



<b>ROSS HIGH SCHOOL</b> 3601 Hamilton-Cleves Rd. Hamilton, Ohio 45013 (513) 863-1252	<b>ROSS MIDDLE SCHOOL</b> 3425 Hamilton-Cleves Rd. Hamilton, Ohio 45013 (513) 863-1251	<b>ROSS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL</b> 3371 Hamilton-Cleves Rd. Hamilton, Ohio 45013 (513) 868-4550	<b>ELDA ELEMENTARY</b> 3980 Hamilton-Cleves Rd. Hamilton, Ohio 45013 (513) 738-1972	<b>MORGAN ELEMENTARY</b> 3427 Chapel Rd. Hamilton, Ohio 45013 (513) 738-1986
---	---	---	--	---

## **Burns Farm Development Statement from the Board of Education September 2022**

The Ross Local School District Board of Education would like to clear up some confusion about our involvement in the Burns Farm property and what has been claimed by many on social media and the rumor mill. The Board of Education is only in support of development on the property that allows for full and complete school taxes to be collected at the time of development. The Board of Education has asked to be included in any discussions that take place between the township trustees, county officials, or potential developers of this property in order to protect our interests from a tax revenue position and to be able to plan for any potential influx of new students into the district. We are not for or against development of any properties in the district as a governing body. The Board of Education believes that any landowner who follows proper zoning, development laws and has the resources, should be allowed to develop their property as they chose to within the constraints of the law. Ross Township is only about 20-25% developed. Regarding any future development, the Board of Education wants to be proactive, not reactive.

During a public meeting a consultant for the township mentioned that a developer was interested in acquiring Elda Elementary in a land exchange. This has never been discussed by the Board of Education. The Board of Education would not be interested in a land exchange for one of our buildings. There has been a lot of speculation by the community about this and it simply has not been discussed. Have we heard the rumors? Yes. Now, if someone wants to build us a brand-new elementary school capable of holding 950 students in exchange for the property at Elda, we would be happy to discuss that option. In reality, we don't see any developer having those kinds of financial resources, so the rumor is just that.

The rumor mill has also linked the opening of Ross Intermediate School with the Burns Farm Development. We have been very clear on the three compelling reasons for opening this building.

1. It took our fourth grade out of the current elementary school buildings and fifth grade out of the middle school, adding space for our all day kindergarten program. We now have open space in our elementary buildings to accommodate this growth due to 4th graders being housed at RIS.

2. RIS also allowed more space in our current middle school, which was overcrowded. The Ross Local School District administration made this decision because we felt it was best for the children academically, socially, and emotionally.
3. The fourth and fifth grade model is also good for our children. The overwhelming majority of the feedback we've received from families in the RIS building is extremely positive. They feel their children are benefiting academically and socially from this new environment.

We hope this statement will clarify any misconceptions.