



January 12, 2022

Dear members of the Lawrence City Council,

We are pleased to formally express our support for the new Leahy School project, and the possibilities it represents for a vital, growing north Lawrence neighborhood.

Designed to serve 1,000 students across nine grades and three current LPS schools, the project has been carefully planned to meet Lawrence Public Schools' educational plan now and for many years to come. Countless hours of thought and effort have gone into an innovative design which fully embraces the Leahy downtown location as the unique asset that it can be.

Along with the Oliver school, this project will be the most significant infrastructure in the north side of the city in many years, and address serious, urgent issues that we can no longer afford to overlook. There may be no better example than the roof leaks as noted in the recently newspaper articles, which is due directly to the building's age and may be beyond reliable repair even with the millions of dollars it is projected to cost.

We understand fully the financial commitment being asked of the City, and take seriously our responsibility to weigh that factor in our own deliberations around this project. Having closely observed the years-long effort to incrementally advance it through MSBA approvals to secure nearly \$61 million in state funding, we give our support now with full confidence that this is both a good and necessary investment for the City of Lawrence.

On behalf of all the families, children and educators of Lawrence Public Schools, we thank you for your time, effort and consideration in making the new Leahy School a reality.

Thank you,

Jessica Andors
Member of the LAE Board

Noemi Custodia-Lora
Member of the LAE Board

Patricia Mariano
Member of the LAE Board

Daniel Rivera
Member of the LAE Board

Maria Moeller
Member of the LAE Board