

Parent and Resident Alert – Keep asking questions – Chris Fellin

As you can see from Board President Ingrid Day's response to my questions, there remain more questions than answers to issues very important to the students and residents of BHSD. My interpretations of Ms. Day's answers are show below in red followed by her actual response on page 2.

1. What is the transition plan for the students? Where will they be during demolition and construction? **Don't know - Transition team is working on this.**
 2. Where will the students be if the tax proposal fails? **Don't know - Transition team is working on this.**
 3. What is included in the \$70 Million phase 1? What is pushed off to future tax increase requests? - **I heard these questions were answered. But the base figure is \$69.5M not \$65M**
 4. What will be done with Lahser once it is emptied? Will it be emptied? **Don't know.**
 5. Has the traffic study been updated? It is several years old. - I heard that the traffic study has not been updated. **Traffic study has not been updated.**
 6. How is this plan going to address the 21% of students who have to take remedial classes in college because they were not ready when they graduated? - I have since heard that this number is somehow overstated, but I'd still like to know how the plan addresses the students who have to take remedial classes in college. - **Don't know. Internal data does not agree with posted findings, so need to get to the core of this.**
 7. How is this plan going to address the demographic achievement gap in MME scores? **Don't know. "We are constantly addressing achievement gaps, of any kind**
 8. What are athletes going to do during the transition? **No plan at this time. See timeline for plans to plan**
 9. What is the plan for combining all co-curriculars – How will they be structured? How will participation opportunities compare? **No plan at this time. See timeline for plans to plan**
-

Mr. Fellin,

My apologies for the delayed response but I have not been feeling well the last few days. As to your questions:

For both 1 and 2, the high school transition team is working on both of these topics and will also utilize the CPC Curriculum to help inform the decisions. The timeline for these decisions, and many other items on your list, can be found on the <<http://www.Bloomfield.org>> <<http://www.Bloomfield.org>> <<http://www.Bloomfield.org>> <<http://www.Bloomfield.org>> <<http://www.Bloomfield.org>> website in the section marked "unified high school". In addition, SHW is currently reviewing all spaces in Lahser and other facilities to determine how to effectively continue full programming in either scenario. We will have updates at the board table as necessary.

For question 3, please refer to the website for the FNI base schematic design. Basically, for the \$65 million, you would get a new build/renovated high school that would be functional as it stood. There are two separate additional cost options that would complete the academic remodel and one that would provide a better set up and new pool/gym/locker rooms. We no longer refer to this project as being built in phases.

Since we are several years away from any change to the current use of Lahser, we will be using the CPC to work with us to determine the best use of this building if and when this might occur and will create decisions based upon either outcome of the bond.

The traffic study has not been directly updated. However, FNI has been in constant discussion with them and we have also asked them to review some very raw thoughts about utilizing Lahser and Hickory Grove together and unless start times are staggered, the same traffic failure remains as determined previously. Also, the township is very comfortable with the traffic study as it stands.

For questions 6 and 7 - these are items that will always be important to us no matter the physical plant discussion. Our survey of 2009 graduates does not support the posted findings on the remedial course taking, therefore we need to do some work to get to the core of this. We are constantly addressing achievement gaps, of any kind.

For the last two questions, please refer to the timeline and we will have updates at the board table as plans progress. We will be one high school in 2013 so there will be one set of teams and we anticipate no disruption to the programs given our lead time to address these issues. All high schoolers will be made aware of what will effect them at the appropriate time. Same for co-curriculars. This is a very important part of the transition. The goal is to maintain as many opportunities as possible, create additional teams and clubs as is appropriate to continue our tradition of high participation.

I'm sure you know this but all board meetings can be reviewed online for additional information, both on instruction and the unified high school planning.

Ingrid Day
President
BHS Board of Education