

Report to CH-UH Board of Education
Re: Use of Coventry School Building
From the Lay Finance Committee
Jayne Geneva, Chair
December 16, 2008

The Lay Finance Committee (LFC) met on Tuesday, November 25, 2008, to discuss the proposals submitted for future use of the Coventry school building. Members of the Committee had received the proposal materials of the submitting organizations earlier in the week for study. All members of the Committee were in attendance except one, but I had spoken at length with this member earlier in the day.

Final proposal materials had been received from three organizations:
The Intergenerational School
The Cleveland Music School Settlement
Day Cares R Us, LLC.

The LFC's charge was to determine the financial feasibility of the three applicants and make a recommendation to the BOE regarding the proposals. Two of the applicants included plans to sublease to other tenants. The Committee clarified that the BOE would have approval over all subleases. The Committee noted there was merit to all of the proposals. In the current economic climate, however, the Committee was concerned especially over the ability of the applicant to cover the costs of maintaining the Coventry building.

After much discussion regarding each of the proposals, the Committee voted unanimously to endorse the Cleveland Music School Settlement proposal. This organization was the only one which submitted a proposal responding to all points of the request for information, including audited financial statements. Based on this financial information, the Committee determined that the Music School has the wherewithal to commit to the lease and to make the capital improvements necessary to the building, as indicated in their plan. Additionally, the Committee felt that the Music School would be a good complement to the Coventry neighborhood. We would like to especially note that the proposal from the Music School is an expansion of their current program; they would not be moving the University Circle operation to Cleveland Heights. Further negotiations regarding the responsibility for and use of the grounds will be needed.

The LFC, therefore, unanimously recommends to the BOE that the School District engage in detailed negotiations with the Cleveland Music School Settlement to determine the responsibilities of all parties under a lease, this application being deemed the most responsive and responsible proposal received.