



October 8, 2018

Dear families and supporters of the Licking Heights community:

I am writing to provide an update regarding our high school building project. As you may remember, Licking Heights Local Schools went before the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA), a board that operates independently within the city (separately from city council and the administration), to request a conditional use permit for the land adjacent to our current high school campus, which was denied. Last Friday, the Licking Heights Board of Education met to review settlement options and continue working toward an acceptable outcome.

Today, school district administrators held a meeting with the City of Pataskala's administration, as well as, engineering services representing both sides. We are making positive progress and appreciate the ongoing cooperation from the city administrators and the city council leadership. Furthermore, we are confident in the direction matters are progressing toward an out of court resolution.

Due to the delays caused by the denial, we postponed any actual work on the building site. We are looking to start building construction as soon as possible and it was determined that we need all appropriate building permits by Wed., Oct. 31. A failure to secure our conditional use permit by that date will result in at least a \$58,000 increase in construction costs, which is projected to be more due to estimated overtime realized by actual time delays to the building project.

We are still determined to open the new high school in Aug., 2020 and rough grading of the site for utilities work could begin as early as a week before – even before the Oct. 31 deadline, which does not require a permit. Your continued support of our district means so much. Please continue to remain positive as we draw closer to a conclusion. As a reminder, some parents have asked if further community advocacy efforts are needed. In response, I ask that you continue to follow the course and appreciate your patience as we trust the appeal process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip H. Wagner'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Philip H. Wagner, Ph.D.
Superintendent