

January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Dear School Board Members,

As the staff of Glencairn Elementary School (the majority of us former staff members of Red Cedar School), we acknowledge the challenges you currently face regarding reopening Red Cedar School.

Many representatives of our staff attended or watched Monday night's board meeting. There is growing concern among our staff and community that the decision to open Red Cedar School as the STEAM school in the district could result in our student body being divided and our cohesive staff and team dismantled. Grade level team teaching and collaboration are integral parts of our Glencairn community. Many teachers are concerned about Glencairn becoming a one section school, therefore eliminating this method of effective instruction.

Due to the strong commitment our staff feels to our students, families, community, and to one another, it is very important to us that we remain intact as a school community. Our first choice as a Glencairn staff would be to stay together at Glencairn with our current student population, staff and principal. However, if this is not possible, we would like to state our willingness to move to Red Cedar as an entire staff and student body. This option is preferable over having our team and community divided. This option would keep our staff and community together and could also make STEAM education more accessible to all students throughout the district with a more central location at Glencairn Elementary instead.

Additionally, our staff believes this option may also help the board mitigate some of the most problematic issues that are being raised by the community. A move of this nature would provide a better physical environment for some of our most at-risk students, including English Language Learners, Basic classroom students, and children receiving Title I services. Red Cedar School has the size and capacity to better support these programs, and it would also provide our music teacher with a classroom.

It is extremely important to us all that we keep our international population, which we believe is one of the unique gems of our school. When adding up our combined years of experience teaching ELL students, our staff has over 150 years of experience working in partnership with our international community.

We recognize the difficult decisions that lay before you, and respectfully bring this to the board as a possible solution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Glencairn Elementary Staff

Tami Tesluk  
Lauren Scheffe  
Daryl Bean  
Katrina Nordquist  
Mignon Valdespin  
Tiffany Kelamci-Buyee

~~JM Smith~~  
Beren Dance  
Naja Jarama  
Bye Ewing  
Anna Meko-ackin

Erily Deum  
Susan Russell  
Mary Singer  
Pete Mizoroku  
Michael Foster

Melissa Swales  
Stomia Zhi  
Ann Zygmuntowicz  
Julia Bryant  
Chuan-Ru Helly Br  
Deane O'Rourke  
Joy Sheridan  
Laurie Sterling