

Good afternoon,

I thank you for this time and I thank you for the serious consideration you are taking in review the comments of the community, true representation of the community, as we share our story with you. As a city, we have know about Academic Distress Commissions for years now. This isn't new to us. What is new is this outrage that seems to say that "we now care". We know that is not true. What they truly care about is the continuation of a political machine that has been able to live off the backs of an education system that is supposed to be about children and we have found that this is not true. Here is an example of this. In 2016-2017, under the previous administration that was governed by our local politicians, told the community, that they were going to engage in creating curriculum maps to improve instruction. This did happen and it was supposed to lay the foundation for stronger instruction. It was supposed to help teachers know the standards, create better lesson plans, and help our kids. Why is it then when I asked teacher simple questions about what kids are learning or what is being taught, they couldn't tell me the standards they couldn't give me lesson plans but gave me worksheets for some website; they couldn't tell me how they were making our kids better? Many teachers complained about how bad professional development was and how millions of dollars were spent on the same PD every year. I feel so bad for our teachers, because we have some great ones—teachers who would rise to the challenge if they were able to actually speak for themselves versus being bullied by local leadership and union members to "fall in line". We just lost a few more teachers because they were tired of being forced to do what the politicians told them to say. They will never speak up, it is just easier and safer for them physically and mentally to just walk away. Now that they have people who really want them to do better, they have been fed lies to ensure that the district leaders can never actually build the trust necessary to move forward. But given the strength of our teachers you still see them

trying to their best because they care about kids and see that their district leadership finally does as well.

Since that time Lorain City Schools was awarded a competitive grant through the Achievement Network in order to improve instruction. Lorain City Schools is one of only 6 districts across the country to be awarded a this multi-year collaboration focused on supporting teachers and school and system leaders with resources such as coaching, instructional tools, interim assessments, and professional learning. The fund is for 1 million dollars for four years in ten schools within our district. The Breakthrough Results Fund is a four-year partnership that ensures our district has the runway to build practices over time," and the partnership will enable ANET to share what instructional improvement looks like across entire school systems. The Breakthrough Results Fund creates a unique way to grow ANet's direct impact and influence the broader conversation on how to help educators improve student learning. This only happens with leaders who have a national reach to understand the opportunities out there to make our teachers and students better. No one locally would have thought to think differently and see what other districts do or find ways to bring nationally recognized resources to our schools. Lorain local leaders, especially those leading our schools think that all of the answers can be dealt with "in house". That means we are just going to do what we have always done and never look for ways to get better. Keep the money close to home. Yet, we live in a global society and we can no longer do that if we want to help our kids compete within this digital age. This is why we need people look at this differently and we believe we have the people to do so as long as you give them time to do the work.

Moving us back to local control won't continue this momentum, this discomfort that is needed for us to grow. Please think long and hard about ways we can still improve without ruining the steps we have already taken towards success. If another change is needed, mind you we can't keep changing if we want something to work, keep the fabric of what is showing promise in

place. Talk to our district leadership, talk to the CEO, talk to the state review team who just spent a week reviewing them, talk our community members who have seen it all. You will see there is so much more to the story than what you read in the papers who are directly influenced by local politics and family ties. I ask that you look a little deeper at the problem, I know I wasn't sure, but now I am because I can see what is happening and definitely know what was happening before. Let us have a chance to feel good about the change that is currently happening.

Thank you for your time and consideration.