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Superintendent of Schools

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December 12, 2018

Re: Recent Meetings Concerning Fairchild Wheeler Campus

Dear Fairchild Wheeler Parents/Students,

Thank you for taking the time to come out to meet with Dr. Johnson over the past couple of weeks. I'm glad I was able to attend the second meeting to hear directly from you. As I remarked at the end of it, it was very painful for me to watch and hear the degree of distress you felt at the notion of merging the three high schools on the campus into one. However, as I also mentioned, to make an informed decision we needed to hear exactly how you felt about it – and we heard you loud and clear. Irrespectively, I'm sorry you had to go through that experience.

I was not able to make the last meeting, held on December 4th. However, it is my understanding that, at that meeting, an impression was given that an alternate measure in lieu of a consolidation was on the cusp of being implemented - that measure being to eliminate the Assistant Principals at the three schools. I want to assure you that individual Board Members do not speak for the whole Board and that, as it stands now, the Bridgeport Board of Education is not presently considering any cost-saving measures focused on Fairchild Wheeler or any of the high schools on that campus.

As you are probably aware, the District's costs are continually evaluated in terms of how they relate to the operational needs of schools, with the understanding that each school's needs are unique and there are no "one size fits all" blanket solutions. Having said that, I assure you that, as was done with the proposed consolidation, if any change to Fairchild Wheeler's model comes to be considered, your input will be sought – and actively listened to – and that no change will be made that would negatively impact the campus or its schools.

Thank you for your active involvement in your school. Your voice matters and we are always interested in what it has to say.

Regards,

John R. Weldon
Chairman, Bridgeport Board of Education