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THE CONOTTON-SANDY-TUSCARAWAS VALLEY COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORP.  
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[HTTP://WWW.CSTVCIC.ORG](http://www.cstvcic.org)

RE: Tusky Valley School Levy

4-29-2009

Dear Editor:

We the Conotton-Sandy-Tuscarawas Valley Community Improvement Corporation, as part of our mission to advance, encourage, and promote the industrial, economic, commercial, and civic development of the Northeastern Tuscarawas County area, support primary, secondary, and higher education provision.

The Tuscarawas Valley Local School District has a levy on the May 5<sup>th</sup> ballot that if passed would construct a new elementary school and thereafter abandon, liquidate, and demolish the Bolivar and Mineral City schools. The Ohio School Facilities Commission provides optional funding for demolishing abandoned schools, though demolition is not required in order to receive new school construction funding. According to their Ohio Revised Code, school boards may convey unused schools to non-profit organizations. Should the levy pass the CSTVCIC would be interested in acquiring one if not both of the facilities for a multitude of purposes.

Such reuses could include community centers, college satellite branches, non-profit organization facilities, incubators for starting -up for-profit businesses, mini-churches, sports leagues, etc. Multi-purposing and sharing these facilities and resources lowers barriers to market entry that prohibit many low budget organizations from affording space and providing their services.

The TV School Board defends demolishing the buildings citing maintenance costs too high for other users to afford, and to avoid them falling into disrepair becoming an eyesore as was the case of the failed Richville School. They suggest the real estate market does not exist for reuses because there are no other businesses around and the schools are in awkward locations.

We however cite other successful school building reuses including Wooster Highway School, New Cumberland Community Center, Coshocton City Hall, and other facility reuses including the Dennison Depot, Akron Canal Place, the two Hoover factories, etc. Freeport may acquire its school for reuse as a community center, and Malvern and Brown Twp. are looking for a building for a community center.

“The Tusky Valley community will benefit from the new school because the Board is investing for the long term,” said their officials. Preserving and reusing existing facilities to benefit communities is also an investment for the long term, and would hopefully help rebuild the tax base to assist supporting public K-12 education.

We therefore ask the TV School Board not to demolish the schools and instead convey them to the CSTVCIC intact should the levy pass. More information and case studies can be found on our website [www.cstvcic.org](http://www.cstvcic.org) under Projects.

Sincerely,

Terry Nill, Chairman

Phil Rufener, Trustee

Ed Taggart, Trustee

Daniel Van Epps, Executive Director

Conotton-Sandy-Tuscarawas Valley Community Improvement Corporation