



# Fayetteville-Manlius Schools

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*Progress • Responsibility • Integrity • Determination • Excellence*

Dr. Craig Tice  
Superintendent

February 13, 2018

Mayor Mark Olson  
Village of Fayetteville  
425 E. Genesee Street  
Fayetteville, NY 13066

Mayor Paul Whorrall  
Village of Manlius  
One Arkie Albanese Avenue  
Manlius, NY 13104

Supervisor Ed Theobald  
Town of Manlius  
301 Brooklea Drive  
Fayetteville, NY 13066

Dear Mayor Olson, Mayor Whorrall, and Supervisor Theobald,

I am writing to all of you on behalf of the Fayetteville-Manlius School District Board of Education so that we may go on record that the three elementary schools within the Fayetteville-Manlius Central School District are at (or nearing) capacity. As you may already be aware, our elementary schools ran out of any excess space when the district moved to full-day kindergarten while ever-increasing government mandates required that smaller classrooms be reserved for required programs (such as ENL - English for New Learners).

This letter is not intended to address a particular housing development currently under consideration, but rather to clear up any misconceptions about the capacity within the Fayetteville-Manlius CSD. We want to ensure that the Town and Village Planning and/or Zoning Boards are able to make informed decisions, especially when developers and/or their representatives repeatedly make claims that they are in receipt of information from the school district that the district has the capacity to accommodate an influx of students. Such statements are simply not accurate. Assuming that new developments are approved, we anticipate having to ask taxpayers to support the construction of new spaces at our three elementary schools. Please know that the recently approved \$45.2 M capital building project will add only four classrooms to Enders Road Elementary as most of the planned work is dedicated to updating the aging infrastructure at Wellwood Middle School.

It would be mutually beneficial if school officials were asked to provide information on how any of the proposed projects would impact our district. Unfortunately, we have not been asked to provide the developers and or their representatives with any information on that topic. While we believe that we could find room for students at the middle and high school levels, we do have significant data-driven concerns about our buildings' capacity at the elementary levels. How that capacity would be affected by the proposed projects is an area we would be happy to discuss with the respective municipal boards when appropriate.

As always, we look forward to continuing the positive relationship between our organizations that we currently enjoy. While we understand the desire to increase the tax base in an effort to strengthen the vitality of our community, we are always willing and eager to collaborate and partner with our local municipalities and government officials on topics of mutual interest. We anxiously wait to hear back from you as to how best start a dialogue regarding the potential impact of these new developments on our schools.

Sincerely,

Craig J. Tice, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Zoning Board chairs: Joe Basile, Henry McIntosh, Francis Marlowe; Planning Board chairs: Jane Rice, Joseph Lupia, John Urciuoli

*Building on Excellence – Preparing Students for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*