

Chairman Brenner and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chris Valentine. I am currently serving my 13th year as a member of the Dublin Board of Education.

Today, I speak to you on behalf of our Board of Education, our superintendent Dr. Todd Hoadley, and our treasurer Steve Osborne.

Our primary goal in this process has been to **secure permanent boundaries** for Dublin City Schools.

Plain and simple.

**Our boundaries have been our boundaries.**

They have been the same for many, many decades.

However, every six years an agreement commonly known as Win-Win has come up for renewal.

And, every six years **our residents that live in the City of Columbus have to go through a period of extreme uneasiness and uncertainty.**

Our residents deserve PEACE OF MIND in the knowledge that there is NO possibility that their property and their children could ever be transferred to another school district.

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**With that said, I am pleased to announce that the Dublin Board of Education has reached an agreement in concept with Columbus City Schools to accomplish this goal.**

**And consequently, we will no longer be a part of the Win-Win agreement.**

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But, before I conclude my comments here today, I would like to share with you a little more about our district - and the area that we have been fighting so hard to make permanent.

Because, for many in this room and in these chambers, Dublin isn't the same district that you imagine.

Yes, we are fortunate to be home to many affluent families.

But, there is much more than meets the eye.

We have students who were born in more than 100 different countries who attend our schools.

We currently serve over 2,000 students who were not born in the United States.

And, during the 2015/16 school year, we enrolled 578 students who were born outside the United States.

61 different languages are spoken across our student body.

Our total number of students classified as “English Language Learners” ranks Dublin schools as the 3rd or 4th highest in the state of Ohio.

More than 15% of our students are classified as economically disadvantaged.

And, we have multiple elementary schools at or above 50% free and reduced lunch.

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**These students are valued.**

**These students are loved.**

**These students are cherished.**

**And, the richness and talents they bring to our school system cannot be underscored.**

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From the onset, the Dublin Board of Education has made it very clear:

We would take whatever means necessary to secure our borders for the benefit of all of our students.

Thank you to Columbus City Schools for being willing to reach an agreement that is mutually beneficial to both of our districts.