Tremont Montessori

As a young resident who lives in Tremont, and was planning on sending a child to public school, I am greatly disappointed in hearing that a recommendation as made to close a school in a thriving neighborhood. It shows a lack of partnership between the school district and the city to create thriving neighborhoods. The potential to create a new school in a neighborhood the is drawing working professionals should not be overlooked. The enrollment was closed early this school year while other buildings continued open enrollment. This made it look as though enrollment was down. This seems like a very calculated move.

As one of the only current buildings with a 5 Star SUTQ rating, and with a district of other preschool programs who are losing stars, I would hope that you would chose to build on that foundation instead of closing a building that the community has and will rally around. Though I would not send my child to TMS in its current state, I was planning to enroll in the new building and help build strong parent engagement in the building.

The property will be bought by another shitty charter school that refuses to meet the needs of ALL children. It will be an eye sore to the community and cause nothing but problems. This could ultimately reduce the draw to live in the Tremont neighborhood.

If it is closed, I will not be sending my child to CMSD schools if the building is closed. My Ed choice dollars will be taken out of district and district charters. We may even end up moving out of Cleveland.

I am dismayed by the progress you have made in the district and your lack of cooperation with neighborhood development corps and other community groups building Cleveland's reputation. The choices you make have the potential to ruin thriving neighborhoods with a population that could greatly improved district report card scores.

Kind Regards,

Danielle Foran

**From:** Shukela Smith <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2019 1:20 AM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Keep Tremont Montessori in Tremont

Hi Mr. Gordon, I'm a parent whose child attends Tremont Montessori School. I'm very concerned about the school being moved, this location is central for Eastside parents and Westside parents. Which means that integration of the children is vital to our children's wellbeing. Please consider making the recommendations of a cooling system and water filtration system instead of moving the school. I'm sure if your child was getting his or her education through such quality teachers in the facility that made this transition so pleasant and awesome for your child you would fight for your child's wellbeing as well.

Concerned Parent,  
Shukela Smith

Here's my info. To further discuss at length about the situation.  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Simon Musulin [mailto:[\[REDACTED\]](#)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2019 2:35 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** tremont school

sir, do what you feel is best. close the school, sell the school. do what you feel is best for taxpayers. thanks.

**From:** Casey Ward [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2019 1:29 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Tremont Montessori - PLEASE do not close!!

Dear Mr. Gordon,

This news was devastating to our neighborhood that the Tremont Montessori school could possibly be closed and moved. This is a vital part of our neighborhood, it is crucial to the development and future of the neighborhood.

It is unacceptable to close a school with good attendance, diversity, and leave central Tremont with zero CMSD presence.

Keeping a high quality school in our neighborhood is so important!!! We have partnered with CMSD for over 10 years and we've raised so much money! We have worked on a Strategic Plan!

This means so much to us, please DO NOT CLOSE our Montessori school!!

Sincerely,  
Casey Ward  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Matt Berges <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2019 5:10 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Fwd: building houses in Tremont, families moving in

Hello,

I have been building houses in Tremont for the past 15 years or so (probably longer).

More and more young families are moving in (And having more kids).

I just wonder if anyone knows how many kids are moving back into the city and specifically Tremont area?

On my block (on w18th st), we only 3 kids, 3 years ago. Now there are 16 kids (all younger than 13), that surround us on this block. I don't know for sure what is going on in Cleveland as a whole, but I know what is going on in Tremont... and I know what I said... Families are moving back...as long as we have school options for them!

Please consider this carefully before closing what may be the only school in Tremont.

I'll keep building houses...but we do need good school options!

Tks

--

*Matt Berges*

[REDACTED]  
[Bergesllc.com](http://Bergesllc.com)

[DuckIslandDevelopment.com](http://DuckIslandDevelopment.com)

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*Matt Berges*

[REDACTED]  
[Bergesllc.com](http://Bergesllc.com)

[DuckIslandDevelopment.com](http://DuckIslandDevelopment.com)



**From:** Yvonne Bruce <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2019 12:02 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Save Tremont Montessori

Dear Mr. Gordon:

Here is some additional information in support of preserving Tremont Montessori school and in answer to your question about the particular value of a Montessori education:

As for the latter point first, the Friends of Tremont Montessori worked with CMSD over many years, created a strategic plan, and have invested considerable amount of time in creating a 'highly rated fully accredited public Montessori school in Tremont.' They would not have done this without encouragement from CMSD. It was meant to be a portfolio-type option for Tremont and CMSD with drawing power.

Next, in addition to the point I made in my earlier email about **the 55% rise in the number of children under five years old living in Tremont in the last year, all of whom need an accessible and sound public-school education**, there are these points to consider:

- Tremont Montessori is centrally located and is a safe neighborhood that attracts students from throughout Cleveland
- Tremont community members and Friends of Tremont Montessori have raised over \$200,000 for Tremont Montessori and completed a Strategic Plan for the school
- The Tremont community has partnered with CMSD for over 10 years to create quality educational outcomes at Tremont Montessori

As I hope you and the Board of Education can see from this history and these numbers, it is the CMSD's responsibility to preserve Tremont Montessori for the benefit of our neighborhood.

Very sincerely,

Yvonne Bruce

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On Fri, May 17, 2019 at 1:03 PM Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org> wrote:

Good morning Ms. Bruce,

Thank you for sharing your feedback with me. I will share this feedback with our planning team and the Board of Education and will post it on the public site as well. Do you have an opinion as to whether a school in Tremont must be a Montessori program or would a non-Montessori program meet the community needs? I'm trying to better understand both issues; the value of a PreK-8 school in general and the value of Montessori programming in particular.

Again, thanks for your response. I do appreciate it.

Sincerely,  
Eric Gordon

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**From:** Yvonne Bruce [mailto:  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 12:25 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <[Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org](mailto:Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org)>  
**Subject:** Save Tremont Montessori

Dear Mr. Gordon:

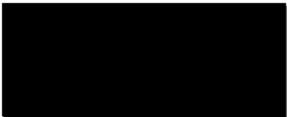
I write to implore you to save Tremont Montessori School, a valuable member of the CMSD system and an irreplaceable member of the Tremont community.

According to this year's Tremont West Development Corporation's Annual Report, the number of children under the age of five living in Tremont has increased by more than 54% in the last year, a statistic with multiple implications for our neighborhood. But one of the most important implications is that those children, if their parents are to remain in Tremont, need an accessible and sound educational opportunity, which Tremont Montessori offers.

Tremont continues to grow and diversify. Tremont Montessori is key to our ongoing development.

Please save Tremont Montessori!

Sincerely,

Yvonne Bruce  


**From:** Bridget Kent Marquez [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2019 10:47 AM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>;  
Kevin.Burtzlaff@ClevelandMetroSchool.org; Steele, Karlea <Karlea.Steele@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Tremont Montessori

Dear Mr. Gordon, Mr. Burtzlaff and Ms. Steele,  
Thank you for your work and dedication to Cleveland. I am emailing on behalf of Pilgrim Congregation United Church of Christ. As a long term staple in the Tremont neighborhood we appreciate what it takes to stay 'alive' in an old building (our building was built in 1893) and what it takes to stay viable and relevant to serve the ever changing needs of the community. We have a long term relationship with Tremont Montessori and believe it's presence in the community is overwhelmingly positive. Especially given the disproportionate opportunities for youth in the city; giving access to such a high level of education such as the Montessori approach is truly extraordinary. I personally believe that opening this avenue to families throughout Cleveland will have generations long positive effects and contribute significantly to the community as a whole.  
Pilgrim plans to be a stalwart presence in Tremont for another 160 years and we hope Tremont Montessori will be here right alongside us!  
Respectfully,  
Bridget Kent Marquez

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Bridget Kent Márquez  
Property Manager  
Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Cory Riordan [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 2:15 PM  
To: Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
Cc: Serrano, Leo <Leo.Serrano@clevelandmetroschools.org>; Houser, Michael <Michael.Houser@clevelandmetroschools.org>; Kerry McCormack (kmccormack@clevelandcitycouncil.org) <kmccormack@clevelandcitycouncil.org>; Katie Hough (khough@clevelandcitycouncil.org) <khough@clevelandcitycouncil.org>; 'jsantana@clevelandcitycouncil.org' <jsantana@clevelandcitycouncil.org>; 'mmiranda@clevelandcitycouncil.org' <mmiranda@clevelandcitycouncil.org>; Adrienne Linnick < [REDACTED] >; Ann Marie Riley < [REDACTED] >; Brad Hauber < [REDACTED] >; Carolyn Bentley < [REDACTED] >; Casey Ward < [REDACTED] >; Christopher Roy < [REDACTED] >; Dan Cotter < [REDACTED] >; Gusty Molnar < [REDACTED] >; Jaime Declet ( [REDACTED] ) < [REDACTED] >; Joe Adler < [REDACTED] >; Joe Chura < [REDACTED] >; Kate Carden < [REDACTED] >; LerVal Elva < [REDACTED] >; Mendo Veloff < [REDACTED] >; Rich Sosenko < [REDACTED] >; Seronica Powell < [REDACTED] >

Subject: Response to CMSD decision to close Tremont Montessori

CEO Gordon: I respectfully disagree with this decision. It is not forward thinking, not consistent to messaging that your team has given, detrimental to the Tremont community, and detrimental to current and future Montessori students. Unfortunately, 10 years of community engagement and community process has been discarded for a couple programmed community meetings (none of which took place in Tremont) by a DC consultant group. We have engaged you and your team and responded to each request that has been made of us over the years. We finally feel leadership is in place with the hiring of Principal Celeste and we are positioned for success. Now this decision. Attached is my response.

Cory Riordan  
Executive Director  
Tremont West Development Corporation  
[REDACTED]

[www.tremontwest.org](http://www.tremontwest.org)

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-----Original Message-----

From: Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 7:49 AM  
To: Cory Riordan < [REDACTED] >  
Cc: Serrano, Leo <Leo.Serrano@clevelandmetroschools.org>; Houser, Michael

<Michael.Houser@clevelandmetroschools.org>

Subject: RE: Insight?

Cory,

First of all, my apologies that I or a member of my team didn't reach out to you directly before releasing our recommendations publicly. We tried to remember all of our key constituents but missed reaching out to you.

Regarding the recommendation for Tremont, I've attached a document summarizing the recommendation we are making. Currently, 11% of the students attending Tremont actually live within 1 mile of Tremont and only 17% of the students attending live in Tremont at all. That's the second lowest neighborhood enrollment across the city and has continued to be an ongoing challenge over the past several years. Coupling that with the limited resources available, I couldn't justify recommending a new Tremont school when we have several other communities where we still need to make investments, some which are getting made here (Clark, Douglas MacArthur, renovation of Gallagher, Marion-Seltzer, and a new Denison/Mooney) and others which we cannot currently address (Scranton, Marin, Benjamin Franklin, Newton D. Baker, Marion-Sterling/Alfred Benesch).


Therefore, what we are recommending is that we identify an existing modernized building in a part of the city that has excess capacity to move the Montessori program into. We have not identified that location and will work with families who attend Tremont Montessori in the fall to review available options and select the best option that moves the program into a modernized building which can adequately support Montessori programming. We would then plan to move the program at the end of next school year.

I have copied Leo Serrano and Michael Houser who are assisting me with follow-up on all of these recommendations so that we can follow-up quickly with any additional questions or thoughts you have.

Thank you,  
Eric

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-----Original Message-----

From: Cory Riordan [mailto:  
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 5:33 PM  
To: Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
Subject: Insight?

Eric: can you please provide insight into what this means?





May 15, 2019

CEO Gordon:

The Friends of Tremont Montessori, Tremont West Development Corporation and the Tremont community have fought to save Tremont Montessori as a neighborhood asset numerous times. In 2010, Friends of Tremont Montessori (FOTM) began as a group dedicated to keeping a school in the central Tremont neighborhood. Residents and neighbors rallied against the proposed school closing and continued on to support improvements in the school. FOTM has been critical in setting the direction of the school and has been involved in the District's master planning process and supportive of multiple levies and school reform initiatives. In 2014-15 FOTM approached local foundations, with support from CMSD administration, to begin a strategic planning process to look at how to transition the school from a public school with Montessori influenced curriculum to a high performing fully accredited public Montessori. This process also dealt with the facility needs. Throughout this process, the goal of FOTM has been to support CMSD while incrementally moving towards a fully accredited Montessori school that would provide high quality educational outcomes for all students. We were pleased to take part in the hiring process that brought the first Montessori certified educator as Principal to the school. Since that time a number of initiatives have taken place to continue to further the mission of the school including creating a strong partnership with Stonebrook Montessori (a CMSD sponsored charter). This is an indication of the success of the partnership between the Tremont community, FOTM and CMSD.

The decision to relocate Tremont Montessori is a break in the trust created with the community and CMSD leadership. Hours and hours of planning, years of hard work by community members and Tremont Montessori staff and families, and the leadership of Friends of Tremont Montessori seemingly means very little to CMSD. It is unfortunate that a community that has been supportive of CMSD and worked collaboratively to meet CMSD goals, finds out on cleveland.com about the decision. This is an indication that the people that spent considerable time, talent and treasure to assist Tremont Montessori toward its goal of becoming a high quality public Montessori school, are being discarded because of short-sighted decision making.

We understand that due to financial constraints, difficult decisions were necessary. We also understand that CMSD is using the percentage of children from the neighborhood (17%) as part of the rationale. However, it is important to note that this does not tell the whole story. Tremont is a growing community of young families. The most recent census estimate showed a



growth of over 50% in the under 5 population and a growth of over 35% in the 25-34 age group. This data indicates that more families are choosing to call Tremont home and making decisions based on schools. Tremont Montessori has attracted these families to the pre-K program. Unfortunately, due to the age of the building, lack of continued commitment to investing in the needs of the Montessori program, and uneven leadership over the past few years, the families are not being retained. Additionally, due to our accessible location, Tremont Montessori has always attracted students from the East side with the second largest population outside of Tremont coming from the Central neighborhood. Our central location, Montessori education and safe, supportive, diverse community has been a draw. This strengthens the rationale for a new construction high quality public Montessori school in Tremont.

The Tremont community is urging CMSD to reconsider its position. We continue to want to partner with CMSD to ensure a high quality fully accredited public Montessori becomes a reality in the Tremont neighborhood. We do not feel the decision to close is in the best interests of the current students, the future students, the neighborhood or CMSD. Together, we can build a school that our community, the City of Cleveland and CMSD can be proud of.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cory B Jordan", is written over a faint, larger signature.

Cory B Jordan

Executive Director

**From:** Dominic Stroppolino [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2019 4:21 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** CMSD Valley View School

Mr. Eric Gordon  
CEO CMSD

Mr. Gordon:

We are forwarding this e-mail regarding the future of Valley View School. As West Park residents for the past 40 years we know first hand the value that Valley View School has been to this community. Our son attended both Valley View and John Marshall and despite all the negative comments regarding CMSD we found both schools to be of value and our son received a solid education from both institutions. The closing of Valley View would be a detriment to the entire West Park community. Unfortunately, we have a prior commitment that prohibits us from attending tonight's meeting. We would both like to express our concerns regarding the closing of this valuable asset to our community.

Sincerely,

Dominic & Donna Stroppolino  
[REDACTED]

*Vive Bene Spesso L'Amore Di Risata Molto*  
(Live well Love much Laugh often!)





**From:** Katherine Arnold <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 29, 2019 7:15 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Valley View School

Hello Eric,

I received a note in the mail regarding the possible closing of the Valley View School. I live right across from the school. Last I heard (years ago) it was going under renovations, but now I see it might be closing.

I have a request that if the school ends up closing, that it does not sit there abandoned to deteriorate. I'm hoping in that case, that something nice will take its place, like a park.

Thanks for your time,

Kat Arnold

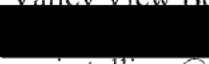
**From:** Tolliver, Sonia <Sonia.Tolliver@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 29, 2019 9:25 AM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Parent text message from last night's meeting

Good Morning Mr. Gordon,

Thank you again for a successful meeting. I have copied the text message Nancy Howell (Valley View Boys Leadership Academy parent) sent to me last night. I read this message during the meeting. Have a blessed day.

Message from Nancy Howell....

Hey I am unable to attend but can u say something on behalf of me  
Bryan only has attended Valleyview for one school year. What impressed me the most was the time that the staff had taken with my son. The fact that the feeling is very family like to me because it is a small school. I drive from the Eastside everyday to take me son to and from school. I had the option of sending my son to a school on the Eastside. I chose not to after I had met the principal. On the first day of school there were black men lined up shaking the young men's hands. The entire valley view staff cares for each and every student. Merging valley view would take away from the diversity of the school. The staff is very creative from boys night in to tutor and hoops. These were events that my son enjoyed and looked forward going to. I feel it would be devastating to the surrounding community if this school is removed. The men of valley view go to work every day looking their finest. Growing young men need to see that everyday. I'm glad that I learned of Valleyview it was the best decision ever.

Sonia Dorsey  
Educator: Third Grade Teacher  
Valley View Boys Leadership Academy  
  
[sonia.tolliver@clevelandmetroschools.org](mailto:sonia.tolliver@clevelandmetroschools.org)

**From:** Joseph Konen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 30, 2019 9:01 PM  
**To:** Lozada, Judith <Judith.Lozada@clevelandmetroschools.org>; Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>; Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Followup to Planning Meeting at JMHS

Eric and/or Judith,  
I hope you can get my attached feedback (also below) to appropriate location for tabulation regarding the planning process  
Thanks  
Joe

From: Joseph Konen

Cleveland Resident and volunteer at Riverside

Based on the Emerging Recommendations report of May 2019, I urge the CMSD Board to build or find a home for the Valley View Boys Leadership Academy in the Southwest area.

- My suggestion to accomplish this is for the two academies (girls and boys) that are presently nearby in the Southwest area, have new buildings constructed for them on a common campus.
- The district trade off would be to close Bolton.
  - There are excess seats on the Eastside and needed seats in the Southwest
  - The report does not show excess enrollment at Riverside in SW that is hindering the program effectiveness due to overcrowding.

Further reasoning for expanding the SW seats beyond the Girls Leadership Academy can be found on p. 34 of the ***Emerging Recommendations report of May 2019***

- Only 15 K-8 schools on the west side (50%) have been newly constructed or renovated since 2002 while 28 on the Eastside (76%) have been newly constructed or renovated since 2002. ▪
- Enrollment forecasts suggest that the west side will need ~5,000 seats in new or renovated K-8 buildings in 2022-2023. Enrollment forecasts suggest that the east side will have ~2,500 excess seats in new or renovated K-8 buildings in 2022-2023

How would I counter the following statement in the Emerging Recommendations report of May 2019?

***“Program Viability:***

*“Both schools (Valley View and Kenneth Clement) are well below viability targets with flat enrollment trend, well behind enrollment at the girls leadership academies*

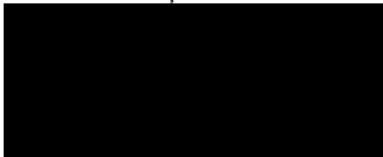
*“Given current locations and two programs, it is unlikely that they would approach minimum enrollment viability” p.36*

I would counter it with the report’s statement (p.36)

***Building Use & Condition ▪***

*“Both schools are in older buildings ▪ Valley View is part of the previous Facilities Plan for segments 8/9*

Paula Campbell and Joe Konen



**From:** Ron Adkins <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2019 11:22 AM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Tremont Montessori

Dear Eric please do not close Tremont Montessori the neighborhood needs a primary school in walking distance to residents i believe this vital for the balanced growth of our beloved neiborhood we need to keep families in the area for it to continue to thrive.

--

Thank you,  
Ron Adkins

**From:** Kelly H. Fisher [mailto:████████████████████]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 31, 2019 12:30 PM  
**To:** Evans, Krista <Krista.Evans@clevelandmetroschools.org>; Hill, Tammara <Tammara.Hill@clevelandmetroschools.org>; Thompson, Karen <Karen.Thompson@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** School planning process concerns

Hello,

I briefly met Mr. Gordon in April at one of the Near West community planning meetings. At the time, I was impressed with the work that your staff had done regarding the planning process. However, after reviewing the proposed recommendations and timelines, I have concerns. I will be out of town for the Near West community meeting tomorrow, which is frustrating, since this is such an important issue, and there is apparently only one meeting to provide input. I live in Tremont, and am a parent at Tremont Montessori. I am very concerned about the proposed closing of that facility and relocation of the program to a new location. It seems to me, that at this time, the information your team has gathered does not fully consider what makes the school successful/not successful, and I did not see satisfying synthesis of how a move might support or detract from what works at Tremont Montessori, or how it would help address most of the challenges (other than building condition) that Tremont Montessori needs to improve upon. I left comments online, but please also accept my comments directly to your office.

Regarding Tremont Montessori, I am worried about the recommendation to close the current facility and relocate. My older child is a Pre-K student at Tremont, we hope to send our younger there as well. In addition to being a parent, I am also a Tremont resident, and the potential closing of that school site is very concerning to me. I have read through the school planning website, and SO MUCH is still unclear about the thought process behind this recommendation. For example, while you have noted that only 11% of students live within a mile of the school, you do not appear to have examined why the school so successfully draws so many students from around the district. I believe that the current location probably has a lot to do with the school's viability as a district-wide destination. Tremont is centrally located and is also directly off of several highways. If the school is relocated to another location, would it still be so successful in terms of enrollment? I suspect not, and as a parent, no one has reached out to me (or to other parents that I know of) to gather information about why we choose this school. It seems like your team has not fully gathered info relevant to what makes the school work/not work before making the recommendation to relocate the school. I do understand that the building is in very rough shape, but that building condition and the location of where students live cannot be the only major data points in coming to such a big decision about the school's future.

If you are going to recommend closing the current school and relocating Tremont Montessori to a different location, we must also simultaneously discuss where the school would go, and what would happen to the site. I cannot support an open-ended and ambiguous notion of closing my child's school and vacating a central neighborhood hub without understanding the other half the equation. Where will our kids end up??? How does that impact the success/struggle of the Tremont Montessori educational program? What happens to the current school site?

The proposed decision/implementation timeline really concerns me. Your staff has proposed to relocate away from the current Tremont Montessori facility, but offered no other information about either the fate of the Tremont site or potential new locations for the school. I don't believe you can separate different facets of the same decision as "planning" vs. "implementation". As I understand your proposed timeline, CMSD plans to make decisions about where to relocate the school during 2019-20, and then having the school in the new facility the following school year. This timeline is VERY concerning to me. I attended the April meeting, where CMSD staff talked of an open process. To me, this openness now seems untrue. If the school is going to move so quickly to a new location - just a few months after the decision of where to go is supposed to be made - then that timeline indicates that there must already be a short list of potential options. I assume these options would be existing schools that will be closed as a result of the ongoing planning process. I feel you need to be upfront with residents/parents/stakeholders about this, because the potential relocation site is crucial information. I may support tough decisions about schools, programs, and facilities, but I CANNOT support such big decisions when I am only being given partial information. In the case of my children's school/our neighborhood school, Tremont Montessori, there is no way to separate a potential decision to move the school from decisions about where the school will go, and what will happen to the existing site if the facility is vacated. As a parent, I would not support moving Tremont Montessori to a distant location that is not easily accessible to my family. As a Tremont resident, I am also very invested in the future of the Tremont Montessori site, and would need more information about what may happen there before I could even consider supporting moving the school. I would prefer the school remain, but if it absolutely cannot, we need to talk about where it would go, neighborhood impact, etc. right now!

These recommendations came out at the very end of the school year, and there is only one meeting scheduled per area to discuss your findings/recommendations about very important issues about the future of our schools. Further, for me, as a resident of Tremont and a parent at Tremont Montessori, the community meeting is on a Saturday. I will be out of town and cannot attend, and am extremely frustrated there are no additional meeting dates. If you want to get true community support, you should have more time for outreach and meetings, particularly when the recommendations include such major issues as

closing or relocating schools. These are really important issues, and members of the community are going to have lots to say. I know that holding multiple meetings is a lot of work, and that some of the feedback is going to be negative, but honestly, I think that's exactly why more outreach is needed. Tough issues require time to work through. If you want to truly build consensus, it is going to take time and lots of hard work with all the stakeholders.

Thank you for considering my input,  
Kelly Fisher

**From:** [REDACTED].com <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 31, 2019 10:08 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Tremont Montessori

Mr. Gordon,

I have lived in Tremont for almost 17 years and I have heard several plans devised by the School Board to improve the schools in the City of Cleveland. Most recently, voters passed a bond issue that would enable Tremont Montessori school, among other schools, to be rebuilt. Then, a school levy, for which I voted "yes", was passed by the voters.

Now, the latest from the school board is that (1) Tremont Montessori will NOT be rebuilt as promised and (2) the school might be closed or moved. A double blow to Tremont, a strong, vibrant, growing, safe neighborhood.

As Tremont continues to grow, more young couples are moving here and having children. Sadly, when the children reach school age, the family leaves as there is no school for their children to attend. I realize that most of the children live outside of the neighborhood, but the Tremont is an ideal location. The neighborhood is clean, safe and there is a Cleveland Public Library, literally, right down the street. Plus, children in Tremont will have a viable local school in their neighborhood to attend.

If Tremont Montessori is closed and moved out of the neighborhood, don't expect me or any of my neighbors to support a school levy and/or bond issue next time one of those is on the ballot. Please keep the promises made to us. Thank you.

Mark Yanocho

[REDACTED]



**From:** Ryan Fisher <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 31, 2019 8:18 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Tremont montessori

Hello,

after reviewing the proposed recommendations and timelines, I have concerns. I will be out of town for the Near West community meeting tomorrow, which is frustrating, since this is such an important issue, and there is apparently only one meeting to provide input. I live in Tremont, and am a parent at Tremont Montessori. I am very concerned about the proposed closing of that facility and relocation of the program to a new location. It seems to me, that at this time, the information your team has gathered does not fully consider what makes the school successful/not successful, and I did not see satisfying synthesis of how a move might support or detract from what works at Tremont Montessori, or how it would help address most of the challenges (other than building condition) that Tremont Montessori needs to improve upon. I left comments online, but please also accept my comments directly to you.

Regarding Tremont Montessori, I am worried about the recommendation to close the current facility and relocate. My older child is a Pre-K student at Tremont, we hope to send our younger there as well. In addition to being a parent, I am also a Tremont resident, and the potential closing of that school site is very concerning to me. I have read through the school planning website, and SO MUCH is still unclear about the thought process behind this recommendation. For example, while you have noted that only 11% of students live within a mile of the school, you do not appear to have examined why the school so successfully draws so many students from around the district. I believe that the current location probably has a lot to do with the school's viability as a district-wide destination. Tremont is centrally located and is also directly off of several highways. If the school is relocated to another location, would it still be so successful in terms of enrollment? I suspect not, and as a parent, no one has reached out to me (or to other parents that I know of) to gather information about why we choose this school. It seems like your team has not fully gathered info relevant to what makes the school work/not work before making the recommendation to relocate the school. I do understand that the building is in very rough shape, but that building condition and the location of where students live cannot be the only major data points in coming to such a big decision about the school's future.

If you are going to recommend closing the current school and relocating Tremont Montessori to a different location, we must also simultaneously discuss where the school would go, and what would happen to the site. I cannot support an open-ended and ambiguous notion of closing my child's school and vacating a central neighborhood hub without understanding the other half the equation. Where will our kids end up??? What happens to the current school site?

The proposed decision/implementation timeline really concerns me. Your staff has proposed to relocate away from the current Tremont Montessori facility, but offered no other information about either the fate of the Tremont site or potential new locations for the school. I don't believe you can separate different facets of the same decision as "planning" vs. "implementation". As I understand your proposed timeline, CMSD plans to make decisions about where to relocate the school during 2019-20, and then having the school in the new facility the following school year. This timeline is VERY concerning to me. I attended the April meeting, where CMSD staff talked of an open process. To me, this openness now seems untrue. If the school is going to move so quickly to a new location - just a few months after the decision of where to go is supposed to be made - then that timeline indicates that there must already be a short list of potential options. I assume these options would be existing schools that will be closed as a result of the ongoing planning process. I feel you need to be upfront with residents/parents/stakeholders about this, because the potential relocation site is crucial information. I may support tough decisions about schools, programs, and facilities, but I CANNOT support such big decisions when I am only being given partial information. In the case of my children's school/our neighborhood school, Tremont Montessori, there is no way to separate a potential decision to move the school from decisions about where the school will go, and what will happen to the existing site if the facility is vacated. As a parent, I would not support moving Tremont Montessori to a distant location that is not easily accessible to my family. As a Tremont resident, I am also very invested in the future of the Tremont Montessori site, and would need more information about what may happen there before I could even consider supporting moving the school. I would prefer the school remain, but if it absolutely cannot, we need to talk about where it would go, neighborhood impact, etc. right now!

These recommendations came out at the very end of the school year, and there is only one meeting scheduled per area to discuss your findings/recommendations about very important issues about the future of our schools. Further, for me, as a resident of Tremont and a parent at Tremont Montessori, the community meeting is on a Saturday. I will be out of town and cannot attend, and am extremely frustrated there are no additional meeting dates. If you want to get true community support, you should have more time for outreach and meetings, particularly when the recommendations include such major issues as closing or relocating schools. These are really important issues, and members of the community are going to have lots to say. I know that holding multiple meetings is a lot of work, and that some of the feedback is going to be negative, but honestly, I think that's exactly why more outreach is needed. Tough issues require time to work through. If you want to truly build consensus, it is going to take time and lots of hard work with all the stakeholders.

Thanks,  
Ryan Fisher  
Tremont Resident and Tremont Montessori parent

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Mack <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, May 27, 2019 6:35 PM

To: Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>

Subject: Tremont Montessori

Good evening Mr. Gordon, my name is Robert Mack and I am a proud graduate of the CMSD. I wanna tell you that this idea of getting rid of tremont is a very horrible idea. I went to tremont Montessori from preschool- the end of 3rd grade. Even though I was young I remember my teachers and principals like I just left yesterday. There are too many memories at that building for someone to just uproot the school and put something else there. Please reconsider this. Come down to the school and neighborhood and check it out. Thank you for your time and have a great day.

Robert Mack, James Ford Rhodes C/O 2018

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Tom Matia <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2019 5:15 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Tremont Montessori School Closing.

Mr. Gordon.

I am a resident of Tremont. I just turned 65, happily married and I have lived in Tremont since 2007. I am opposed to the school closing. Everyone I know in Tremont is very happy and proud to have this 5 Star rated school located in Tremont. Myself included. We live on [REDACTED], directly across from the school. We love hearing the children play outside.

I would like to remind you and Mayor Jackson that Tremont residents have recently been hit with some of the largest real estate tax increases. We probably pay a very high percentage of the gross tax receipts collected. We have been hammered and gauged by these tax increases and now, you and the city, want to take away this school, which is badly needed for younger residence with children. This is not right or fair to Tremont and Tremont residents. We have come a long way since 20 years ago. We deserve better.

Please reconsider this decision.

Respectfully,

Tom Matia

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail  
Get the new AOL app: [mail.mobile.aol.com](mailto:mail.mobile.aol.com)

**From:** Dan Cotter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2019 4:04 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** re: Tremont Montessori

Hello Eric,

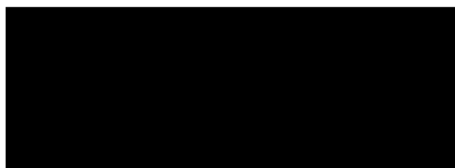
I'm writing to ask you to reconsider closing Tremont Montessori School. I think this is a grave mistake.

- Tremont Montessori is centrally located and is a safe neighborhood that attracts students from throughout Cleveland
- Tremont is a growing neighborhood with a 55% increase in the under 5 age group in the past year
- Tremont community members and Friends of Tremont Montessori have raised over \$200,000 for Tremont Montessori and completed a Strategic Plan for the school
- The Tremont community has partnered with CMSD for over 10 years to create quality educational outcomes at Tremont Montessori
- Tremont is a growing community with many young people under the age of 35 moving into the area and in order to keep the neighborhood strong the community need a vibrant school.
- Originally the plan was to demolish and renovate the school meaning the district has gone against its word.

Again please reconsider this rash decision. Together we will build strong communities throughout the Cleveland area.

Thank you  
-Dan Cotter concerned Tremont Resident.

**Dan Cotter**



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**From:** Danielle Vigh <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 1, 2019 3:59 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Tremont Montessori

Thank you for holding the public forum today. I wish the board members making the decision had been there to hear everyone's comments. I copied my comments here in the chance they will be helpful. Thanks again for giving us a voice.

I can't see how closing Tremont Montessori fits with the "planning together for the future of our city" I wonder if cleveland's city development planning commission has been involved in making the recommendation to close tms at all?. You can't walk a block in tremont without seeing new construction aiming to bring density to our neighborhood. Tremont west as been working closely with the developers and residents to ensure this can happen. As a result of this great work, Tremont's population of 5 and under has increase 55% in just the last year. When I have asked families why they moved to Tremont, they list the sense of community, walkability, ease of commute and..... the new school building that was promised just last year.

As you can imagine, they we're all dismayed to hear that the school may close, they're response was "well, guess we will be house hunting in a few years."

If we want young families to choose Cleveland, then we need to give them a reason to stay for the long term. If we don't, they will be taking their tax revenue and their children elsewhere.

We will be forcing families to make better choices for their families. HiIf TMS stays open these families stay in Cleveland they would help to increase report card scores as the more involved families are the higher the children score on stadardized tests. We can't improve test scores if people with options choose other to go else where.

As a resident of Tremont for 10 years, I had planned to stay for the long term. The towpath is going in and I had also been less to believe we would have a state of the art school in the neighborhood. I voted for a levy that included a new building in Tremont. Now I am reconsidering my familys long term plan. The reality is, I shouldn't have to make that choice. As a tax payer i should be able to send my child to a school in the safe neighborhood where I live and know that they are getting the best possible education.

Thank you.

**From:** sarah Bonnette [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 2, 2019 10:33 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Tremont School

Hello Mr. Gordon,

I am doubting you would remember me as a former School Social Worker with the district, but today I am writing as a resident of Tremont and a parent of students who attend CMSD schools, specifically Tremont Montessori. I have been a firm believer in CMSD schools since I worked for the district and have opted to remain in the city and send my children to CMSD schools. A primary reason for this was Tremont Montessori School, directly across the street from me. Since I moved to the neighborhood 13 years ago I have had the pleasure of being active in their school community and a witness to their partnership in the community as board member of Tremont West Development Corporation. Over the years I have seen more parents with young families move into Tremont AND opt to send them to the local school rather than various area charter schools in Ohio City such as Near West Intergenerational or Urban Community School. The neighborhood has shifted to include more families with children who utilize the school grounds for the playground and green space.

I have grave concerns about the closing of Tremont Montessori. First, as a parent, the Montessori has grown tremendously under the leadership of Ms. Celeste, I have seen the Montessori methods more interwoven throughout school events that my children have participated in. My children both attended the 5 star Pre-K program in the Children's House at Tremont and the experience has been like no other. The neighborhood involvement is present and we are even participating in Parade the Circle this weekend as part of Tremont Montessori. My concern is that in moving the program from the central location in Tremont that families on the opposite side of town will not be able to commit to the program and the diversity and integrity of the program will suffer. I know that area families were more interested in sending their children to Tremont than in the past and this momentum would be lost with a move.

Second, as a resident, I am VERY concerned about a vacant building directly across the street from me. I grew up living across the street from William Rainey Harper and saw the demise of the property and neighborhood when that neighborhood school closed. The building was no longer cared for, the grounds became overgrown, animals began living in building and there was increased drug activity and crime occurring. It sickens me to think the same for the building across the street from me - again. It is a pillar in this community and has been for generations. Frankly, the school presence is a positive one for community cohesiveness and property value. As a tax payer I have repeatedly supported tax issues on the ballot and encouraged others to do so primarily because of my belief in CMSD but also because of the wonderful relationship my community has with Tremont Montessori.

Please urge the board, committee members and others to keep Tremont School open. I heard you speak at the meeting held there and I understood that the state withheld their match for new buildings but did not ever anticipate the building closing altogether.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Lundeen Bonnette

-----Original Message-----

From: Erin Randel <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, June 3, 2019 12:36 PM

To: Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>

Cc: Thompson, Karen <Karen.Thompson@clevelandmetroschools.org>

Subject: Thoughts on Tremont Montessori Recommendations

Hi Eric,

I am opposed to the recommended "relocation" of Tremont Montessori on the grounds that it is, quite simply, impossible. First of all, it's a fact that the Tremont neighborhood takes its name from the Tremont school building. And going back to at least 2010, the Tremont community has been active in supporting the existence of a high-quality, Montessori model program for the city of Cleveland. As a parent there since fall 2008, I can tell you that the Montessori program would not be in the shape it is in, with a Montessori leadership team, one year into a 5-year vision plan, on track to be an AMS certified program, without the support of the residents and Friends of Tremont Montessori.

I shared a timeline of their support with the board of education, including over \$242,500 raised for professional development and student enrichment. I am happy to type that up and provide it in support of my position, for the record. I was unable to attend this weekend's near west meeting, as I was scheduled to take my younger Girl Scout troop camping in Peninsula and could not do both (or disappoint them)!

It was very difficult to make that decision. Can you tell me if there's still time for me to write up the details and send those along?

Thanks.

PS I referenced the report from the Council of Great City Schools "Improving Theme Schools" report from Summer, 2009. Please note that FOTM took actions in support of many of the recommendations, whereas the CMSD did not move the work forward as robustly. It's time to make good on 10 years of suggestions and recommendations versus starting over in a new location to be delivered.



**From:** Natalie Bryan [mailto:████████████████████]

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 4, 2019 8:45 AM

**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>; Thompson, Karen <Karen.Thompson@clevelandmetroschools.org>; Kevin.Burtzlaff@ClevelandMetroSchool.org; Steele, Karlea <Karlea.Steele@clevelandmetroschools.org>

**Subject:** District decisions affecting Bolton students and Fairfax residents

I am a grad student at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences as well as an intern at Fairfax Renaissance Development Corporation. I am concerned about some of the emerging recommendations in CMSD's Long-Term School Plan. The district is proposing moving Bolton elementary students to Margaret Ireland in Hough, which already has 3 k-8 elementary schools. This plan would negatively affect residents of the Fairfax neighborhood in a number of ways. For one thing, neighborhoods need quality elementary schools like Bolton to thrive. Investments are currently being made to build new businesses in Opportunity Corridor as well as 500 mixed-income housing units with the goal of attracting residents to the area. This plan would allow residents to walk to and from work, school and home with relative ease. Bolton students attending Margaret Ireland would have to cross Chester Ave, which would prove to be dangerous.

Plans have already been set in motion to move Bolton elementary school next to Karamu House, our historic theater, and merge with Dike elementary, allowing it to transform into an innovative school of Arts and Sciences. This new plan not only fails to invest in the Fairfax neighborhood, it also fails to invest in resident children and families. Moving Bolton students to Hough is a form of academic redlining and sends a message that the city is giving up on the children of Fairfax, who need champions. If these decisions are finalized, it would be difficult to support future levies for CMSD.

**From:** Diane Pride-Mays [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 3, 2019 3:10 PM  
**To:** Thompson, Karen <Karen.Thompson@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Cc:** Diane Pride-Mays < [REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Bolton Elementary/Dyke Schools relocating

Dear Ms. Thompson,

Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) is considering a plan that would relocate Bolton Elementary to the Hough neighborhood, leaving Fairfax with no k – 8 public school. The last public meeting was this past Saturday. The plan is to merge Bolton and Dyke Elementary, currently in Central. Dyke is the CMSD lower school of the Arts.

The plan has been to merge the 2 schools and locate a new school next to Karamu House that would have an **arts and science/technology focus**. Now CMSD is advocating for the school to go to Hough. CMSD Board will hear recommendations on June 11, 2019. It is imperative that you understand that this community needs a K-8 school in Fairfax area to accommodate the new residents from Cleveland Clinic and CWRU among other areas. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to explain how important this school is to the community.

Here are some of the issues:

1. Every neighborhood needs a quality school and Fairfax should have a school. Not having a school is disinvesting in the Fairfax neighborhood and a form of academic redlining.
2. The Hough neighborhood has 3 k – 8 schools, why do they need 4?
3. The school they want to relocate Bolton to is Margaret Ireland at 61<sup>st</sup> & Chester. The school is currently vacant and boarded and directly across from a pre-release center, Oriana House. If students had to walk they would have to cross Chester Avenue to get to school.
4. With all of the planned investment and 500 new units of housing how do we attract new residents to the neighborhood without a school?
5. With all of the new businesses planned for Opportunity Corridor the goal is to have people moving into the neighborhoods along the corridor and being able to walk to work and have a school for their children to attend in close proximity.
6. This plan does not consider the impact on children, families or neighborhoods.
7. It would be hard to support a levy for Cleveland Public Schools.

Diane Pride-Mays

A PORTION OF THIS EMAIL HAS BEEN REDACTED TO REMOVE PRIVATE INFORMATION UNRELATED TO THE LONG TERM SCHOOL PLANNING PROCESS OR CURRENTLY PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

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**From:** jonathan meigs <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 4, 2019 4:24 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Tremont Montessori

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** jonathan meigs <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jun 3, 2019 at 12:46 PM  
**Subject:** Tremont Montessori  
**To:** <gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>

HAY ERIC

FREIGHTER JON. I WAS AT TREMONT WEST MEETING AND AS YOU KNOW THE CLOSING OF THE TREMONT SCHOOL CAME UP AND READ ABOUT IT IN TREMONT NEWSPAPER. ERIC I PROMISE TO NEVER BRING IT UP WITH YOU AFTER THIS OR IN PERSON. I HAVE GREAT RESPECT IN YOU AND AWESOME JOB YOU DO. I WOULD NEVER DOUBT DECISION. FOR I KNOW IT WOULD BE FOR THE BEST INTEREST OF STUDENTS AND SCHOOL SYSTEM. I WOULD BE BUMMED TO SEE IT CLOSE. GRANTED I HAVE NOT ANY CHILDREN. AND I DO SEE PARENTS WITH THERE CHILDREN KNOWING MANY WILL MOVE TO SUBERBS TO SEND TO SCHOOL. BUT I HAVE SEEN AN INCREASE IN SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN. AS I WRITE THIS I AM AT LIBRARY. THE JEFFERSON LIBRARY IS EXTREMELY INTERACTIVE WITH THE KIDS. TEACHERS BRING THERE KIDS FROM SCHOOL FOR STORY TIMES AS THE SIT ON THE FLOOR IN BACK ROOM. AT END OF SCHOOL KIDS RACE IN. THEY SWARM COMPUTERS. LIBRARIANS HAVE BOOKS PULLED KNOWING KIDS INTERESTS. SOMETIMES ORDERING THEM. THERE ARE TIMES SOMEBODY WILL COME IN AND GIVE EDUCATIONAL TALKS AND DEMONSTRATIONS. ONE TIME JAPANESE WOMEN IN KIMONO DEMONSTRATED DANCE, WOMEN IN NATIVE AMERICAN DRESS, BAG PIPER, AND IT GOES ON.

ANY HOO THATS ALL. HOPE ALL IS GOOD.

TAKE IT EASY ERIC - JON

**From:** Cory Riordan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 5, 2019 9:24 PM  
**To:** Serrano, Leo; Gordon, Eric  
**Subject:** Re: Update

Leo: So much to say...I will refrain for the most part. My data still stands and in fact you verified my source and that the numbers I am using are in fact accurate to that source. Thank you. I would appreciate an actual meeting to discuss this since it seems to have really riled up the CMSD team. I asked a number of additional questions about peer city analysis. I use this all the time to understand the growth patterns, where Tremont and the city are at, and where we can confidently predict growth, etc. You didn't answer 90 percent of my questions in the last email. The questions you asked were meant to be leading questions. You have the answer and work backwards to the question. And those questions weren't even the right questions. We can do this all day. Since it seems you are questioning my intelligence let's just make a wager on the 2020 Census and what it says about the growth of this age group at the census tract level. I bet my answers would be far more accurate than yours since I know maybe 1/8th of the Tremont population. That's a pretty large sample size, no?

Sent from my iPhone

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On Jun 5, 2019, at 5:56 PM, Serrano, Leo  
<[Leo.Serrano@clevelandmetroschools.org](mailto:Leo.Serrano@clevelandmetroschools.org)> wrote:

Cory,

Thank you for supporting on us on gaining additional information related to residential development in the Tremont area. In response to your comments related to population growth in the Tremont neighborhood, in partnership with the Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) team, we have been working to analyze student population data more closely.

The census data that is used by Progress Index Cleveland for the under 5 population in a neighborhood compares the 2008-2012 five-year average with the 2012-2017 five-year average, more closely tracking the mid-point of those windows, which is 2010 and 2015. When ACS filters population data by age ranges (such as under 5) and geographic area (such as the Tremont neighborhood), it results in large margins of error. In this case, per the CWRU that supported Progress Index Cleveland, the 2008-2012 window has an error of +/- 128.5 and the 2012-2017 window has an error of +/- 153 for the 2012-2017 window.

Due to the large margins for error of the census data, we analyzed several additional data points to understand the student population dynamics in Tremont:

- **Number of births:** Per geo-coded data from the Ohio Department of Health provided to both CWRU and CMSD, the number of births in Tremont has declined from 2007 to 2012 (from 111 births to 103) and then again from 2012 to 2017 (from 103 births to 99).

- **Birth to kindergarten trends:** One way to determine if families are moving into a neighborhood after already having kids is to connect the number of births to the number of kindergarten students 5 years later, referred to as the birth to kinder cohort ratio. The average cohort ratio for Tremont is 59%, which is among the lowest neighborhood rates in the city. For example, the 99 births in 2012 mapped to 57 kindergarten students residing in Tremont in 2017 that attended a CMSD, charter, or private school anywhere in the city.

- **K-8 Population trends:** The number of students residing in Tremont attending any CMSD school for K-8 between 2013-14 and 2017-18 declined 30.2%. When including charter and private school data for students residing in Tremont, the neighborhood declined 19%. Both of the rates represent the largest decline of any neighborhood in the city.

If there are further questions related to the American Community Survey data used by Progress Index Cleveland, we encourage you to contact April Urban, Director of Community Responsive Analytics at the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development at CWRU. She can be reached at: [REDACTED]

I am attaching the correspondence received from the researchers, at Case, should that be helpful.

Additionally and attached is a summary of the quantitative data sources that contributed to the Citywide Analysis. FYI ---- We used an engagement and outreach strategy with key constituents (i.e. Council persons, civic organizations, faith-based groups, etc) additionally to obtain insights related to regions, neighborhoods and schools.

Again, thanks so much for your active engagement and partnership. Together we can...

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CMSD satisfaction survey:

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<Citywide Analysis Data Sources 20190605.docx>

<Tremont Demographic Data Update from CWRU 20190531.docx>

## Data Sources Used to Develop the Citywide Analysis

### Academy Quality

Data Point	Source	Details / Link
Overall Report Card Grade	Ohio Department of Education	2018 Summative Report Card Grade: <a href="https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/">https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/</a>
Overall Report Card Grade + / -	Ohio Department of Education	Based on raw summative score data provided by ODE Office of Accountability: Total Component Points on Overall Report Card, then divided into thirds within each grade band: 4.709 – 5.000: A+ 4.418 – 4.708: A 4.125 – 4.417: A- 3.791 – 4.124: B+ 3.458 – 3.790: B 3.125 – 3.457: B- 2.792 – 3.124: C+ 2.459 – 2.791: C 2.125 – 2.458: C- 1.793 – 2.124: D+ 1.460 – 1.792: D 1.125 – 1.459: D- 0.750 – 1.124: F+ 0.375 – 0.749: F 0.000 – 0.374: F-
Performance Trend	CMSD based on Ohio Department of Education data	Sourced from: <a href="https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/download">https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/download</a> PI: Building Achievement Ratings_2017-2018 K3: Building K3 Literacy_2017-2018 Grad: Building Graduation Rates_2017-2018  Calculation is the average of the three data points: K-3 literacy, graduation rate, and performance index changes on 2016-2018 data. If a school has a trend of greater than 0.5 standard deviations, it is “positive”, if it is below -0.5 standard deviations, it is “negative”, otherwise it is “steady”

### Enrollment and School Choice

Data Point	Source	Details / Link
2017-18 Enrollment	Ohio Department of Education	ODE October Headcount FY18 <a href="http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Data/Frequently-Requested-Data/Enrollment-Data">http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Data/Frequently-Requested-Data/Enrollment-Data</a> This data represents a headcount of students in attendance during the first full week of classes in October 2017.
Regional student population	CMSD	2017-18 geo-coded student-level data provided by CMSD for district, charter, and private school students based on April 30, 2018 enrollment. Private school data is for students enrolled through the Cleveland Scholarship Program.
Historical enrollment	CMSD geo-coded student-level data using year-end enrollment snapshots for district,	Based on annual year-end student enrollment from 2013-14 through 2017-18 for district and charter schools. Only 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 was available for private schools due to data limitations

	charter, and private schools	and is for students enrolled through the Cleveland Scholarship Program.
Enrollment forecast	Calculated by Lapkoff & Gobalet Demographic Researchers, November 2018	Detailed methodology created by Lapkoff & Gobalet and has been published on the Long Term Planning website as part of their report.
Enrollment trend	CMUSD geo-coded student-level data using year-end enrollment snapshots for district, charter, and private schools	Compares the 2017-18 enrollment to the 2013-14 enrollment. If the enrollment change over this comparison period is +20 (meaning 20 or more students are enrolled in the most recent year versus 5 years prior) then the trend is positive. If 20 or fewer students are enrolled now versus 5 years prior, then the trend is negative. Otherwise it is steady (in between -20 and +20).

### **Program Viability**

<b>Data Point</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Details / Link</b>
K-8 Minimum and Desired Viability Targets	CMUSD	Uses 360 students as a minimum level across grades K-8, which translates on average to two classes per grade, each with 20 students. The desired target of 450 students in grades K-8 assumes two classes per grade, each with 25 students. Viability was only calculated for CMUSD schools and not charters.

### **Building Use and Condition**

<b>Data Point</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Details / Link</b>
Facility Address	CMUSD	Uses 2017-18 addresses, except for Segment 7 facilities that will open in 2019, the 2018-19 address is used in mapping. No CMUSD schools are moving regions as a result of their new campus location.
Adjusted Capacity	CMUSD	Calculated based on reviews of CMUSD facility blueprints and assigning a 25-student capacity to all learning stations over 700 square feet. For smaller rooms, square footage is divided by 30 square feet per student. The summation of these student counts is the maximum capacity, from which two adjustments are made. The first is for actual 2018-19 classrooms for self-contained special education and PreK rooms. The second is for 21 <sup>st</sup> century learning environments to dedicate spaces for art, music, and labs, with older buildings allocating a second lab due to classroom wiring. Larger K-8 buildings, those with 27 or more classrooms, allocate two rooms for each of these programs.  Charter school capacity figures are based on data provided to Case Western Reserve University in fall 2018.
Adjusted utilization	Calculation of CMUSD data	Divides the adjusted capacity of the facility by the 2017-18 K-8 enrollment.

\* Additional qualitative data was gathered during high touch briefings with council persons and CDC's to inform the analysis as well.



## **Summary of Findings Related to Tremont West Development Corp Statement on the Under 5 Population in the Tremont Neighborhood:**

- The community is citing data from Progress Index Cleveland, which references Census American Community Survey (ACS) Data.
- ACS Data is based on 5-year averages from 2008-2012 and 2013-2017 and most closely represents the population at the mid-point of those periods, which is 2010 and 2015.
- The ACS data estimates an under 5 population increase from 361 to 556 for the Tremont neighborhood, but has very large margins for error of +/- 128.5 and 153 in the respective year ranges.
- The researchers acknowledge the under-5 population is difficult to count in ACS, which is why the margins of error are so large. The margins of error are so large that the increase of roughly 200 people falls within the margins of error.

## **Response from Michael Henderson, Research Associate**

*"There's clearly a misunderstanding of the time points referenced- completely understandable for people who presumably don't work with the ACS on a regular basis. Probably the best way to explain these 5 year averages is to think of them as most closely representing the on-the-ground reality at the midpoint- so the 2008-2012 ACS represents 2010, and the 2013-17 ACS represents 2015.*

*Another thing to point out is that the margins of error on those estimates are pretty large- the 2008-2012 estimate of 361 +/- 128.5 means that our best guess for the under-5 population was 361, and we're 90% certain that the true/actual number of under-5 people living in the Tremont area at that time was somewhere between 232 and 490. That's a pretty big range. So big that it overlaps with the 90% confidence interval around the 2013-17 estimate of 556 +/-153 (confidence interval 403-709). Unfortunately, the reality is that these data, which are the best we have available, are imperfect."*

--

Michael Henderson, Ph.D.  
Research Associate  
Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development  
Jack, Joseph & Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences  
Case Western Reserve University

## **Response from April Hirsh Urban, Director of Community Responsive Analytics**

*"I didn't read all the way through this thread, but I can confirm for you that some data points in the Progress Index can be tough to interpret. We are excited to be working with CNP in this coming year to conduct community trainings on the Progress Index, which we think will be helpful in building community capacity to use and understand the data. As Michael pointed out, it's important to note that we're using the 5-year estimates in the Progress Index (it's actually the only way we can create neighborhood level data from the ACS), and so the two figures are something like averages of a 5 year time point. He also correctly points out the margins of error are high for the population under 5 figure for the Tremont neighborhood. We also know from the US Census Bureau that the population under 5 is particularly difficult*

*to count. In the Progress Index, we try to give the viewer a sense of the quality of the estimate by color-coding the CV, green, yellow, and red, which is documented in the FAQs of the site, but I think will come across more strongly with some in-person training.”*

Let me know if you have any other questions!

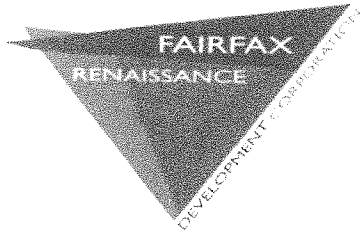
--

April Hirsh Urban, MSSA  
Director of Community Responsive Analytics  
Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development  
Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences  
Case Western Reserve University

**From:** Denise Van Leer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 5, 2019 2:58 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Cc:** Thompson, Karen <Karen.Thompson@clevelandmetroschools.org>;  
burtzlaff@clevelandmetroschools.org; abingham [REDACTED]; Lisa Thomas <[REDACTED]>;  
Blaine Griffin <bgriffin@clevelandcitycouncil.org>; Laveta Parker <lparker@clevelandcitycouncil.org>;  
Holmes, J. Stefan <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Bolton/Dyke Relocation Recommendation

Please see attached. Thank you.

*Denise Van Leer  
Executive Director  
Fairfax Renaissance Development Corporation  
8111 Quincy Avenue, Suite 100  
Cleveland, OH 44104  
216-361-8400*



Denise VanLeer  
Executive Director

8111 Quincy Avenue ♦ Suite 100 ♦ Cleveland, OH 44104

Phone: 216-361-8400 ♦ Fax: 216-361-8407

June 5, 2019

Eric S. Gordon  
CEO  
Cleveland Metropolitan School District  
1111 Superior Avenue E., Suite 1800  
Cleveland, OH 44114

Mr. Gordon:

Fairfax Renaissance Development Corporation (FRDC) and Fairfax area stakeholders would like to officially make known our concerns with CMSD's recommendation to relocate Bolton Elementary School. While you have our support for the consolidation with Dyke Elementary, the relocation of the two schools to Margaret Ireland is not. While I appreciate the difficulty of having to make choices concerning school closures, consolidations, and relocations, CMSD's recommendation concerning Bolton does not consider the impact of that decision on children, families and neighborhoods.

Fairfax is currently experiencing investment via institutional partners, the City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County and FRDC's redevelopment plan for the area. In fact, an emerging neighborhood market analysis by Cleveland State University released in May 2017 stated as part of its key findings that Greater Cleveland was transitioning into a knowledge economy, led by the region's growing eds and meds sector. The analysis pinpointed a part of the city that was of particular importance. That part is the intersection of E. 105<sup>th</sup> and Cedar Avenue, the Fairfax neighborhood. The report states, "The block is arguably the geographic epicenter of the region's transition into the knowledge economy. Continued investment in the vicinity could be catalytic."

My question is how, with the investment activity-taking place, could CMSD come conclude that a school was not necessary in the neighborhood? Fairfax has one public k – 8 school, Bolton Elementary. The Cleveland Transformation Alliance's mission is "To ensure every child in the city attends a quality school, and every neighborhood has great schools from which families can choose." So one could deduce from your recommendation that Fairfax is not a community with people that pay taxes and help support CMSD.

Relocating the school leaves no options for people moving to the area to work at for example, Cleveland Clinic. Cleveland Clinic, the county's largest employer, has 20,000 employees at its main campus in Fairfax. Less than a mile away is University Hospitals and Case Western

Reserve University. These anchor institutions believe in Fairfax and in fact financially support an employee-assistance housing program called Greater Circle Living (GCL), which FRDC developed and administers. GCL awards forgivable loans up to \$30,000 to employees of anchor institutions that live in one of seven neighborhoods surrounding University Circle. This year the program will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Were you aware of the demolition of a vacant factory on May 30, 2019 on Woodland Avenue made possible by the Safe Route To Schools Program? A great example of how we can all work together to make neighborhoods safer and better for all.

In closing, I ask you to consider all of the facts and the concerns from neighborhood stakeholders below:

1. There are three k – 8 schools in the Hough neighborhood, what is the rational for a fourth?
2. Your recommendation can easily fit the description for academic redlining. It promotes disinvestment in the neighborhood where millions of dollars of investment is completed, planned and underway.
3. Schools should be in close proximity to churches, housing, community centers, businesses and other community assets to create stable, inviting and welcoming neighborhoods.
4. The proposed Margaret Ireland site is not in a residential area. It fronts a major transportation corridor with six lanes of traffic. The building is vacant and boarded and for children walking to school presents a safety hazard.
5. There are no options for Fairfax children at nearby schools as both Harvey Rice and Sunbeam have waiting lists.

I urge you to reconsider your recommendation as it adversely effects children, families and community. You regularly ask your partners to “Believe” in CMSD. We now ask you to believe in and value our community.

Sincerely,



Denise Van Leer  
Executive Director, FRDC

Cc: Anne Bingham, CMSD Board Chair  
K. Burtzlaff, CMSD Board Attorney  
B. Griffin, Ward 6 Councilman  
S. Holmes, FRDC Board Chair  
K. Steele, CMSD  
Lisa Thomas, CMSD Board

**From:** Steele, Karlea  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 06, 2019 9:16 AM  
**To:** Burtzlaff, Kevin  
**Subject:** Fw: Tremont Montessori

Cleveland Metropolitan School District  
Karlea L. Steele  
Educator: Executive Assistant Board Members Office  
1111 Superior Avenue, Suite 1800  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Phone - 216-838-0030  
Fax - 216-436-5078  
email - [Karlea.Steele@clevelandmetroschools.org](mailto:Karlea.Steele@clevelandmetroschools.org)

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**From:** sarah Bonnette [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 2, 2019 10:38 PM  
**To:** Steele, Karlea  
**Subject:** Tremont Montessori

Good Evening Ms. Steele,

I was unable to attend the meeting yesterday at Garrett Morgan but wanted to share my concerns regarding the proposed closure of Tremont Montessori. I request that you please forward my concerns to the Board Members.

I am a former School Social Worker with the district, but today I am writing as a resident of Tremont and a parent of students who attend CMSD schools, specifically Tremont Montessori. I have been a firm believer in CMSD schools since I worked for the district and have opted to remain in the city and send my children to CMSD schools. A primary reason for this was Tremont Montessori School, directly across the street from me. Since I moved to the neighborhood 13 years ago I have had the pleasure of being active in their school community and a witness to their partnership in the community as board member of Tremont West Development Corporation. Over the years I have seen more parents with young families move into Tremont AND opt to send them to the local school rather than various area charter schools in Ohio City such as Near West Intergenerational or Urban Community School. The neighborhood has shifted to include more families with children who utilize the school grounds for the playground and green space.

I have grave concerns about the closing of Tremont Montessori. First, as a parent, the Montessori has grown tremendously under the leadership of Ms. Celeste, I have seen the Montessori methods more interwoven throughout school events that my children have participated in. My children both attended the 5 star Pre-K program in the Children's House at Tremont and the experience has been like no other. The neighborhood involvement is present and we are even participating in Parade the Circle this weekend as

part of Tremont Montessori. My concern is that in moving the program from the central location in Tremont that families on the opposite side of town will not be able to commit to the program and the diversity and integrity of the program will suffer. I know that area families were more interested in sending their children to Tremont than in the past and this momentum would be lost with a move.

Second, as a resident, I am VERY concerned about a vacant building directly across the street from me. I grew up living across the street from William Rainey Harper and saw the demise of the property and neighborhood when that neighborhood school closed. The building was no longer cared for, the grounds became overgrown, animals began living in building and there was increased drug activity and crime occurring. It sickens me to think the same for the building across the street from me - again. It is a pillar in this community and has been for generations. Frankly, the school presence is a positive one for community cohesiveness and property value. As a tax payer I have repeatedly supported tax issues on the ballot and encouraged others to do so primarily because of my belief in CMSD but also because of the wonderful relationship my community has with Tremont Montessori.

Please urge the board, committee members and others to keep Tremont School open. I could understand that due to the state withholding their match for new buildings that Tremont would not be torn down and rebuilt but **did not ever** anticipate the building closing altogether.

Sincerely,

Sarah Lundeen Bonnette, resident and parent

-----Original Message-----

From: Laveta Parker <[lparker@clevelandcitycouncil.org](mailto:lparker@clevelandcitycouncil.org)>

Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2019 3:17 PM

To: Gordon, Eric <[Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org](mailto:Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org)>

Cc: Denise Van Leer <[REDACTED]>; [Kevin.Burtzlauff@ClevelandMetroSchool.org](mailto:Kevin.Burtzlauff@ClevelandMetroSchool.org);

Houser, Michael <[Michael.Houser@clevelandmetroschools.org](mailto:Michael.Houser@clevelandmetroschools.org)>; Holmes, J. Stefan

<[REDACTED]>

Subject: Letter from Councilman Griffin

Good Afternoon Mr. Gordon,

Please read the attached letter from Councilman Blaine A. Griffin and respond. I will send the original letter in the mail.

Thanks,

Laveta L. Parker|Executive Assistant to Councilman Blaine A. Griffin|216-664-4234|

[lparker@clevelandcitycouncil.org](mailto:lparker@clevelandcitycouncil.org)





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**Blaine A. Griffin** COUNCIL MEMBER, WARD 6 • MAJORITY WHIP

**COMMITTEES:** Health & Human Services - *Chair*  
Finance • Safety • Operations • Workforce & Community Benefits

Thursday, June 6, 2019

Eric S. Gordon, CEO

Cleveland Metropolitan School District

1111 Superior Avenue E., Suite 1800

Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Mr. Gordon:

I am adamantly opposed to the recommendation by CMSD to relocate Bolton Elementary School. I am in full support of your recommendation to consolidate Dyke Elementary, which houses CMSD's K-8 School of the Arts program. This consolidation only makes sense because it gives Bolton elementary a great program to add to its curriculum, it is in close proximity to Karamu House (The Oldest African-American Theatre in the United States) and it can serve as a feeder school to CMSD's School of the Arts H.S. However, moving both of these schools to Margaret Ireland Elementary on Chester Avenue and East 63<sup>rd</sup> Street would have a devastating impact on this neighborhood. The present and future children and families in the Fairfax neighborhood deserve a neighborhood school.

This Fairfax neighborhood is a focal point of the City of Cleveland's revitalization strategy. There are significant investments being made in this area after years of disinvestment, abandonment and neglect. The Ohio Department of Transportation has invested \$334 million dollars to reinvigorate this forgotten triangle. More than 700 hundred units of housing have been built or are being built within a 1 mile radius of the school. The Mayor's Transformation Initiative and the Thrive 105/93 plan have designated millions of dollars to revive the distressed E. 105<sup>th</sup> and E. 93<sup>rd</sup> St. corridor. This is also home to the Cleveland Clinic, the largest employer in Cuyahoga County with more than 20,000 employees. More than 1,000 jobs a year are created in this area.

There will be no high-quality school options for children in the Fairfax area if the CMSD board accepts this recommendation. The only neighborhood school will be Saint Adelbert, a Catholic School. This will contribute to CMSD losing more pupils to private schools. If Bolton were to



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**Blaine A. Griffin** COUNCIL MEMBER, WARD 6 • MAJORITY WHIP

**COMMITTEES:** Health & Human Services - *Chair*  
Finance • Safety • Operations • Workforce & Community Benefits

relocate to Margaret Ireland, there would be no public schools between Sunbeam and Margaret Ireland, a distance of about 3.5 miles. In addition, Margaret Ireland is on a major thoroughfare. I do not deem it safe or practical for children to make the journey from Fairfax to Hough. It is also my understanding that Sunbeam is filled to capacity. All of these factors will be a recipe for disaster for the Fairfax area and will precipitate a decline. I have seen communities rapidly deteriorate when schools close, leaving abandoned structures.

I believe it is imperative that CMSD's decisions and plans compliment ongoing planning and development by the city. The City of Cleveland has made plans to demolish buildings to make safe routes for children to get to school, paved streets to compliment schools and trained and invested in neighborhood leaders to keep children safe as they go to and from school. It is essential for all of these plans to be aligned. At present, it looks like the schools and the city of Cleveland are not working in a coordinated fashion, going in opposite directions, contradicting each other and undermining each other's strategies. And please keep in mind that this community has overwhelmingly supported school operating and construction levies on ballots over the years.

I truly sympathize and understand your dilemma. My wife and I went to the U.S. Supreme Court when the *Zelman v. Harris Voucher* case was presented to the court. I told people then that this deregulation of public education would decimate neighborhoods by creating an abundance of abandoned buildings. I also understand that the State of Ohio changed its formula which increased construction costs. The schools have also experienced an eroding tax base and a population decline. Not to mention, the unconstitutional funding formula that the state refuses to address.

This is not solely an emotional plea to keep Bolton open. It only makes sense. For all these reasons and more I strongly encourage you to keep and consolidate Bolton and Dyke in the Fairfax community.

Thank you and the CMSD Board in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Blaine A. Griffin

Council Member

City of Cleveland, Ward 6



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**Blaine A. Griffin** COUNCIL MEMBER, WARD 6 • MAJORITY WHIP

**COMMITTEES:** Health & Human Services - *Chair*  
Finance • Safety • Operations • Workforce & Community Benefits

Cc: Ann Bingham, CMSD Board Chair  
Robert Heard, CMSD Board Vice-Chair  
Kevin Burtzlaff, CMSD Board Attorney  
Michael Houser, CMSD Policy and Labor Liaison  
Stefon Holmes, FRDC Board Chair  
Denise Van Leer, FRDC Executive Director

**From:** Laura McShane <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2019 8:41 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Cc:** Cory Riordan <[REDACTED]>; Jasmin Santana <jsantana@clevelandcitycouncil.org>; Kerry McCormack <kmccormack@clevelandcitycouncil.org>; Charles E. Hoven <[REDACTED]>; Laila Voss <[REDACTED]>; Brian Zimmerman <[REDACTED]>; Dale Smith <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Re: West side school closings -Tremont and Brooklyn Centre

Thank you! I really appreciate your attention to Tremont Montessori and Denison Schools- I would add the important need to maintain Denison and Tremont locations due to strategic development of EcoDistrict at Metrohealth and the partnership with Art House. I would also like to see a more formalized relationship with the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

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On Thursday, June 6, 2019, 7:44:07 PM EDT, Gordon, Eric <[Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org](mailto:Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org)> wrote:

Ms. McShane,

Thank you for sharing your feedback. I will share this with the planning team and the Board of Education for their deliberations this weekend and will also add it to our website with all other public feedback we've received.

Sincerely,

Eric Gordon

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**From:** Laura McShane <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2019 5:47 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <[Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org](mailto:Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org)>  
**Cc:** Cory Riordan <[REDACTED]>; Jasmin Santana <[jsantana@clevelandcitycouncil.org](mailto:jsantana@clevelandcitycouncil.org)>; Kerry McCormack <[kmccormack@clevelandcitycouncil.org](mailto:kmccormack@clevelandcitycouncil.org)>; Charles E. Hoven <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** West side school closings -Tremont and Brooklyn Centre

Please see this letter from TWDC Director Cory Riordan:

<https://plainpress.wordpress.com/2019/06/03/twdc-responds-to-cmsd-decision-to-close-tremont-montessori/>

As a public librarian w/students, parents and teacher contacts at Tremont Montessori, Scranton, Denison, Mooney and also local charter and parochial schools - I can attest to Cory's comments on the need to RETAIN Tremont Montessori school in Tremont. I would also like to support Denison School in Brooklyn Centre with renovations to this school location, rather than merging with Mooney and relocating so far from our community.

Frankly, I do not agree at all w/ the "FACT" presented in the Citywide Analysis that Denison School is "geographically isolated." It is a school that has support from our neighborhood and that has made academic progress this past year with a "B" rating. FAMILIES WALK TO DENISON. And, most of the teachers at Denison School have helped generations of family succeed here. We are also in dire need of the pre-K option available at Denison School in the Brooklyn Centre neighborhood, since the Centers for Ohio closed the highly rated option for daycare at Archwood UCC. The lack of a highly rated daycare and a grocery in our neighborhood are issues that helped Jasmin Santana get elected over her predecessor, Brian Cummins.

I am asking Council representatives, Jasmin Santana and Kerry McCormack, to everything within their power to retain these two schools in our service areas.

Thank you,

Laura McShane



**From:** Carol <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2019 10:30 AM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Save Tremont

I grew up in Tremont and went to Tremont school.  
Tremont is recovering from some Bad Times and needs FAMILIES to stabilize.  
A neighborhood needs a school to support the institution of family.  
PLEASE allow Tremont School to Remain.  
Sent from my iPad

Carol

-----Original Message-----

From: Douglas Heuer <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Friday, June 7, 2019 11:18 AM

To: Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>

Subject: CMSD school closings in SY 2020-21

Dear Mr. Gordon,

Cleveland.com reported that the Study of Urban Development program at the University of Minnesota has identified the Tremont area of Cleveland as one of the top metropolitan growth areas in the country and the only significant growth sector in the city. Recent demographic statistics from the Tremont West Development Corp. indicate that the school age population in the Tremont area has increased by more than 50%. Research on urban development demonstrates the presence of a high-quality school in a transitional community will shape both the character and the development of that community.

In this regard, Tremont offers a tremendous opportunity for both the City of Cleveland and the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. For the City, it is the chance to nurture a sustainable, energized community rather than another urban, gentrified enclave. For CMSD, it is an opportunity to cultivate a diverse, high-quality, magnet school program, not unlike the growing International School at Cleveland State University. Tremont Montessori School already draws students from across the greater Cleveland area with accessibility from I-71, I-90 and I-490 while maintaining a history of strong community support.

It is often easier and less fearful to make decisions based upon the past and present, rather than reach out for a potentially more rewarding future, even if statistical data indicates the likelihood of reward. I am hopeful that the leaders of CMSD are open to the latter form of thinking. With appropriate resources, a school in the hub of one of the nation's top urban growth communities could be another gem in the CMSD portfolio of schools.

Douglas Heuer, retired superintendent of schools and Cleveland resident

**From:** Cory Riordan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2019 5:39 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Follow-up on Tremont

CEO Gordon: Please see attached. There are still a handful circulating at area businesses.

Cory Riordan  
Executive Director  
Tremont West Development Corporation

[REDACTED]  
[www.tremontwest.org](http://www.tremontwest.org)

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**From:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2019 4:17 PM  
**To:** Cory Riordan <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Follow-up on Tremont

Cory,

At the Board Retreat this weekend, the Board asked to see the petition that you mentioned at our June 1<sup>st</sup> community meeting. I don't believe I/we have received the petition from you at this point. Would you be able to share it so that I can get it to the Board and include it with the other feedback received?

Also, we have shared the content from the Board Retreat on the [QualitySchoolsForCLEkids.org](http://QualitySchoolsForCLEkids.org) website. In addition to the emerging recommendation brought to the community, we outlined a series of other options that the Board could consider as well. The content related to Tremont is shown on pages 55-61 of the presentation.

Eric Gordon

Eric S. Gordon  
EDUCATOR: Chief Executive Officer

Cleveland Metropolitan School District  
1111 Superior Avenue East, Suite 1800  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

T: 216-838-0020  
F: 216-436-5066  
E: [Eric.Gordon@ClevelandMetroSchools.org](mailto:Eric.Gordon@ClevelandMetroSchools.org)  
W: [www.ClevelandMetroSchools.org](http://www.ClevelandMetroSchools.org)  
Twitter: @CleMetroSchools, @EricGordon\_CEO  
Facebook: CleveMetroSD, EricGordon.CEO



LinkedIn: EricGordonCEO

**PETITION SIGNED BY PARENTS, RESIDENTS  
AND CONCERNED CITIZENS OF  
THE TREMONT COMMUNITY IN SUPPORT OF  
PRESERVING AND KEEPING THE  
TREMONT MONTESSORI SCHOOL OPEN AND ACTIVE**

NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL	DATE
PATRICIA VOISINET	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5-16-2019
Marshall Kohut	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5-16-2019
J. Michael Brown	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5-16-19
Jeff K. Berrati	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5-16-19
Helienne Linnick	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
Monahan Meigs	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
GLEN MURRAY	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
Arnone Bruce	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
Denise Kadilak	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
Yusef Wherry	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
Kim Kucumeli	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
Erica Davis	[REDACTED]	44113	5/16/19
Beate Willis	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
STEPHEN MARRAS	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19

over →

name	address	email	Date
Bnana Ishida	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
Kervel Elva	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
BELLOMO, DOMENIC	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
Curry, Michelle	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	

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NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL	DATE
Cynthia Chipulis	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5-16-2019
Leslie Selig	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
<del>LESLIE</del> Victor SELIG	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
Randi Zubin	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
NANCY ROY	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
Chris Roy	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
Joseph Chura	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
JEFF CHIPULIS	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5-16-19
DANIELLE FORAN	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5-16-19
Alexandra Dettl	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
Margy Jacob	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
Cassidy Ward	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
David Foran	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
Martha Lindberger	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
Liane Mulaker	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5-16-19
Fred Cabotello	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
Amanda Miller	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19



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NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 5/16/19

- ⑪ Galley W. MATIA [REDACTED]
- ⑫ Patrick G. Kocher [REDACTED]
- ⑬ Jenny RODRIGUEZ [REDACTED]
- ⑭ Tom MATIA [REDACTED]
- ⑮ Mike Kosti [REDACTED]

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TREMONT MONTESSORI SCHOOL OPEN AND ACTIVE

	NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL	DATE
16	BRIAN HANNON			MAY 16 2019
17	Seronica Powell			5/16/19
18	TOM COOK			5/16/19
19	Anita Cook			5/16/19
20	Richard CLARK			5/16/19
21	Elaine Bolawski			5/16/2019
22	Carolyn Bentley			5-16-19

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	NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL	DATE
①	GEORGIAN N FRANKO			5-16-2019
②	Frank Tkacz			5-16-19
③	JANICE THACZ			5/16/19
④	RANDY U NORFOLK			5/16/19
⑤	Chuck J. Stanley			5/16/2019
⑥	James Little			5/16/2019
⑦	JILL LEMIEUX			5/16/19
⑧	Suzanne Meltzer			5/17/2019
⑨	Jeff Kipp			5/17/19
⑩	Erin Rader			5/17/19

77 5/17

PETITION SIGNED BY PARENTS, RESIDENTS  
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TREMONT MONTESSORI SCHOOL OPEN AND ACTIVE

NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL	DATE
Dan Cotten			5/16/19
Paul VanderEyk			5/16/19
Amy Davis			5-16-19
Cristin Heiss			5.16.19
Robert Heiss			5-16-19
Marilyn Dubasak			5.16.19
Jim Vaccaro			5.16.19
LORRAINE THWAITE			5-16-19
Scott Rosenstein			5-17-19
Robert D. Bucklew			5-17-19
Robert L. Lipp			5/17/19
TRICIA KIPP			5/17/19



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**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

MATILDA MATUSIK [REDACTED] 5/16/19

MARtha BUCK [REDACTED] 5-16-19

MARtha BUCK [REDACTED] 5-16-19

Dev WURM [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Julia Smith [REDACTED] 5/16/19 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Jessica E. Lyke [REDACTED] 5-16-19 [REDACTED]

⑨ Mary E. Lyke [REDACTED] 5-16-19 [REDACTED]

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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THE TREMONT COMMUNITY IN SUPPORT OF  
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TREMONT MONTESSORI SCHOOL OPEN AND ACTIVE**

NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL	DATE
ANGELICA POZO	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/18/19
RICKY FRENCH	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
TOM STEWART	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
JOSH WRIGHT	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
MARK PATT	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	05/16/19
RICHARD SOROKO	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5-16-19
COLIN McLELLAND	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5-16-19

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TREMONT MONTESSORI SCHOOL OPEN AND ACTIVE**

NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL	DATE
PAHNITI TOSUKSRI	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/2019
Jale Allen	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5-16-19
Scott Nagy	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5-16-19
Valerie Hempstead	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5-16-19
Laura Palmer	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5-16-19
Viktor Kitsis	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5-16-19
CLAUDE LAWRENCE CORNETT	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5-16-19

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TREMONT MONTESSORI SCHOOL OPEN AND ACTIVE**

NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL	DATE
Jaime Delect	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
Sonia Ash	[REDACTED]	5-16-2019	
MARY ANN BALOG	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
Rosemarie Bell	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
MARYANNE CHEGAN	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
Susan Krasul	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
CHRIS KERR	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
JOHN SKRATC	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
Jaime Delect	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/16/19

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**PETITION SIGNED BY PARENTS, RESIDENTS  
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[illegible]

NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL	DATE
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Minnie Zager	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
David Zager	[REDACTED]	5/16/2019
Angela Zager	[REDACTED]	5/16/19
Maria Zager	[REDACTED]	5/16/19

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NAME ADDRESS EMAIL DATE

Debra Myrick

none 5-16-19

Evin Blyck

5-16-19

MASON STEWART

5-16-19

Christina Andrews

Laetia

Simone Jones

Paul NASH

Walter Brown

MAY-16-19

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NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL	DATE
Sarah Fallon	Bl'ch	[REDACTED]	5/29/19
Anthony Moran	ELN	[REDACTED]	5/29/19
David Simpson	Kai/M. S. P.	[REDACTED]	5-31-19
Kultra Dharma	Kia	[REDACTED]	5/31/19
Jamie Barber	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/31/19
Alex Sallia	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5/31/19
Vincent Di Franco	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	6-1-2019
Lanya Davenport	Y. P. P.	[REDACTED]	6-1-19
Elizabeth Gutridge	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	6/1/19
Katherine Richards	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]



-----Original Message-----

From: Tim Harrison <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2019 11:06 AM

To: Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>

Subject: Tremont Montessori

Dear Dr. Gordon,

Reading Patrick O'Donnell's PD article on the future of Tremont Montessori, I was disappointed to see that the board felt they hadn't heard from parents of students. I am a Tremont resident and have two children enrolled at the school. Bot started Pre-K there at age 3 and this will be our sixth consecutive year with children in Tremont Montessori. We love the Montessori program and love that it is conveniently located just a few blocks away.

As an active member of the Tremont community I engage with the growing number of new parents regularly. I have been a champion of Tremont Montessori and have encouraged many parents to attend. Some have followed my recommendation but most have not. An issue regularly cited has been the condition of the building. It's very clear that minimal care and updating has been done on the building. I am assuming the neglect is partially due to the planned demolition. Do not underestimate the number of parents who found the school undesirable based on the condition of the facility alone.

I feel that a properly equipped Montessori specific school in Tremont would be a huge draw in the neighborhood. Unlike Campus, Tremont is located in a leafy, quiet residential area two blocks form a park. The school is truly in the heart of Tremont and has the potential to not just be the centerpiece of the neighborhood, but the CMSD portfolio.

If Tremont Montessori were relocated we would have a tough choice to make to stick with the Montessori program. The future of this city is walkable neighborhoods not car commutes and bus rides. Please keep CMSD and Tremont Montessori part of the Tremont neighborhood.

Thank you,

Tim Harrison  
[REDACTED]

A PORTION OF THIS EMAIL HAS BEEN REDACTED TO REMOVE PRIVATE INFORMATION UNRELATED TO THE LONG TERM SCHOOL PLANNING PROCESS OR CURRENTLY PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

**From:** jonathan meigs [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2019 3:05 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Tremont Montessori

ERIC

NOT TO BE PEST BUT SOMETHING I FORGOT. WHAT JEFFERSON LIBRARY PROVIDES AND IMPORTANT. DURING SCHOOL YEAR THERE ARE PARENTS WHO RELY ON LIBRARY AND THERE SUPPORT. AFTER SCHOOL THERE ARE KIDS WHO WALK OUT AND TO LIBRARY TO WAIT FOR PARENT TO PICK THEM UP AFTER THEY GET OFF WORK. THE LIBRARIANS ARE AWARE OF THEM, NO THEM BY NAME. THEY SHOW CONCERN WHEN NOT SEEN. THEY ALSO SHOW CONCERN WHEN A PARENT OR GUARDIAN IS OVER DUE. ITS BECAUSE THE SCHOOL IS SO CLOSE THEY FEEL SECURE THERE KIDS SAFE. IF THE PARENT DOES NOT COME IN THEY GET USED TO WHICH CARS PICK THEM UP AND LOOK OUT DOOR WHEN THEY LEAVE.

THE OTHER THING NOW THAT SCHOOL IS OUT THEY HAVE LUNCHESES FROM FOOD BANK. IN THE BACK ROOM AFTER SCHOOL AND KIDS WAITING TO GET PICKED UP THEY HAVE ACTIVITIES FOR THEM TO DO. ALSO WATCH DVD,S AND CERTAIN VIDEO GAMES TO PLAY. I KNOW WELL BECAUSE I SPEND MUCH TIME HERE BEING W/O COMPUTER.

ALSO THE COUPLE WHO PURCHASED HOUSE NEXT TO MINE ON KENILWORTH DID SO BECAUSE OF THE LOCATION OF THE SCHOOL WITH INTENT HAVE CHILD WOULD SEND THEM THERE. THE HOUSE WAS 3 UNITS. THEY DID TOTAL REHAB AND CONVERTED TO SINGLE. IM NOT SURE THE DID HAVE BABY GIRL. I THINK COUPLE YRS AGO. SHE IS NOT SCHOOL AGE YET BUT GROW TO FAST. I DO NOT KNOW IF THEY ARE AWARE OF SCHOOL SITUATION BUT GOING TO RAT IT OUT.

I THINK THE SCHOOL CAN ONLY BE AN ASSET. WITH THE PLAYGROUND DONE SO WELL AND ENCLOSED THERE SO MANY KIDS PLAYING WHILE PARENTS SIT, WATCH, READ AND MEET OTHER PARENTS AS WELL AS KIDS. IT IS SO COOL TO SEE HOW IT IS NOW FROM WHEN I FIRST WAS HERE. THE PLAY GROUND WAS MOSTLY HIDDEN FROM TALL BUSHES. AT NIGHT IT WAS MAYHEM. THERE WERE BENCHES HIDDEN FROM SITE. BOTTLES FLYING AND BREAKING AND EVERY OTHER THING YOU CAN IMAGINE IMAGINE. POLICE CARS PASSING BY HAD NO IDEA WHAT WAS GOING ON. OK IM DONE BUGGING YOU.

JON

**From:** Robinson, Edweana <erobin23@kent.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 8, 2019 9:41 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Bolton Elementary School Closing

Eric, Could you please review the attached letter concerning the closing of Bolton Elementary School? Thanks, Bob

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: The Proposed Relocation of Bolton Elementary School

I am writing this letter as a member of the Case Western Reserve University community outreach team that has been working with Bolton Elementary School over the past three years. The impetus to start this initiative evolved around Case Western Reserve University's partnership with the Cleveland Clinic Foundation to establish the Health Education Campus (HEC) in the Fairfax neighborhood. The HEC brings nurses, dental and medical students under one roof to coordinate health care in the 21st century. It is the only such building in Ohio. Our team has formed a relationship with Bolton's principal, Mrs. King, working with at risk and underprivileged youth under a project called "Four Corners". Within a two-block radius, we are working with Bolton Elementary, the Juvenile Justice Center, Olivet Institutional Baptist Church and the Otis Moss Medical Center to assist in any way possible as mentors, advisors and role models for the children and parents of Fairfax. The following initiatives are currently in progress:

1. Weekly meetings with boys offering advice and guidance. (A program for girls also will be established.)
2. Olivet Institutional Baptist Church, in partnership with Google, just completed a year-long coding course which graduated 29 participants with a certificate in coding which has salaries starting at \$50,000 per year.
3. Otis Moss Medical Center is currently undergoing a major transformation to provide a number of full service programs from nutrition to brain health, particularly for the Fairfax community.
4. Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine is in the second year of a National Institute of Health (NIH) grant: "YES" (Youth Enjoying Science). It is a five year grant targeting students in grades six through college and Bolton was selected to be the middle school to participate. The grant revolves around cancer education, prevention and research to enlighten students who can then take the message back to their families. Given Fairfax has one of the lowest life expectancies in northeast Ohio, this is a critical step to improve the health of the Fairfax community.

In conclusion, as the Opportunity Corridor evolves, a Health Education Campus, a full service outpatient facility, a church with community service as its mission, a world-class hospital all within walking distance of one another, Fairfax is ideally positioned to undergo a renaissance from poverty to prosperity. Bolton Elementary is critical to that transformation and should remain within the community or close by.

Robert L Haynie, MD, PhD  
Associate Dean Emeritus for Student Affairs  
Associate Clinical Professor Emeritus  
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

**From:** Sarah Fallon <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2019 3:58 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Cc:** Kevin.Burtzlaff@clevelandmetroschools.org; Steele, Karlea  
<Karlea.Steele@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** SAVE TREMONT MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Hello Mr. Gordon,

Attached please find the feedback I submitted today via the website. I wanted to be sure it was in your hands before the Board Work Session tonight, which unfortunately I cannot attend.

Thank you for your time and attention,  
Sarah Fallon

**Attachment:**

"As a resident of Tremont as well as a Tremont Montessori parent, I must voice my discontent at the current recommendation that Tremont Montessori be relocated to an east side location. It makes no sense to take a viable, popular program and relocate it away from a central location for many reasons: 1) central location is key for a school that draws nearly equally from all neighborhoods of the city, and if it must be relocated it should be as central as possible on the near west side, as more students come from the west than the east; 2) Tremont is one of the most vibrant and fastest growing neighborhoods, and closing Tremont Montessori would leave the neighborhood with zero CMSD presence; 3) moving the program to a location that is already modernized, yet NOT set up as a Montessori school, will cost CMSD more money in the long run as CMSD will need to spend the money to reconfigure the school to Montessori standards in order to achieve Montessori accreditation; 4) this program is most popular with the Children's House, Pre-K and Kindergarten students, and Pre-K students cannot be bused and many parents will not make a commute across town; 5) Tremont West Development Corporation and Friends of Tremont Montessori have made investments and support of Tremont Montessori based on it being a Montessori school within Tremont, any decision made that does not honor that commitment and support is a slap in the face of constituents and tax payers who have given their good faith support to this plan and waited patiently for their turn; 6) Tremont residents have very vocally opposed the current building becoming a charter school or development opportunity, they want it to remain a CMSD school of choice that reflects the makeup of the neighborhood of invested, committed residents of Tremont and Cleveland.

Alternative #1 is no compromise at all, as it takes a success program and tears it apart, both in location and in program, and CMSD would need to hire double the amount of Montessori-accredited staff and faculty to have a Montessori program in two locations.

Alternative #4 is not a valid option as it eliminates the Montessori program from CMSD, which I cannot believe a single stakeholder of any kind actually wants or would support.

Alternatives #2, 3 & 5 are the ones we must focus on. Alternative #3 is the best solution, as building a new Montessori School in Tremont fulfills the promise made to this community, the students and the taxpayers who supported the original plan. It is unfortunate that another school must wait in order for this to be achieved, but Tremont Montessori is an asset that must be saved. Alternatives #2 & 5, while less desirable, would allow Tremont Montessori to continue to exist and improve while waiting for new funding sources to be identified so that Tremont Montessori can truly reach its potential.

The residents of Tremont, the students of Tremont Montessori, and the stakeholders who have put so much effort into creating, maintaining and supporting the school deserve nothing less than a new school in its current location, but absolutely require the CMSD board to make good on their promise to invest in the program. If a new school cannot be built in the current location right now, please strongly consider investing in the program as it is now, and make it a priority to find funding in the next funding cycles to fully commit to the original vision of a Montessori school in Tremont.”

**From:** Jaleesa Spencer [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 26, 2019 11:23 AM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Valley View Boys Leadership Academy

Mr. Eric Gordon,

I'm a proud parent at Valley View Boys Leadership Academy. I'm writing you because I have a few concerns about the modernization project. I believe that the consolidation plan for Valley View Boys Leadership Academy will not improve the district. For us new parents at the school who have pre-kindergarteners or pre-first graders, we are just getting use to the fact that our little ones are growing up, but we have grown to love the close knit school community and family oriented bond that we see with our children and these educators. Every morning the Principal and staff are outside greeting the boys with warm words and handshakes. Seeing my son comfortable enough to open up and grow with people who genuinely care for his future is what made me enroll my son at this academy.

Most parents, like myself, look at scholastic quality as a big reason to choose a school. I've observed both teachers and other staff encourage all students to succeed in not only their academics but sports and other extracurricular activities as well. The support that these boys have behind them at this school is phenomenal. Mr. Mitchell has done a remarkable job as head of the school. Since his arrival, in just a few years, he has taken the school's rating from below passing to a "B". The school has improved in all 4 scoring metrics, making the academy out-perform many other schools. Just imagine what he can accomplish if he's able to continue this leadership curriculum. Mr. Mitchell pushes these young men to be greater, and I appreciate the tremendous affect it is having on my son.

Valley View Boys Leadership Academy had 207 students enrolled, which is low but beneficial. Smaller class sizes are so important in education. Each child gets the individual one-on-one time he needs, while there is much less interruptions and chaos. The teachers can form better relationships with their students and the boys are much more engaged within the class. Also, a smaller class will ultimately make a more cohesive unit than a larger one. A class of 30 plus students allows for the formation of cliques. Students need to engage with each other because students can often stick to who they are comfortable with. However, in a smaller classroom setting, students will have the opportunity to interact with and form relationships with all of their classmates, ensuring that the class is more supportive of each other.

The last 2 years at VVBLA has been exceptional. My son loves his school. I love this school. The parents of Valley View Boys Leadership Academy would hate for the school to close and have to commute across town. We want to stay at this location, with our staff, where we are familiar with the community. More than 90% of the school resides on the Westside of Cleveland. Parents don't want to send their children into a city that I understand that there will be bussing and transportation provided to the boys but why would we send our children across town when VVBLA is the perfect school? They offer free uniforms and VVBLA gear to the boys. They have before and after care, mother/son dances, culture and ethnic awareness. I can see that Mr. Mitchell understands healthy environments and safe neighborhoods are vital in these boys educational journey.

I would love for my son to stay enrolled at VVBLA because I see the change that the staff is producing. I don't want to put my son in another school because the district decides to relocate. Taking into consideration the plans set to take effect; I do not think nor agree that this is something the district should proceed with. Valley View Parents want to know why we can't

move the boys temporarily to renovate the school. What will be the budget for VVBLA? Has someone come out to the school and estimated the amount of work needed, instead of tearing it down? Is the same amount of financing distributed to ALL schools? How long would it take for repairs to be done?

We are pleading that you take our thoughts and concerns into consideration for our boys. It's essential that we keep this school. Please do not fail our future leaders, it takes a village!!

Thank You,  
Jaleesa Spencer



**From:** Susan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2019 12:20 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Tremont Montessori

Hi Eric,

I understand that you're re-evaluating the future of Tremont Montessori.

I'd like to, again, offer the potential to use the school building on the premises of St. Wendelin Parish as a viable option to move the school into until a decision is made regarding a westside Montessori location.

Perhaps renting the building for 2-4 years may give you the opportunity to re-evaluate the neighborhood needs.

We have brought on many new parishioners that have moved into the Tremont neighborhood and are having children. The kids are mostly just pre k at this point, but they will need educational options within the year.

Please give me a call if you'd like to tour the building, or if you have any questions, whatsoever.

My best to you,

Susan Kidd

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

**From:** Rachel Dissell <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019 10:04 AM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Tremont Montessori

My apologies -- I meant to send this from my personal email.

Eric,

I want to be clear I am sharing my thoughts in my role as a parent of children at Tremont Montessori, though I acknowledge that my role as reporter gives me a unique lens through which to view the importance of broader implications on our city and the use of data in making critical decisions.

It has been interesting for me to watch the district and the board struggle to parse the different reasons that parents and community members are fighting to keep the Tremont Montessori school and the program in the neighborhood.

I understand it can be confusing when different sets of people want the same thing for different reasons. I don't envy those who have to make tough decisions that inevitably make some people unhappy.

Here's a few contributions I'd like to make for your consideration based on my personal feelings, conversations I've had with parents and hopes that I have for the future.

The district's construct of East and West makes me a bit uneasy. It is completely understandable that, in order to make decisions, you must look at things in some order. For me, it feels problematic for a few reasons.

- First, CMSD has made Parent Choice/School Choice a priority. It chose to de-emphasize the importance of neighborhood schools in order to attempt to improve quality. To then question why parents are choosing to send their children from an East Side neighborhood, some of which are only a few miles from Tremont, seems to reinforce an East/West divide that the city is striving to get past. We should be proud that the school draws from both sides of town.
- This construct isn't applied evenly. There's not much complaint that children enrolled at Campus International don't live in that neighborhood or that the infusion of suburban students likely helped elevate the school's outcomes.
- In my conversations with parents who do send children to Tremont from East Side neighborhoods during school events, I've heard a few things. Some parents have ties to Tremont because they were displaced when Valley View homes were torn down and reconstructed. Other parents have said they like that their children are safe in Tremont. They walk to the library, walk to the park – things they can't do, unfortunately, closer to home. Lastly, parents seem to really value the way the lower grade Montessori teachers focus on their child as a whole. How they look to use their strengths to teach them the skills they need and strive to make the classrooms caring environments.
- Some in the district want to know whether parents from the West Side would send their children to an East Side location. The answer to that is likely "it depends." If it is a new building in a neighborhood that isn't as safe, probably not. If it requires putting a small child on an unmonitored bus, probably not.

A true Montessori program is a huge asset for the district's social-emotional learning goals, Say Yes to Education program and early childhood learning goals.

- Montessori makes so much sense for the district to invest in. I keep seeing in district documents mentions of the additional costs such a program creates. This baffles me because we know the costs of not investing to teach children the skills that are the foundation of a Montessori model. Educating the whole child. Experiential learning (project-based learning, right?) Building a peaceful community and respecting nature. Not only could building the program the right way benefit the school, it could pay dividends in helping formulate curriculums for other schools that use these methods in a way that is transferable to a non-Montessori school.
- The Children's House at Tremont Montessori currently is its biggest strength. That's because it has had the most dedication and commitment. I'm uncertain why the district isn't interested in building upon that and growing that part of the program on the Near West Side where it estimates there will be children to enroll. The Children's House also does extremely well with working to "catch up" children who are behind and get them ready for kindergarten. This could be instrumental as the district looks to build success for Say Yes and to ameliorate some of the impacts of poverty and lead poisoning. The program could become not only a model but a training ground of other teachers in the district.
- In my conversations with neighborhood parents who have not sent their children to Tremont, their choices are based on two issues. First, the condition of the school. Parents see the poor conditions and don't want that to be their child's first school experience. Broken toilets and sweltering classrooms? Of course they don't. They also have a problem with the set-up of the school where very large kids (8<sup>th</sup> graders) are mixed with tiny 3-and-4 year-olds. A better designed school would have appropriate spaces for different age groups. That's why many parents opted instead to take children to the Music School Settlement, eventually spurring a second campus nearby.
- The racial and socio-economic mix of children currently in the Children's House is good for everyone. Countless studies show that having a diverse learning space is good for growth for all children. Simply building a neighborhood school to benefit Tremont residents would not benefit all to the same level.
- I fully understand concerns about academic achievement at Tremont. I'd suggest, though, that if there was stability and a commitment to Montessori that would improve. I see that work on a daily basis and I think that some of the challenges, as in all school, are the non-academic issues students are bringing from home. Moving the program or the school won't change that. It might actually make it worse because the school might lose students who have more stability and support at home.

Support does matter

- The district is constantly trying to get parents and community members involved in the district and its schools. Tremont has strong commitment from both. The Block Clubs have donated art and science supplies to teachers. The neighborhood values having the school and would do more to support it if there was an organized effort to join. Sure, some in the neighborhood are concerned about the building. But on the whole it is about more than the building.
- Parents for years now have patiently dealt with this rebuilding and construction process. Many have stuck through it because assurances were made that there was a commitment to the school and the program. That is exactly while I've kept my children there, even in years that is has been challenging. It

will be incredibly hard to ask parents and supportive neighbors to support the district, to support future levies, if that patience and commitment is not honored.

A chance to innovate

- The district has done so much to innovate at the high school level, and it is paying dividends for students. A centrally located Montessori school in Tremont could offer the chance for collaboration and outside investment. Within walking distance of the current property are: a park, a federally-supported health care center, a public library and public transportation. This offers an opportunity for the district to create a “campus” where children can get many needs met. Where they can learn in a safe neighborhood environment and the school could form better partnerships with those places to serve kids and families. It also offers the chance to construct a building, even if it is a smaller one, that also serves the community, as a place to gather, play or learn. The Tremont Farmer’s Market could locate there in the winter. The community garden could be planted there in the summer.
- Neighbors and parents would work to seek outside money and investment to keep a Montessori program in Tremont. It seems unfair that engagement happens the most when the circumstances are dire to save the school. Hopes and plans that parents and neighbors have had for years have been put on hold because the school’s future has been uncertain for so long.

Thanks for taking the time to listen.

Rachel



June 18, 2019

Eric S. Gordon  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cleveland Metropolitan School District  
1111 Superior Ave E  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

RE: School Closings

Dear Eric,

This letter is an indication of interest to lease or purchase the following five school properties the Cleveland Metropolitan School District plans to close:

- Willow Elementary School-5004 Glazier Ave, Cleveland, OH 44127
- Tremont Montessori-2409 West 10th Street, Cleveland, OH 44113
- Iowa-Maple Elementary School-12510 Maple Ave, Cleveland, OH 44108
- Michael R. White Elementary School-1000 E 92nd St, Cleveland, OH 44108
- Case Elementary School-4050 Superior Ave, Cleveland, OH 44103

Please let me know at your earliest convenience the best time to reach you, to discuss next steps.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron J. Packard".

Ronald J. Packard  
Chief Executive Officer

**From:** Erin Randel <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 21, 2019 3:29 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** Reaching for consensus

Eric,

I just wanted to tell you before the week is out how impressed I am at the way you chose to handle the process of reaching consensus around priorities with the board of education at your meeting on Tuesday. I was prepared for a stressful couple of hours of sitting mute, but in fact found the discussion on all the schools, along with the questions raised insightful and fascinating. The process you followed aligned with best practices followed by the most accomplished community facilitators in the city.

I definitely feel that the process was not sufficiently aimed at or inclusive of parents from the beginning, something I hope to address in the near future--But am very grateful to see that the trust I have in you and have vouched for to my colleagues continues to be well-placed.

I realize that you have to make business decisions with regard to the investment of our scarce dollars, but I would urge you to factor in the relationships and goodwill at play in our big small town, and value the investment individuals have contributed in time and talent to partner with you in good faith, as Tremont West/Friends of Tremont Montessori have.

It was not long after Corey started and the preservationist leader moved on, that I called the question: Are you friends of the school building or friends of Tremont Montessori and the kids and program in there now? And their response as ever was we're in for Tremont Montessori. I see that same opportunity in the Fairfax/Karamu partnership, take it slow, do it well and the financial support will follow the good work and good faith efforts to hear and include everyone.

Enjoy your weekend. .e

**Erin Randel**  
**Creativity-For Good**  
writing • design • special events  
[REDACTED]

Phone [REDACTED] Email [REDACTED]

**From:** Taylor, Vernice <Vernice.Taylor@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019 7:02 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>  
**Subject:** SCHOOL CLOSURES

Greetings,

As I look at the closing of schools, I become dismayed because it appears that neighborhoods are going to be destroyed rather than rebuilt. I would hope that BOYS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY BE REBUILT IN GLENVILLE AND IF MERGED, STUDENTS WOULD ATTEND IN GLENVILLE AND DR. KENNETH CLEMENT'S NAME WOULD STILL BE THE NAME OF THE SCHOOL. It is unfortunate that our children are not made aware of the contributions that Black folks who had buildings named for them were great community leaders and were revered in the community, DESERVE THE HONOR.. I was very dismayed that General Benjamin O.. Davis's name was erased from a school and children (now) have no idea who he was and what it meant for his name to be on a school. I had heard that Whitney Young's name was also gong to be removed and the school named something else, but perhaps that is not true, just a rumor. I think that Michael R.White should be converted into an Early Learning Center. It is structurally perfect for that population. I believe we would have much better behaved and "more engaged" students; perhaps Parents would become more involved and feel like a "member of the school". Also, I believe the biggest mistake was to make our schools Prek-8. Ideally, PreK through Kindergarten (or Pre-K through 2 ) then 3rd through 5 housed together. 6-9 should be middle school and HIGH school 10-12. (You could eliminate "School of One", and students going to 10th grade would be **ready for high school**. I believe each of those levels would take ownership and be very successful. It would be great if one or two of our schools could "pilot" such a program.

Are schools merging because of low attendance and cost to supply utilities, etc? If that is reason, perhaps we need to eliminate "school choice": and ensure that all schools are quality, diverse and educationally fulfilling.

Also, I would like to see ALL OF THE SPECIALTY SCHOOLS APPLICATION ONLY----ELIMINATE SCHOOL CHOICE UNLESS SOME VERY STRONG EXPECTATIONS ARE INCORPORATED, I.E., GOOD SOCIAL SKILLS, HAVE GOOD ATTENDANCE, GOOD GRADES, PARENT INVOLVEMENT AND AN ACADEMIC PLAN IN PLACE WHICH INDICATES THAT STUDENT IS SERIOUS ABOUT HIS/HER EDUCATION.

**Thank you for listening.**

Sincerely,

Vernice Taylor  
EDUCATOR: Teacher  
H Barbara Booker Wraparound School  
2121 West 67th Street  
Cleveland, OH 44102  
(216) 961 1753  
(216) 634-2225 (Fax)  
email: [vernice.taylor@clevelandmetroschools.org](mailto:vernice.taylor@clevelandmetroschools.org)



# Feedback from Ms. Coles - provided at the close of the BOE Mtg on 6-18-19

Fowler-Mack, Christine

Mon 6/24/2019 12:43 PM

To: Schaefer, Benjamin <Benjamin.Schaefer@clevelandmetroschools.org>; Whyel, Mary Beth <Mary.Whyel@clevelandmetroschools.org>;  
Cc: Gordon, Eric <Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org>; Thompson, Karen <Karen.Thompson@clevelandmetroschools.org>; Skelly, Melissa <Melissa.Skelly@clevelandmetroschools.org>; Mosley, Trent <Trent.Mosley@clevelandmetroschools.org>; Canfora, Roseann <Roseann.Canfora@clevelandmetroschools.org>; Houser, Michael <Michael.Houser@clevelandmetroschools.org>; Serrano, Leo <Leo.Serrano@clevelandmetroschools.org>;

Mrs. Coles asked that I capture and submit her feedback to the Board.

Bolton/Dike:

- Mrs. Coles believes that we ought to consider the development of three distinct and strong pathways.
  - Arts programming [potentially in partnership with Karamu]
  - Gifted programming
  - Junior John Hay feeder model [college prep / potentially focused on Science , Math and Medicine --- leveraging institutions in the near community]
- Mrs. Coles believes that greater use of the Montessori model is wise, given that the research behind it supports students and communities like ours (per Ms. Coles).
  - She believes that we should offer some montessori pathways --- PreK - 3rd in our city, as she believes it would also support our need to engage 'early' with families.
  - She suggested we consider the Central neighborhood as an entry point for this concept.

Christine

## Christine Fowler-Mack

EDUCATOR: Chief Portfolio Officer  
Cleveland Metropolitan School District  
[Christine.Fowler-Mack@clevelandmetroschools.org](mailto:Christine.Fowler-Mack@clevelandmetroschools.org)

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