



**Luke A. Bronin**  
**Mayor**

October 25, 2016

Dear Board of Education Members:

When Superintendent Narvaez established the Equity 2020 Advisory Committee in March, the Committee was charged with preparing a plan to address the challenge of severe under-enrollment in aging neighborhood schools. The Committee's mission was to improve educational opportunities by allowing the District to concentrate resources, strengthen partnerships and programming, and invest in facilities at a smaller number of higher-quality community schools.

The options put forward by the consultants engaged to support the Equity 2020 Committee do not achieve that mission, because none of the options represents a comprehensive plan for improving educational opportunity or quality. I strongly encourage you not to place the Equity 2020 consultant's recommendations on your December 6th agenda.

Over the past few weeks, I have had many conversations with parents, teachers, community members, and with many of you. There is a universal recognition that we do a disservice to our kids by spreading scarce resources across too many schools with low enrollment and poor facilities. We should all feel a fierce urgency to ensure that no child in Hartford should have to attend a school that is falling apart or failing to provide students with the education they deserve.

Strengthening our school system will require difficult decisions, including consolidation, and will also require a far more intense focus on improving educational outcomes. The District must continue work on a comprehensive plan that concentrates resources to improve facilities and educational quality. But while we cannot avoid tough decisions, we also cannot rush those decisions without a better planning process.

The Equity 2020 process must allow committee members to engage in the kind of thorough, thoughtful planning that they were appointed to conduct. The process must also allow for significant input by School Governance Councils, parents, and students. Finally, and most important of all, the process demands the direct involvement and leadership of a Superintendent fully committed to and invested in the future of the Hartford Public Schools.

Thank you for considering this letter, and thank you for your dedication and your service to the students in the Hartford Public Schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luke A. Bronin", written over a horizontal line.

Luke A. Bronin  
Mayor, City of Hartford

**550 Main Street**  
**Hartford, Connecticut 06103**  
**Telephone (860) 757-9500**  
**Facsimile (860) 722-6606**