

CITY OF WESTLAKE

FLORIDA

CITY COUNCIL

JohnPaul O'Connor
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Gary Werner – Seat 1
Erik Gleason – Seat 2
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ADMINISTRATION

Kenneth Cassel
City Manager

CITY ATTORNEY

Donald J. Doody, Esq.
City Attorney

July 7, 2025

Palm Beach County School Board
3300 Forest Hill Blvd
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Dear

On behalf of the City of Westlake, I respectfully request your reconsideration of the current zoning boundaries for Western Pines Middle School to include students residing in the City of Westlake.

Westlake was designed as a master-planned community with the intention of providing residents with convenient access to key services—schools, parks, and public safety—within city limits. This vision has been integral to the city’s identity and appeal. However, the current school zoning configuration places an undue burden on our residents by assigning middle school students to a campus located farther away, outside the city. This not only contradicts the foundational principles on which Westlake was developed but also diminishes the sense of community and local connection that schools help to foster.

Many Westlake families have voiced their concern and disappointment over the lack of a “home” middle school within the community. For parents and students alike, the ability to attend schools in proximity encourages stronger neighborhood ties, increases participation in school events, and makes daily routines more manageable.

The recent construction of a multi-modal path connecting Westlake directly to both Golden Grove Elementary and Western Pines Middle makes the inclusion of Westlake students at these schools a practical and forward-thinking solution. This pathway supports safer, more efficient commuting by foot, bike, or carts, alleviating traffic concerns and further underscoring the logic behind rezoning.

We urge the School Board to align school zoning with the growth and needs of the Westlake community. By including Westlake students in the Western Pines Middle School zone, the district will not only ease transportation challenges but also promote a stronger, more cohesive community for students and families alike.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We welcome any opportunity to further discuss this matter and work together toward a resolution that benefits both the school district and the families it serves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Paul O'Connor". The signature is written in black ink and includes a horizontal line at the end.

Mayor JohnPaul O'Connor

City of Westlake

Cc:

Marcia Andrews, Vice Chair – District 6
Matthew Jay Lane, Esq. – District 1
Virginia Savietto, Board Member – District 2
Erica Whitfield, Board Member – District 4
Gloria Branch, Board Member – District 5
Edwin Ferguson, Esq. – District 7
Ms. Karen Brill, Board Chair, District 3