



May 2009

Dear Mariemont School District Resident,

The Mariemont City School District is nearing the conclusion of another excellent school year. I want to thank all of our residents for the support you have shown for the Mariemont Schools. Our strong community school partnership is the foundation of our continued success.

Throughout this school year, we have been conducting a facilities engagement process. I wanted to provide an update on our progress. As you know, the facilities planning process has been divided into three phases: Assessment, Solution Options and Decisions. Phase one, Assessment, was concluded in December and included reviewing studies from the Ohio School Facilities Commission and from past district advisory members. We also engaged faculty, residents, parents and school facility specialists to identify issues concerning the condition and use of our facilities.

In phase two, Solution Options, we have considered ways to effectively address the issues deemed most important by our district community. Resident volunteers developed a variety of options to help us use our buildings and resources to their fullest potential, and we presented their top four options - complete with price tags - to the community in March.

At the May Board of Education meeting, I presented the community feedback results regarding these four options. We received feedback from more than 550 residents from survey submissions online, on paper and through a community-wide dialogue. The complete results are available on our website at www.mariemontschools.org/facilities. If you do not have access to the web, please call the Board office at 272-7500 and we will be happy to provide a paper copy.

The results of the feedback contained a number of common themes: The importance of keeping academics as the most important focus of our district; the importance of presenting a fiscally responsible long term facilities plan; the importance of neighborhood schools, the importance of continuing the process of communicating to the community regarding the facilities process.

Our next steps in the process include three items: Narrow the facilities choices to Options A and B (see separate sheet); further analyze these options and provide additional information (see separate sheet); and conduct a scientific telephone survey of our community.

We will spend the summer working on these issues, and will take the following steps at the noted Board of Education meetings: (7pm at Mariemont Junior High)

- August 18 - I will present our findings to the Board of Education.
- September 15 - I will make a final recommendation to the Board of Education regarding an option.
- October 20 - The Board of Education will vote on the recommendation.

The months of November and December will be spent on the third and final phase of the process – the Decisions Phase. We will determine how to best sequence, schedule and finance the implementation of the approved option. Our intention is to finalize a plan in December 2009.

I encourage everyone to remain involved in our process by attending a Board of Education meeting, sharing feedback via our website, or by calling me or a member of Board of Education to share your feedback.

A special thanks to the Facilities Advisory Panel comprised of dedicated representatives from Columbia Township, Fairfax, Mariemont and Terrace Park for their continued work in this process.

For more information on this planning process and a complete timeline, please visit our website at www.mariemontschools.org and click on the featured District Facilities Planning link.

As always, please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Paul W. Imhoff
Superintendent, Mariemont City Schools
pimhoff@mariemontschools.org