

I have been involved with the evaluation of facilities options for Avon Grove for a number of years now as a member of the FIG and now as a member of the School Board. I have devoted countless hours to considering the various pros and cons of all options evaluated to date. I do not take this decision or my responsibility as a school board member lightly. If the majority of the community voting in the last election were in support of the level of funding currently being considered, I would not be sitting here speaking to you today. I believe that there is a more moderate, viable option that would have met our most critical educational needs for a more modest investment than is currently being considered. It would have been complex to design and execute and would have required some compromises. The majority of the board is not in favor of evaluating that option further and instead wishes to build a new school on the Sunnyside road property.

With that in mind we now have a choice to build a new high school or a new middle school. I am strongly in favor of building a new high school for the following reasons:

1. It addresses our most critical issues in the current HS first with a solution that is certain to deliver the best educational outcome for our students where it will have the most impact. We can build what we need, achieving the principals of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning efficiently.
2. It requires limited investment and no expansion at the severely limited State road campus beyond addressing neglected maintenance to achieve a 6-8 MS configuration in a building that will be huge step up for middle school students. In the current HS building, MS students will benefit from facility that is far superior to what many MS facilities might have.
3. This option can be completed in the shortest time for the lowest cost with the nearly no impact on the education of current students.
4. With this scenario, we will know what is needed to restore our HS building for today's students. With an aggressive approach it will make it possible to begin addressing the neglected maintenance at the HS this summer. We have the funding on hand to make this happen with the only limitation being the ability to plan and execute quickly. With that in mind, I would be supportive of exploring extra project management support if this additional work is not within the bandwidth of our current personal because of their other responsibilities. We need to drive this hard to achieve a better AGHS for the current HS students next fall.

One negative associated with this option is the separation of the HS building from the competition stadium which I believe is an extremely small price to pay for a plan that will meet our educational goals in a timely manner. The new HS will have all the field space and accommodations for practice and phys ed activities. Another potential negative is the unused FSEMS which I would hope to convert to a revenue stream through a long term lease arrangement with a suitable tenant.

This plan will achieve the following:

- Puts the focus on the HS first.
- Eliminate overcrowding.
- Address safety concerns.
- Eliminates modular classrooms.
- Provides a 6-8 MS.
- Provides short construction timeline.
- Minimizes overall financed cost.
- Provide the potential for future expansion at the HS.
- Potentially generate revenue by leasing FSEMS.

I am willing to support this option at a total project cost not to exceed \$105 MM. This is an all in cost. Each time I have questioned what is or is not covered by the project costs quoted I have been assured that all the costs and unknowns I raise concerns about are covered by the project estimate because the scope will adjust to stay on budget balancing impacts with value engineering in other areas. This includes the all site work, a road through the property, building construction, utility tie-ins/upgrades, surrounding road improvements, studies, fees and permits. There has been more than ample time to clarify costs and constraints with the townships, county and governing agencies to vet out many of these concerns so at this point I will trust the experts as I have been asked to do. This does not mean borrowing \$105 MM since we have considerable cash reserves available to balance against borrowing. This cost provides a larger high school than what was proposed at the last meeting for additional classroom space and “freshening up” the current high school. The building will also be designed and constructed with well integrated expansion capability for students that are nowhere in our current projection. The space provided is a significant step up from what we currently have. It is an enormous investment in our facilities far beyond what much of our community indicated they could support. I reach this point because it is clear that the majority of this board who were not subject to the last election are going to vote to build a new school. I want to make sure that we build the best option that supports our students’ success.