

## **BHSD Board is walking in the dark – Rich Andrews**

The BHSD Board is a classic case of walking in the dark, wandering without a compass, pretty much lost - and without a sense of clear direction and understanding *the* big picture. It is brought on by seven individuals charged with leading the pack. The pack refuses to get lost, the leaders insist on going their way, and the further they go the worse it gets. Allow me to comment on Mr. Fellin's very recent memo. Following his numbers . . .

1. No plan for how students will be housed and schooled during four years of construction is not reasonable nor acceptable.

2. What will happen if the tax proposal fails? No contingency plans is not reasonable nor acceptable.

3. Not knowing what is included for \$ 69 Million - and what is not included is not reasonable nor acceptable. Most intelligent people typically want to know what they are getting for what they are paying. Especially when the costs are in the many multi millions of dollars.

4. Not knowing what will happen to LHS when it is empty is not reasonable nor acceptable. Leaving numerous empty buildings scattered around the community with no knowledge or plan as to what will happen to them is not acceptable. Empty buildings must have a contingency plan and until that is structured and articulated, the BIG plan is not whole; thus this mini plan is not reasonable nor acceptable.

5. Not knowing traffic flows, vehicle patterns and having no *current* knowledge of traffic patterns is not acceptable. For instance, since the last analysis, the senior center is new to this area, and the township campus has changed tremendously. More traffic is the bottom line and yet Andover Road remains one lane street in either direction. On top of that, emergency runs from fire headquarters have increased over time adding more consternation to this skinny street. School Board planners continue to choose not seeing the big picture as they focus to one building; damn the details of the *entire* project.

6. It is reported 21% of students are at sub par academic levels needed for college and the board thinks that maybe the stats are faulty. No specific information is brought forth by the board with regard to how they will address this abominable performance. Evidently no time as everything is about bricks and mortar. Not reasonable. Not acceptable. Scholastics come first and should have been learned in board member classes 101.

The list goes on and on - "NO PLAN AT THIS TIME". It is reasonably clear this board has not the experience to be in the positions they are in. They came forward with some half baked idea, simple and narrow in conception. When the broad based questions of the big picture and overall concept were brought to the floor, the board failed miserably and has stumbled with answers. Within that failure are hidden costs that will be into the many millions of dollars. Holding this board accountable is very much in order. Shame on The Eccentric, Downtown, the tabloids - AND The Districts bulletins for not sharing in the big picture of the total costs of this project, and the pain it has -and continues to deliver to this community. Until this project is stabilized and on sound ground it cannot continue to move forward in such an archaic and crude fashion. Way too many smoke and mirrors delivered by community leaders that ought to be removed from their sad - inadequate performance responsibilities. They have cost this community dearly.

Rich Andrews