



Grand Blanc Heritage Association and Museum

203 East Grand Blanc Road, Grand Blanc, MI 48439-1303 (810) 694-7274

April 27, 2026

Dear Dr. Alward,

The Grand Blanc Heritage Association is proud to endorse the proposed renovation, restoration, and repurposing of the Ezra W. Perry Center building. For over a century the Perry Center has served the community. From its beginnings as the town's only school building and home of Grand Blanc High School, to its service as Perry Junior High, overflow high school classrooms, City School, Children's Garden, and Perry Innovation, many thousands of Grand Blanc children have walked its halls.

As you well know, the Perry Center is among Grand Blanc's most significant historic buildings. A school has stood at the corner of Saginaw and Perry Roads since 1867, when a two-room brick building opened serving the children of the village of Grand Blanc. A new school opened in 1894, which in 1903 became the site of the first consolidated school in the lower peninsula. Grand Blanc led the way in the transformation of rural education in Michigan, bringing together individual one-room schools to offer better opportunities to area children. When that school burned in December, 1920, the community came together to support the construction of the oldest part of the Perry Center building.

At a time when historical school buildings across the country regularly face demolition due to costly maintenance or community neglect, it is reassuring to know that the Grand Blanc Community Schools recognizes the significance of the Perry Center and proposes to undertake a restoration and renovation project that will faithfully preserve the oldest portions of the building. Should voters pass the Zero-Increase Bond, the Grand Blanc Heritage Association endorses the project and urges the district to undertake the renovation using best practices in historic preservation and adaptive reuse. The Association offers any and all of its historical resources in support of that effort.

Regards,

Maxwell L. Harrison

President

Grand Blanc Heritage Association



Grand Blanc Heritage Association and Museum

203 East Grand Blanc Road, Grand Blanc, MI 48439-1303 (810) 694-7274

WHEREAS, the Ezra W. Perry Center is the Grand Blanc Community School's oldest building, having originally opened in January 1922; and,

WHEREAS, the building is a local landmark, known to generations as Grand Blanc High School, Perry Junior High School, and the Perry Center; and,

WHEREAS, the school has historical significance as Michigan's first consolidated school, established on the site in 1903, and eventually grew to be the largest such school in the state; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan recognized in 2013 the importance of the Perry Center to the development of modern education in Michigan by adding it to the State Historical Register and awarding a historical marker conveying that significance; and,

WHEREAS, the Grand Blanc Community Schools proposes a significant restoration and renovation project for the Perry Center which will selectively restore original portions of the building opened in 1922, 1925, and 1927, while replacing later sections with a modern addition; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed renovation of the Perry Center will ensure that the historical character of the building remains in the community well into the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Grand Blanc Heritage Association endorses the proposed renovation, restoration, and repurposing of the Perry Center building, and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Grand Blanc Heritage Association urges the Grand Blanc Community Schools to undertake the renovation, restoration, and repurposing of the Perry Center by giving special attention to maintaining original historical features and following best practices in historic preservation and adaptive reuse.

Adopted at a regular meeting of the Grand Blanc Heritage Association Board of Trustees on April 15, 2026.