

**FACILITIES
TOWN HALL MEETING
Forest View Fire Department
November 17, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by Facilitator, Michael Maxwell, at 7:00 p.m. Approximately 20 community residents, many members of the Facilities Advisory Team Committee, 10 District Administrators and 6 Board Members were in attendance.

Mr. Maxwell welcomed everyone in attendance and reviewed the Process and Timeline leading up to a possible December 2009 vote. He also noted that the purpose of the meeting was to solicit and gather input regarding facilities.

Mr. Maxwell introduced Superintendent, Michael Ginalski who noted that this is an effort to hear from the community regarding their thoughts and feelings relative to 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 community:

- Thirteen buildings seems like too many buildings for the size of this District with eight of them being for only 2,500 students, what is the plan to close buildings? Are you preparing for the political negative feedback on closing popular local schools?
- Have a senior citizen living on a fixed income get on-board in support of the plan and have them be the spokesperson for that population.
- Mr. Ginalski referenced the fact that no other school district in this part of the state has as many buildings as Corning-Painted Post, are you proposing to add more buildings? If you build new buildings, what is to be done with the buildings that you would close?
- Why do we need to do this? Why examine facilities at all?
- There has been a huge investment in our buildings over a period of time, so why have the buildings been allowed to deteriorate?
- Redistricting needs to be looked at. It is a very emotional issue and communication will be key.
- If redistricting is looked at then busing also becomes an issue.
- Community is angry over the fact that in past years (Option II) the public has only received bits and pieces of various plans, not comprehensive detailed information.
- Community does not trust the District. The District needs to regain trust and the community needs to let go of past issues.
- Maximizing state aid was a concern of the community.
- The longer we wait the more it is going to cost.

- Parent who has had the opportunity to spend a lot of time at Northside Blodgett Middle school noted its very poor condition. If parents had a choice to send students to Horseheads or Corning, they would chose Horseheads.
- What are we going to do different to help pass a facilities referendum? We need to reach the “no” voters and let them know what is really happening with our schools.
- Whatever plan is put forward, what are we going to do to maintain the facilities? We need to show the public a plan for what we are going to do to maintain the buildings long term.
- Are there alternate sources of funding, either state or federal funding?
- What would the impact be on taxes?
- Is the District leaning towards the idea of something smaller scale?
- Highest priority is the middle schools. The middle schools need to be addressed in the first “go around”. If we vote in December 2009, conceivably groundbreaking would not be until 2012. This is even too long.
- Can you look at Corning Inc. for financial support?
- Constructing green needs to be factor if new construction is being considered.
- Equity is a big issue, class sizes are not equal.
- If we close elementary schools, will the class sizes be larger?
- Are we planning to present to various groups such as the Retired Teachers or Senior Citizens?
- Comment was made to have the kids write letters to senior citizen groups, etc. to come and visit the buildings to see their condition.

The Superintendent addressed several concerns brought up by the community. He stated that we have great teachers in this District and just imagine what those teachers could do with better facilities. He noted that the educational needs of students now versus years ago has changed dramatically. The District is committed to looking at revenue opportunities should they decide to close buildings.

The Superintendent discussed the recent Governor’s proposal which included a 1.5M reduction in state aid and that it was too early to tell what impact this will have on the District if it happens. He discussed swing space and what to do with middle school students if renovation takes place in the middle schools.

The Superintendent noted that a demographic study is currently being conducted and will be presented to the Board on December 3rd and made available to the community after that time frame. In a recent meeting with the demographer he noted that 70% of the community does not have school aged children.

The Superintendent noted that technology is also a very big issue and a key consideration as the District moves forward with a facilities plan. Joe Reilly, Director of Technology, addressed some of the many issues in the District with regard to technology.

The District's Director of Athletics, Tim Decker, spoke to the inequity of playing/practice fields.

Bill Cameron, Public Information Coordinator, thanked everyone for coming and noted that their participation is a key element in the development of the facilities plan. He discussed some of the communications that will take place prior to the December 2009 vote. He noted that minutes from all of the meetings, as well as information from the Facilities Advisory Team Committee, can be found on the District's website by going to <http://www.corningareaschools.com/facilities-committee-cfm>. He also invited anyone to contact the District Offices for further information.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.