



May 9, 2023

Councilor Sue Finkam
571 Monon Blvd
Carmel, IN 46032

Dear Councilor Finkam,

Last week, Dr. Beresford, Superintendent of Carmel Clay Schools, released a message to our community about this fall's upcoming operating referendum. The nearly \$25 million generated annually from the referendum helps keep class sizes low, supports exceptional educational programs and pays the highly skilled teachers who make our schools so special.

I'm writing to ask you to join me in publicly supporting the operating referendum extension for Carmel Clay Schools this November.

Protecting the funding for our world-class schools shouldn't be a partisan or controversial issue. Our early and joint support for this year's referendum would send a strong message to our neighbors that their next mayor will be an advocate for our schools. By jointly standing in strong favor of the referendum, we could, together, help take any politics out of this year's vote.

Carmel Clay Schools are the crown jewel of this community. Protecting their funding is not only important for the families with children currently enrolled. The direct benefits they provide to our city's economy, culture, and quality of life are undeniable.

I know you avoided taking any public position during last year's highly contested school board races, but I'm hopeful this year you'll join me in this crucial conversation.

I have already reserved space in the Carmel Current that we could use to announce our endorsement of the referendum. The ad design is due early next week, so please let me know your intention at your earliest convenience.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Miles Nelson", written over a white background.

Miles Nelson
City Councilor, West District