

**FACILITIES  
TOWN HALL MEETING  
Corning Town Hall (South Corning)  
November 12, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by Facilitator, Michael Maxwell, at 7:00 p.m. Approximately 15 community residents, many members of the Facilities Advisory Team Committee, 10 District Administrators and 5 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:

- It was noted that the make-up of the Facilities Advisory Team Committee had no carpenters, plumbers, electricians, etc. on the team so how can we come up with a plan with out knowledgeable people. Make a Committee who is knowledgeable and knows what they are doing.
- What is the general feel from the District relative to student population? If it is going down, do we need new construction or just renovations?
- Don't let the busing situation relative to spending get out of control.
- How does our District compare in size to other districts? Busing is a big concern and we need to take a look at transportation.
- Whatever plan is presented-don't go overboard. There is a major concern that the District will go in a very costly direction.
- Due to the economy and recent Governor's proposal announcement, it would be appropriate to wait 5 years to develop a plan that the community can support.
- The Superintendent and the Board of Education need to rebuild the trust of the community.
- Which buildings currently have the lowest enrollment? Would they be slated for closure?
- What have the security upgrades been in the buildings?
- Problems are the middle schools and too many buildings. Renovating the two existing middle schools is the way to go. Move the middle school grades to the elementary schools during renovation.

- Has the School 1 property been considered?
- Whatever plan the District comes up with the whole package needs to come to the public. Communication with the public is important.
- How does the percentage of state aid compare between renovations versus new construction.
- What happened to all the money that was allocated for three previous 5-year Maintenance plans?
- Where has the maintenance and upkeep to these buildings been-where has the taxpayers money gone?
- Communication by the District is key-media provides misinformation.
- Happy to learn that the sports teams will not be combined, competition is healthy and this is why we should keep the two high schools in tact.
- Do we have a long-term enrollment projection, can we keep two high schools if the projection shows a steady decline in student population.
- How can a facilities plan be put together prior to redistricting considerations.
- If we have a December vote and the facilities plan does pass, are we really going to mean it? In other words, are people going to stop the negativity and move forward and not try and stop the plan for whatever reason.
- People need to know generationally what the difference in education is now compared to 10, 20, 30, 40 years or more ago.
- In order for a plan to pass the community must surrender a little of the past and their issues with facilities.

An Administrator and parent in the District spoke to the issue of waiting to develop a plan-he felt the more and longer we wait the more the kids suffer.

An Administrator in the District addressed the changing requirements in education relative to space. For example, special education is now integrated into the schools, Occupational, Speech and Physical Therapy, all require their own space and so forth. The instructional space needs have also changed dramatically due to state mandates.

The Superintendent noted that safety and handicapped accessibility is an issue in the buildings, as well as storage and office space, number of classrooms in buildings (many teachers working on carts or conducting business in rooms other than classrooms). Ken Murdock spoke to the security upgrades in the buildings.

The Superintendent noted that technology is also a very big issue and a key consideration as the District moves forward with a facilities plan.

The Superintendent stated that the District would receive more state aid money for renovations than for new construction. He noted that if we don't move forward with a plan and obtain the state aid money than it will be given to some other district.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. Next meeting is Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at the Gang Mills Fire Department from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.