

FACILITIES TASK FORCE MINUTES (JANUARY 30, 2008)

- Dr. Foster reviewed *The Four Agreements* and focused on “*Be impeccable to your word.*”
- A discussion followed about the nature of some “blogging” web sites:
 - Dr. Foster added that because of the nature of said “blogs” the identity of the contributors remain anonymous (it is a cowardly approach to disseminate and gather unreliable information)
 - Many Task Force members “pledged” to no longer disseminate and gather unreliable information using online forums
 - Dr. Foster suggested that we all should get our Robbinsville Public Schools information from the source (attend public BOE meetings, attend Facility Task Force Meetings, set up appointments with the principals, the Asst. Superintendent, the Superintendent)
 - The nature of democracy in education allows us to disagree and that is ok
 - Many residents were applauded for their willingness to get information the “correct” way including Mr. Dabrowski, Mr. Caputo, Mr. Armenti, etc.
- Dr. Foster reiterated the original charge of the Facilities Task Force:
 - We **are not** a decision making body
 - We gather information
 - We share information with the community
 - We share information and suggestions with the Superintendent and the BOE
 - We are a *Task Force*... We actively help spread the positive word about the need and value of a referendum
 - We volunteer to help heighten community awareness and serve the betterment of our schools and students
 - Be part of the solution
- Mr Dabrowski shared that his function with the Civic Association is to ask questions and inform people about the ways the district is spending money and try to evaluate whether or not the district is spending money it needs to spend.
- Dr. Foster set up the layout for all information shared at the meeting (If...then...)
- Mr Recca introduced **only** what we know **now** about the proposed referendum (If...then...)
- *If* everything goes well with soil analysis and state approvals, *then* the proposed referendum be voted on in September (08) or December (08) for a possible school opening in September (2011)
- *If* everything goes well with soil analysis and state approvals, *then* the proposed referendum will include:
 - Building a 3-5 school (the current proposed building site is adjacent to PRMS- The proposed building is two stories)
 - Capital improvements to Pond & Sharon (HVAC, roof, boilers, etc.)
 - A plan for continued growth
 - A school that is “green”
- Some opinions/concerns/suggestions/questions voiced by Task Force members included:

- Perhaps including a second question in any proposed referendum
- Any building should take into account possible need for growth & we should project our district enrollment as accurately as possible and as far into the future as possible
- Questions about parking
- Possible physical connection between schools (a tunnel)?
- Location of playground?
- Safety was a concern... Even the current setup with one school (PRMS) is a traffic concern. There is a “blind spot” and it makes it difficult for drivers entering the PRMS parking lot to see student walkers
- A scenario switching the municipal office to Sharon School (and vice-versa) was shared
- The possibility of sharing one gym for two schools was discussed
- The possibility of sharing one cafeteria (a larger one) for two schools was discussed
- Sub-dividing the existing PRMS cafeteria into classrooms was discussed
- Perhaps a three story building?
- Combine some aspects of the schools (nurses office, administrative offices, gym, etc.)
- Perhaps looking at a 7-12 model with a school?
- Perhaps the BOE meetings should be telecasted (or web casted)
- The projected numbers of state aid (compared to Millstone): Millstone: 13 million in state aid; Robbinsville: 500,000 in state aid
- A detailed discussion followed about the concerns of possibility having third graders riding a bus with eighth graders
- Dr. Foster again reviewed *The Four Agreements* and the charge of this Task Force (as stated above)

Next Meeting Date: TBA at 7 pm in the RHS Student Activities Center (pending the results of the impending soil samples and primary state approvals)