

## My comments and concerns for the Public Record following the Act 34 Hearing

June 18, 2015

My main concern is the safety of our students. Regarding the environmental and structural safety of the land, concerns remain unresolved.

I question the prohibitive cost associated with the planned stabilization of the land, which, per the Superintendent, is estimated between 9 and 15 million dollars. I have also spoken with a Regional Representative from the DEP. The proposed process, as explained to me will be a grid pattern going underground 80-90 feet. What will be the contingency plan if this process is not effective or unfeasible, as well as the additional cost for unexpected outcomes?

Regarding the design, this facility is not a retail outlet, apartment complex, or office space. It is a high school and the drawings illustrating people walking their dogs, leads me to ponder if we have a one size fits all design team. With a 1 million dollar contract, the Architects should have illustrated their drawing in a more student oriented rendering.

I understand the concept for an updated, unique building, however, I am concerned with the numerous French doors from a safety perspective. I understand that all outside and inside doors must adhere to fire safety standards. Also, if there were an emergency situation, could you safely and quickly evacuate our students, staff, faculty, and administration? The decorative pillars may pose a hindrance in such a situation.

I also question what appears to be a balcony on the front of the building as well as the dormer windows.

I disagree with the concept of educational clusters, which according to research, are not ideal education models. Progressive, effective, educators integrate education. As a school district, our objective is to successfully educate our students, to promote life-long learning and "to prepare our students to become active, contributing, members of society," not integrating education, which professionals implement, is a disservice to them.

After recently having the opportunity to speak with many community residents, it appears the overwhelming concern is the high school project and the anticipated cost. Approximately 33% of our residents have children enrolled in the school district. Of the remaining 77%, many support the school district, however, they voiced their concern with the current building project and its impact on their annual school taxes. I also suggest you hold the Construction Committee Meetings at a later time in the evening or on the weekend, when more residents may be able to attend. The scheduled 5:30pm meeting time is challenging for many residents.

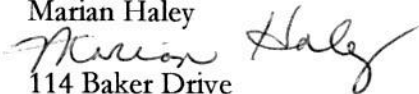
Originally the land parcel was stated to be "151 acres" and now it is listed as 161 acres. Does this comply with the land survey, which should have been reviewed when the District Solicitor was charged with performing due diligence on the property before the Board approved the purchase.

Regarding Turner Construction, in a nation-wide search, numerous legal cases are pending or have been resolved regarding their role in construction projects. Individuals, non-profits, and municipalities were charged thousands of dollars in change orders, which are unbudgeted expenses after construction on their project began. This should have been discovered and discussed when the district contracted with Turner Construction.

Also, any plan to open the bidding process for the Thomas Jefferson High School Construction Project in October, 2105 and schedule the Voting meeting in November, 2015, when an election for five School Directors will take place in November is unethical and reprehensible. It is disrespectful to the residents of the West Jefferson Hills Community to procure any contracts before the November, 2015 General Election without procedural discussion and authorization of the district's newly elected School Directors.

Thank you.

Marian Haley



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I request my comments be a part of the Act 34 Hearing Public Record