

Bashing Bloomfield 20/20 and Jenny Greenwell continues – Michael Banerian

I am deeply troubled by the ignorance of some of the comments on this article. Let me try and pick them apart:

First Mr. Kaufman Jenny was 100% correct when she stated that there were "two sinking funds" she never implied they were being simultaneously collected by the tax payers. Secondly as Jenny responded, the \$100 Million in pre-collected tax surplus is easily obtained by means of "FOIA". So with all due respect, please refrain from taking her comments out of context, manipulating them, and then accuse her of "spreading lies".

Next you "point out" that the Wabeek property is only being "considered" for sale. I find this funny after reading a previous blog you had written claiming it was up for sale. Now I did see your comment on that article "correcting" yourself. However I would like to point out that in a discussion you and my mother had outside the Bloomfield Public Library you had told her the Wabeek property was up for sale, and then changed the subject. Again with all due respect, please do not flip flop on what you say so much; any comments on this blog that "argued" that point were started by your inconsistencies on that topic.

Next you say "Roughly a year ago you said "If our board requested \$50 – million to build a new high school for 1,600 high school students, I could stay home." So what gives?" Well I couldn't help but smirk at this comment. I'll tell you "what gives". The plan the Board has proposed costs \$64 Million...for phase one. Now is it just me, or is that number \$14 Million LARGER than \$50 Million? Also (as I mentioned above) the figure of \$64 Million is only for "Phase 1" of the construction plan; meaning that the cost WILL exceed the \$64 Million figure. This figure also leaves out many hidden costs, such as the cost of moving the whole maintenance department off of Andover's campus. In another comment you state "B2020 has a habit of manipulating the numbers", taking what I said above into account I find that a very hypocritical thing for you to say. While I could go on about this, I think I made my point; that's "what gives".

You go on to make one of the most bloated and inaccurate claims OBU has constantly been spreading, saying: "You are constantly just finding fault, why not help find a solution?" Again I couldn't help but laugh at this statement. The community members who support B20/20, including me, have made an effort to propose ideas of fiscal responsibility, and boost student productivity. Just because we don't want construction doesn't mean we lack ideas. This community and the nation as a whole want responsible spending. This plan and the plans before them have been anything but that.

The community has voted down the plans for construction twice (soon to be three times :). The people voted in the sinking funds for a reason, to maintain the existing

assets the district owns, including the high schools. After attending Lahser and spending hours of my weekend going to the campuses (Andover and Lahser) and surveying the “maintenance” I find that these schools have been neglected. Why should the tax payers of this district trust a board with a brand new high school, when they have clearly no experience maintaining the ones that exist now?

Finally I'll say this, I find that the attacks on B20/20 and those who support us to have been vicious and uncalled for, many coming from you and others within OBU. Things like stealing HUNDREDS of dollars worth of recall signs, encouraging a boycott of a local business because their personal home has recall signs on its property, calling us radical and or a hate group. It goes on and on. I have grown more and more ashamed of the adults in this community, as their actions are childish, and immature. I am sick of this board neglecting the will of the voters. You say “they have been asking the community for input in this plan”. I say they are driving us off a cliff at 100 mph, we the community tell them to stop, and they want to compromise and slow down to 60 mph; it just can't happen that way, sorry supporters of the Board.

~Michael Banerian
Junior, Lahser Student

Brandon Kaufman

Mr. Banerian: I welcome your young spirited remarks, and my offer to meet with you still stands. I choose not to air dirty laundry in public. The issues are too important to make this a battle of e-mails / blogs. I will gladly sit at a table with you, listen to your concerns and try and identify reasonable solutions and improvements for our system. I believe you know how to contact me.

It would be preferable that you attend one of the community partnership meetings, however I understand school comes first.

Michael Banerian

Mr. Kaufman,
I appreciate your invitation. However I have personally contacted Rob Glass multiple times expressing most of my concerns, opinions, and ideas. I mean this in the nicest way possible (really I do), but I don't see much benefit in meeting with you. Of course if we ever see each other at a meeting, or something, I'd be more than happy to talk! I watch every board meeting, read every district document, ect... I have heard your views on the issue, and the views of other OBU supporters. It all just comes down to a difference in how we think things should be handled.

~Michael Banerian
Junior, Lahser

Brandon Kaufman

Michael: I find your response polite but disappointing. One of the most important aspects of this issue is for the "community" to talk amongst themselves. We the "community" need to be a part of the "conversation". If you are not willing to meet to discuss the issues further, then please refrain from making accusations and throwing stones from afar. There are many public opportunities where you can share the details of your ideas and suggestions. Once again I assert the trading of e-mails and blogs will only result in further misunderstanding and interpretation. Please feel free to respond, so you have the "last word" however this will be my last post as it relates to this exchange of e-mails.

Michael Banerian

Mr. Kaufman,

You seem to mis-understand me. I have joined the community discussion. I have made public comment multiple times at board meetings, only to have supporters of the board go up and tear apart what I say, to try and "scare" me away. I have emailed the board, Mr. Glass, talked with MANY OBU members. I have found that all of what I say falls on deaf ears. I am not blocking communication from the "community", rather I am recognizing that a portion of the community have blocked me. As far as the rest of the community... I don't think you realize how many strangers I speak to each day who are FED UP with this board. I have been invited to peoples houses to speak with them about their concerns. I have even contacted people who write "pro-board" articles in the paper and sat with them for a talk. Though this may come to a surprise to you, most people who send us checks, sign our petitions, etc... are NOT B20/20 members; they are ALL concerned people of our community. My point is, I DO discuss the issues further, with people I know will actually listen, and weigh my arguments against yours. I do NOT throw stones from afar; I am right in the middle of the action, and all of my "accusations" have substance, and a base. So please understand, I choose to distance myself from a portion of the community, because all I have experienced is nasty rhetoric, and unfortunate behavior by the supporters of the board.

~Michael Banerian
Junior, Lahser