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Dear School Board Member,

As a member of the Hilliard School Community and as a supporter of the arts, I want to let you know that I will be monitoring the actions of the Hilliard City School District School Board with great interest in the next weeks and months.

The voters were informed before the vote in May that a failure to pass the levy would bring cuts to several school programs. We are now being told that recent savings from contract negotiations will be used to save a number of those programs. Although the reinstatement of these programs is expected to be conditional, the 5th grade instrument programs have not been included.

While we respect the fact that cuts still need to be made and the Hilliard City School District still finds itself in a financial crisis, we urge the Board and the Administration to be fair and consistent with their decisions and their cuts. The arts, especially music, are and should remain integral parts of the curriculum and extracurricular activities. We don't ask you to favor one activity over another, or even to sacrifice the other programs set to be reinstated so that 5th grade instrumental programs can return. We simply ask for fairness.

I ask that you and the Administration work with the leadership of the various music departments to minimize the impact of your announced budget cuts to these very important music programs. I also ask that you listen to and work with the leaders of the Hilliard Music Boosters who work hard to support the music directors and programs. We simply want you to work with us and we will work with you.

Sincerely,

Concerned Hilliard School District Citizen