
Traffic Safety Letter Campaign

1 message

Anthony Taibi <ataibi@cairodurham.org>
To: faculty@cairodurham.org

Wed, Jun 1, 2016 at 11:47 AM

Good Morning,

As you know, the entrance to the middle/high school campus is of great concern to the overall safety to students, staff, and the community. Below is a copy of the letter that was sent to state and local officials asking for necessary change to the intersection. There have been multiple articles as well as posts on our website and social media. <http://cairodurham.org/news/traffic-safety-letter-campaign>

Tonight, I am scheduled to speak in front of the Greene County Safety Committee regarding our concerns and the need for a permanent solution. Unfortunately, we have not received many letters of support for this change. I encourage you to please draft an email of support and send it to communications@cairodurham.org so that I can bring them to this meeting.

Good Morning,

I know that I have met many of you before, but just in case, my name is Anthony Taibi and I am the Superintendent of Schools for the Cairo-Durham Central School District. I have been part of the school district for the last nine years, first as high school principal, and for the past two years as Superintendent of Schools.

As I am sure you recall, in 2011 there was a fatal accident at the entrance to the Middle/High School campus that took the life of a student and seriously injured another student. After that accident, a coordinated effort attempted to make the entrance safer by installing a traffic signal at the entrance of the school. Unfortunately, after an extensive effort and fight that many of you were involved with, the decision of the New York State Department of Transportation was only to reduce the speed to 45mph and to remove the passing zone that existed in front of the entrance. This "solution" was not nearly enough.

On Tuesday, May 3rd, if you are not aware, there was another serious accident at the entrance to the Middle/High school campus. Mr. Fitzgerald, our high school principal, was seriously injured and taken to Albany Medical Center. Luckily, although serious, his injuries were not life threatening and Mr. Fitzgerald is going to recover, but the accident is a stark reminder that a permanent, more effective solution needs to happen.

Both of these accidents, along with others, could have been avoided if a traffic signal and turning lane were installed/constructed at the entrance of the Middle/High School.

Embedded in this email, you will find a video that was taken from the dash of a vehicle approaching from the west on Route 145, preparing to make a left turn into the entrance of the Cairo-Durham Middle/High School (the video can be viewed by visiting this [video link](#)). Please view the video frame by frame, especially at the end. As you will see, the approaching vehicle is completely obscured by the car in front of it until it has already committed to making the turn. We can look into creating a better video, but I think that this one

shows how critical it is to have a light at the entrance to the Middle/High School. This is probably a perspective that DOT did not have when the traffic study was done in 2011.

I implore each of you to work with the district and the community to make sure that the safety of our students, staff, and community are taken into consideration and that a more effective solution can be created.

Sincerely,

Anthony Taibi

Anthony J. Taibi

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