

Resolution No. 1392-2019

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

**Council Member(s) Polensek,
Hairston**

Urging the Cleveland Metropolitan School District not to close Collinwood High School, Iowa-Maple Elementary School, and Michael R. White Elementary School.

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) has closed approximately twelve schools on Cleveland's northeast side, and is proposing to close or merge ten more, mostly on the east side, including Michael R. White and Iowa-Maple elementary schools in the Glenville neighborhood, and the historic Collinwood High School; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Collinwood community, including the Euclid-Green neighborhood is the largest geographical area in the City next to the far west-side, with approximately 34,220 residents, according to the 2017 census; and

WHEREAS, despite this large community, CMSD proposes closing the landmark Collinwood High School in the heart of greater Collinwood, home to many alumni veterans, with its stand-alone gym, Olympic-size swimming pool, a 1200 plus seat auditorium renovated by General Electric NELA Park, three working elevators, a seven-story iconic tower, and numerous classrooms that make it one of the most unique buildings in CMSD's inventory; and

WHEREAS, closure of Collinwood High School would end the "Schools as a Neighborhood Resource" initiative located there, an afterschool and summer program that provides recreational and educational opportunities, lunches and meals to students and young adults in partnership with Cleveland Neighborhood Institute and the City; and

WHEREAS, Collinwood High School is an educational hub, surrounded by fifteen parochial, charter and public elementary schools that are the spokes of this once magnificent educational wheel; the proposed closure will affect the enrollment of these neighborhood pre-K-8 schools without a feeder high school, and based on geography, families will not gravitate to Glenville High School; and

WHEREAS, closure would also negatively affect housing values in the Collinwood/Nottingham Villages, Euclid-Green neighborhoods, and ultimately the North Shore Collinwood community, and have an adverse economic impact on the Five Points Business District; and

WHEREAS, as the proposed closure of Collinwood High School is one of the most critical decisions ever facing the northeast side, this Council urges CMSD, Eric Gordon, CEO, and the CMSD Board of Education to reconsider this decision, and work with partner agencies to re-imagine Collinwood, and keep Collinwood High School, Iowa-Maple Elementary School, and Michael R. White Elementary School open for present and future students in the community; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council urges the Cleveland Metropolitan School District not to close Collinwood High School, Iowa-Maple Elementary School, and Michael R. White Elementary School.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to Eric Gordon, Chief Executive Officer, CMSD and Anne Bingham, Board Chair, CMSD Board of Education.

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval

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by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

jho 11-11-19 FOR: Council Member Polensek

