



LAKEWOOD CITY SCHOOLS

May 17, 2010

Dear All,

My fellow board members and the Administration have known for the past two months or so that my professional job obligations regrettably prevent me from being at this May 17, 2010 regular meeting of the Lakewood City School District Board of Education. I do, however, want to share my thoughts with you.

For some, “transparency” and “accountability” are mere words spun by civic and elected leaders to lull the masses. For me, transparency and accountability are fundamental principles which serve as the bedrock of our democracy and must be demonstrated through every action taken by the Lakewood City Schools.

Tonight the Lakewood City School District Board of Education is being asked to take action on two items which were brought to the Board through a process that is neither transparent nor accountable. While I object to the process, I have no objection to the recommendation.

On May 11, 2010, I learned for the first time that the Administration was asking the Board to take action on the appointments of Mark Gleichauf to the Director of Teaching and Learning K-12 position and Roxann Ramsey to the Principal of Grant Elementary School position at tonight’s regular meeting on one reading. Putting aside for the moment that this is another example of board action where our two reading requirement is becoming the exception rather than the rule, the Administration shared its recommendation to the Board just moments before an announcement was sent to the general public indicating that the decision had already been made.

I have no interest on serving on a rubberstamping school board. Nor do I have any interest in serving on a micromanaging school board. My test for good boardsmanship is simple. If any action requires board approval, the Board must be given prior notice and the opportunity to consider the recommendation through the two reading rule process.

When special circumstances or emergencies arise, a board meeting with all school board members should be scheduled in accordance with the Ohio Sunshine Laws.

Executive Offices
1470 Warren Road
Lakewood, Ohio 44107-3997

Lakewood Board of Education
Betsy Shaughnessy, President
Matthew John Markling, Vice President

Linda Beebe
Edward Favre
John Kamkutis

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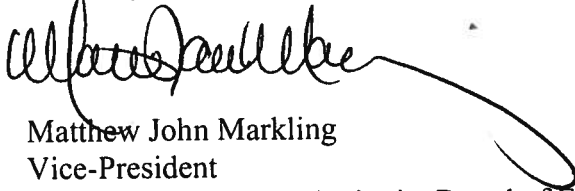
I think I have made it clear that I object to the process which led to a recommendation upon which I have no objection.

I support the recommendation that the Board appoint Mark Gleichauf to the Director of Teaching and Learning K-12 position. Mr. Gleichauf's teaching and administrative experiences and his proven track record during his time with Lakewood Schools have prepared him well for this position.

I also support the recommendation that the Board appoint Roxann Ramsey to the Principal of Grant Elementary School position. After meeting with the Superintendent and subsequently reviewing her background, I believe that Ms. Ramsey is qualified for this position.

Based upon my conversations with the Superintendent, I know that he believes that both Mr. Gleichauf and Ms. Ramsey are well prepared for their new responsibilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Markling", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Matthew John Markling
Vice-President
Lakewood City School District Board of Education