

**FACILITIES
TOWN HALL MEETING
Beaver Dams Fire Hall
October 23, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by Facilitator, Michael Maxwell, at 7:02 p.m. Approximately 20 community residents, many members of the Facilities Advisory Team Committee, 6 District Administrators and 2 Board Members were in attendance.

Mr. Maxwell welcomed everyone in attendance and noted that the purpose of the meeting was to solicit and gather input regarding facilities. He said that he had a list of 9 talking points that he would like to touch on during the evening.

1. Why do we need new facilities?
2. Where is the greatest need? What is the logical starting point?
3. Redistricting concerns (new demographic study to be released in December)?
4. Costs and affordability?
5. Closing schools?
6. Concerns about equity amongst the buildings?
7. Transportation?
8. Accessibility, safety, parking, student drop off/pick up area?
9. Swing space during construction?

Mr. Maxwell introduced Superintendent, Michael Ginalski who noted that this is an effort to hear from the Beaver Dams community regarding their thoughts and feelings regarding facilities; there are no pre-conceived plans; their input will be a valuable resource in moving forward in the development of a facilities plan.

Input from the Beaver Dams community:

- Given the fact that the economy is doing poorly right now why are we considering building a new facility rather than fixing up and maintaining the current facilities?
- Has there been an architectural, structural, electrical review of all of the buildings?
- Are the roofs on all of the buildings up to code and as efficient as possible?
- It will be cheaper to let the construction managers drive the architects.
- Do we have too many buildings, is the Superintendent implying that some buildings will be closed?
- Is part of the overcrowding in buildings caused by the State mandates that BOCES students now attend our public schools?
- There is a lot of extra space utilized by the West High School Atrium. Could some of that space be utilized or converted into more classroom space?
- Busing safety with drop off and pick up locations in every building
- From a prospective home buyers view, when researching school districts, they would rather move to Horseheads because of the condition of our buildings. It is not possible to fix up these old buildings, we need a new middle school, fix up the elementary schools, and leave the high schools alone. We need to quit spending money on studies and get something done!

- Now retired teacher walked through the halls of NBMS in 1982 and felt the school was very dismal then, what are they like 25 years later? Beaver Dams community should support whatever the School District puts up for vote.
- Explain what the percentage of State Aid would be for renovation w/additions as compared to new construction.
- How can we all agree on one new middle school? Maybe we should build two new middle schools.
- We could add on wings where the playing fields are, for example at West High School, and just find new playing fields.
- Is the District currently looking at any land that is large enough to accommodate a new school? If so, where is the land? And, is there anything wrong with the sites that will require remediation?
- Is it legal to gut the schools?
- Cost is more to renovate versus new construction and renovation, for example at Northside Blodgett, that does not solve the problem. Yes, you have a nice building, but it doesn't solve the busing issue, playground issue, practice fields, etc.
- How do you plan 20 years in advance when education requirements change constantly?
- What is wrong with having 3 middle schools or adding on to high school and having grades 7-12 in one school?
- Maybe we need to back up and not do everything all at once. Maybe start small, fix middle schools first, and then move to elementary schools and so forth.
- Concerns about the distance children will have to travel on buses
- Has a demographic study been done? When will it be available to community? Will it be on the Web site?
- Would like an opportunity for the community to visit the buildings.
- What is Corning Inc.'s position on helping with a facilities plan?
- Feel that the only way to sell a final plan will be to have town meetings and bring in pictorials to explain existing conditions.
- Building safety was a recurring theme.
- Why did we wait 30 years to build walls and put in doors in those buildings that don't have them?
- Is there any decision on how to maintain the current buildings since it appears that the District is woefully understaffed with maintenance and custodial staff?
- Inequity in buildings

Mr. Maxwell summarized the meeting by noting that the group brought up all of the talking points without input from him. They are all obviously very concerned about the same issues that the District feels are important.

Board Member Tamaro wanted to clarify that the first bullet point isn't necessarily what the District is looking to do (new facilities). Their minds are open to renovation, redistricting, etc., not just new construction.

Public Relations Coordinator, Bill Cameron, noted that there are several ways for the community to continue to communicate with the administration relative to facilities: going to the Facilities Advisory Committee meetings, Web site, telephone, coming in to see Superintendent, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.