

**A RESOLUTION** by the Cleveland City Schools  
Board of Education to express its  
opposition to the concept of  
school system consolidation in  
Bradley County.

WHEREAS, the Cleveland City Schools, authorized by provisions contained in the charter of the City of Cleveland, has been in continuous operation since 1885; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland City Schools is a system currently comprised of 5,000 students in nine schools; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland City Schools has a distinguished reputation in all areas of academic and interscholastic endeavor having notable graduates in areas including academia, business and commerce, agriculture, medicine, law, science, and athletics; and

WHEREAS, the subject of consolidation of the Cleveland City Schools into the Bradley County Schools has become a topic of conversation in the Bradley County community; and

WHEREAS, this subject was a topic of a letter to the editor in the local newspaper authored by a member of the county commission; and

WHEREAS, rather than citing specific needs to be remedied or problems that need to be addressed, the letter to the editor seems to invite a "let's see what if" approach to the subject of consolidation with a hint that there might be a potential cost saving to the taxpayers if the county were to consolidate into one school system; and

WHEREAS, this approach gives no consideration to the immediate negative effect that approaching such an important topic as the school consolidation of schools on a casual basis will have on school students, school employees, and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, prior to the publication of the letter to the editor no party has approached the city schools board of education to state that there are problems or concerns or to inquire about interest in the topic of consolidation; and

WHEREAS, there has been no discussion about the effect such an action, if accomplished, would have on the students and teachers in the Cleveland City Schools and, indeed, in both school districts involved; and

WHEREAS, there has been no inquiry into the question about how a consolidated school district would need to reorganize, rezone, and reallocate students into the available facilities; and

WHEREAS, there has been no consideration given to the question of ownership and control of property and facilities; and

WHEREAS, recent occurrences of consolidation of school systems in Tennessee do not reveal any instance where a cost saving was realized as a result of the consolidation of school districts; and

WHEREAS, contrary to popular speculation, the facts in recent consolidation actions reveal that additional tax dollar appropriations have been required to close cost differentials between systems that consolidate for such items as professional and classified salary differences, pupil transportation, assumption of school debt, inability to cancel effective business contracts, employee benefits, consolidation and alignment of curricula, consolidation of data systems, desegregation issues, and services for underserved minority groups; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CLEVELAND CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Mayor and City Council are urged to express their unanimous disinterest in participating in discussions concerning any consolidation effort for the Cleveland City Schools and the Bradley County Schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and the City Council are urged to reject any invitation to participate in the formation of a unification planning commission established for the purpose of exploring the need for consolidation of the Cleveland City Schools and the Bradley County Schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution, when adopted, shall be signed by each member of the Board of Education of the Cleveland City Schools, that a fully executed copy of the resolution shall be spread upon the minutes of the board, and that said resolution shall be forwarded to the Mayor and the City Council.

ADOPTED, this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

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Chairman, Cleveland City Schools  
Board of Education

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Member, Cleveland City Schools  
Board of Education

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