

July 25, 2018

Dear Ohio Facilities Construction Commission,

As leaders of Oakwood Schools, we are officially requesting a waiver to keep our existing buildings, making renovations to the existing structures. We appreciate the opportunity to explain why.

Oakwood Schools embarked on a Master Facilities Plan process in the summer of 2017. The process started with existing facility assessments, followed by a Visioning and Options Phase. Various options were presented to the community during a number of public meetings. Seven final options were then explored, ranging from complete renovation to a combination of partial renovation and new construction.

After extensive community input and feedback, our community is willing to support the all renovation option, retaining the existing school buildings for continued educational use. Primary points that support the community's wishes include:

- Because Oakwood Schools do not provide busing, it is important to maintain walkable neighborhood schools
- Our English Tudor school buildings are the centerpiece of a community that values historic architecture
- The existing buildings are functional and well maintained, including renovations and improvements paid for by a \$20M community investment, which taxpayers are still paying for, in 2003.
- Oakwood Schools are currently near the top of the state in regards to educational performance. Community members do not see clear a value proposition between building replacement and educational outcomes. In a community that has comparatively high tax rates, funding new buildings does not appear to be politically viable.

In summary, our Master Facilities Plan process has confirmed the community's desire to keep the existing school buildings and use them for the foreseeable future.

We appreciate the OFCC's consideration of this waiver request.



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