

Plan for new facility is foolish when we are at 100% overcapacity – Jenny Greenwell

A couple of points to consider:

1. **At \$70-million to \$86-million for "Phase I,"** the estimated cost of the expanded high school at the Andover site is HIGH, and does not include many related expenses, such as the cost of relocating Central Administration, Building Services and the entire AHS population for up to THREE YEARS. (Does this mean that all students will be jammed into Lahser? Will 9th graders be housed at another site? Will these sites be renovated at additional cost?)

NOTE: An academically-oriented high school for 1650 students can be built (NEW!) for \$50-million in 2011 construction dollars, with competitive bids. It won't take 3 years.

2. **FNI's proposal is NOT academically-oriented.** The project includes a HUGE and elaborate "performing arts center" and "upgraded sports package." If our enrollment is declining, why would we build a **huge** auditorium, 12-lane pool and THREE basketball courts?

3. **George Derderian was NOT a "founding member" of B20/20,** and has not participated with B20/20 since 2005. George was "campaign manager" for B20/20 in 2004 (we won) and in 2005 (we lost). It is my understanding that his wife is employed by the BHSD. George is very interested in soccer, not academics. B20/20 seeks to improve educational outcomes and academic rankings, not soccer scores.

4. **Bloomfield 20/20 exists because public education needs to "clean up its act."** The BHSD Board of Education continues to waste public education tax dollars and continues to ask for MORE.

Students of the BHSD are being short-changed in terms of academic achievement. Tangible evidence of student NEGLECT exists in the form of mediocre state and national test scores, the fact that 21% of 2009 graduates required remedial courses to perform college-level work. B20/20 is a "watchdog" group that seeks to provide financial oversight for BHSD taxpayers, as our MEA-controlled board members fail to do so.

NOTE: The six remaining members of the BHSD Bd. of Ed, including appointee Robert Herner, will now select yet another appointee to this elected position with taxing authority. Three of the six accepted campaign contributions from the MEA.

5. **Traffic hazards, congestion.** FNI's proposal includes too few parking spaces for the expected population and will cause traffic hazards and interference with emergency vehicles from Bloomfield Twp's main campus.

Fielding Nair (FNI) a "virtual" architectural consultant was awarded a contract for **\$863,114** to "facilitate" and "vision" this project. The fee was paid from the 2004 "Sinking fund," which was supposed to be used to repair, upgrade and maintain our

EXISTING school facilities. FNI was awarded the contract despite the fact that their bid far exceeded that of four competing firms. (The low bidder, Ehresman of Grosse Pointe, MI submitted a bid of \$195,000, which was summarily rejected.) The plan is not reasonable, because it will not improve academic achievement in the Bloomfield Hills schools. In fact, with "Learning communities" to replace traditional classrooms, it is likely to cause academic achievement to DECLINE, along with accountability on the parts of teachers and administrators.

NOTE: The MEA-BHEA union representative heartily supports the plan, as do all three Trustees who accepted campaign contributions from the MEA.

Please note: At this time, the BHSD Board of Education has NO PLAN for "closed" schools including Lahser high school, Pine Lake Elementary and Hickory Grove Elementary. Operating costs for un-used and under-utilized schools continue to drain education dollars away from our K-12 and special needs students.

The BHSD board of education needs to understand:

- The majority of taxpayers and voters want you to repair, upgrade and maintain our existing school facilities with Sinking Fund dollars.
- We will not mortgage the future of our district because you want to build an opulent "sports and entertainment complex" (with "learning communities," not classrooms!) at the Andover site.
- We generous taxpayers of the BHSD demand accountability on the parts of our Trustees, Administrators and Teachers.
- The BHSD has over \$72-million in pre-collected tax dollars held in various accounts.
- The BHSD has the remains of the \$50-million, 10-year 2004 sinking fund AND the entire \$25-million 5-year sinking fund awarded to them in Nov. 2010.

THEREFORE: No NEW taxes should be requested for this or other construction projects.

In my opinion, it would be FOOLISH for BHSD taxpayers to approve additional debt for newer, larger and more elaborate facilities when our school district is operating at 100% excess capacity; our existing schools are paid-for and "sinking funds" have been approved for repairs, upgrades and maintenance of existing schools.