

**Verona Public Schools, Office of the Superintendent**

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*The mission of the Verona Public Schools, the center of an engaged and supportive community, is to empower students to achieve their potential as active learners and productive citizens through rigorous curricula and meaningful, enriching experiences.*

Township of Verona Planning Board  
c/o Noreen Dapuzzo, Planning Board Clerk  
10 Commerce Court  
Verona, NJ 07044

Re: 176 and 200 Bloomfield Avenue

Dear Chairman Brown and Members the Verona Twp. Planning Board:

I am the Superintendent of the Verona Township Schools. In that capacity, I am writing to you to express the School District's deep concern over the development proposed by DMH2, LLC. According to our information, the proposed development consists of the construction of a new mixed-use building for an "L" shaped parcel of land in Verona bounded by Bloomfield Avenue and Westview Road in close proximity to the School District's facilities. It is our understanding that in addition to the razing of the existing structures at the site, the developer will engage in extensive land excavation, rock blasting, uprooting of vegetation and trees, and installation of a retaining wall.

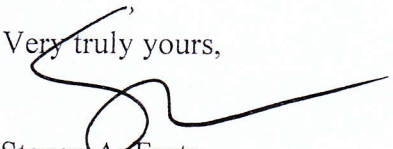
On behalf of the District, I am expressing concern that such extensive activities will have a negative impact upon the structural integrity of the District's facilities, and affect all students and staff members, particularly those at Brookdale and Laning Avenue Schools. I note that the proposed site is approximately 750 feet from Brookdale School and approximately one-quarter of a mile from Laning School. It is our understanding that the blasting activity may go on for several months for the development of the site. I respectfully implore you to require the developer, if permitted to proceed with the development plans, to take any and all reasonable action necessary to ensure:

- 1) the structural integrity of District facilities, (inclusive of predevelopment inspection of the District facilities at the Developer's expense;) and

2) that there will be no disruption to the receipt of a thorough and efficient education of our students.

Thank you for your attention in this matter, I remain

Very truly yours,



Steven A. Forte,  
Superintendent of Schools

C: Mayor Robert Manley  
Members of the Verona Twp. Council  
Joseph Martin, Verona Twp. Manager  
Trustees of Verona Board of Education  
Cheryl Nardino, Verona Board of Education  
Mike Gross, Verona Board of Education Attorney  
Doug Kovats, Verona Board of Education Attorney