

**Town Hall Meeting Notes  
Brookside  
2/4**

**Questions re: Slides**

- 1. Would we purchase or rent portables? How much does it cost to buy? To rent?**
- 2. Why would the existing structure at Deer Park have to be removed if we reopened that site?**
- 3. Do Red Hill and Deer Park options include costs that might need to be made to streets/area approaching site?**
- 4. Can we look at Park and Rec land at upper Brookside? Could that be used as place for additional buildings?**
- 5. Is there a bond rating outstanding?**
- 6. What about selling the two properties that are owned by RVSD (Red Hill, Deer Park) as a source of funds?**
- 7. What are the short term solutions for overcrowding now and during potential construction?**
- 8. What happens to Drake once these kids get to high school?**
- 9. Do you have to have made a decision of what to do with the money before you put a bond on the ballot?**
- 10. Why did the Board pursue Marin Town and Country if Facilities Committee recommended against it?**
- 11. How much time would it take to build new classrooms/new site?**
- 12. What would Fair Anselms Plaza option do to traffic?**
- 13. What are the disadvantages of having a school at Red Hill?**
- 14. You're going to have access issues to Deer Park... so has anyone talked to Fairfax about rerouting Porteous and Meerna and making them one way? Wouldn't you want to get this planning process started before you determine a site?**
- 15. Doesn't seem from all the information we've been given, that the Red Hill site would ever be a good site for a school... so why don't we sell?**
- 16. If the bond doesn't pass, would there be an option to go back and run a bond in November? What is the geography for the bond area... who gets to vote?**

- 17. Would we have the ability to make Red Hill more accessible by routing cars/commuters behind Round Table?**
- 18. In opening Red Hill or Deer Park, is that a new middle school or K-5?**
- 19. The option about moving the fifth grade to White Hill... can you talk about that? Also, what are the downsides to expanding current campuses?**
- 20. What's the board's favorite option?**
- 21. If you do consider moving 5<sup>th</sup> grade to White Hill, would you consider making both Brookside campuses both K-4?**
- 22. On February 11<sup>th</sup>, is the vote to move forward with the bond in June and also to decide whether or not to open a new site or expand existing sites?**
- 23. I want to ask about the option of a K-8...seems like charter schools are all K-8 and also students go to private school to go to K-8... did you consider?**
- 24. Is the assumption that if we open Deer Park and expand White Hill it will be about \$50 million? Is that exceeding the dollars we will have? What else is in that number besides classrooms... right now, it looks like a million a classroom...where can I find information on cost per square foot and what is reasonable for a school?**
- 25. Who bears the cost of making change in sidewalks, water situation, traffic changes, access to parking if we picked Deer Park?**
- 26. How do these options affect value of our homes?**
- 27. Where is the growth located?**
- 28. Can you tell us more about the projected growth?**
- 29. Did you ever consider having smaller schools to lessen impact on neighborhoods?**
- 30. What does "other" refer to on page 6 "RVSD Enrollment by Town of Residence" in the handouts?**
- 31. Can you include slide regarding enrollment growth?**
- 32. High school is going to have a shortfall in the next two years... is RVSD going to face the same type of shortfall or can you maintain?**
- 33. If we do pass a \$41 million bond, what does that mean for home owners?**
- 34. If we open a new site at Deer Park, would that solve overcrowding at other schools?**
- 35. How would opening a new school site affect existing school boundaries?**

## **Community Input**

*(Please note: These comments are our best effort to capture the speaker's message and are not a direct quotation.)*

1. Fiscal irresponsibility to spend these dollars on a new site when we have current campuses that need attention; in favor of school bond and expansion at White Hill; it's important that all kids benefit
2. Member of Facilities Committee –FPAC was tasked not to look at financial ramifications of decisions; came up with what we thought was the best educational construct; bigger concern – we don't have enough money to open new K-5 and expand White Hill; do think having fifth grade at White Hill is a viable option with some shared space; hope we can go for a June bond, but concerned about getting folks excited about bond if we don't know what we're buying; talked to David Finnane and he's enthusiastic about possibilities at White Hill
3. Fairfax Resident – economy, equity, ecology – leads to sustainability; have particular concerns about Deer Park, especially the geography/geology; trees will need to be cut down to make sidewalks; all this translates to the quality of life for our kids; please take ecology into consideration
4. Parent at Brookside – all the options are bad, but Deer Park is the least bad; we can see this as an opportunity; don't bring cars into the school, make it an ecology school
5. Music teacher in District – I've really seen the impact of overcrowding and I'm concerned because I see the kids being crammed into a small space; I did teach at a middle school for 1,000 kids and we made it work.. my opinion is that we should look more at 5/6 and 7/8 at White Hill
6. Resident of San Anselmo and kids went to White Hill/Drake/Tamascal – we have a great opportunity, but feel strongly about some of the options: no for portables, no for new K-5, fully support expanding White Hill, support expanding existing campuses; enrollment issues are cyclical; advocate for new classrooms not a new school – within our budget; read website and get informed
7. Parent at Brookside – was in favor of Deer Park until I heard some of the issues; don't think adding more kids to existing campuses is an option; looks like 5/6 at White Hill could be a good option; could benefit kids in music, math and would save us in construction costs; 5/6 adjacent to but not part of 7/8; encourage all to think about it and share with friends

## **Comment Cards**

*(These are direct quotes from comment card distributed at the Town Hall meetings)*

1. I'm OK with fifth grade going to White Hill. I don't like portables. You've done a very thorough job (thank you!). Kevin made a very good point that the budget allocated for growth will need to be made very clear to "sell" the idea for a bond to pass. Also, you need to clearly explain to those people against this idea that the tenants at Red Hill and Deer Park bring in income. P.S. Convincing Fairfax residents seems like it'll be very hard!  
(BC)
2. I think we should open Deer Park as an ecological campus.  
(MS)

3. I think that the bond will have a better chance of passing if the board makes a gesture to sell one of the school properties. The people who bought their houses next to a school need to understand that there may be students attending that school. Plans can be made to include the Children's Center on that campus. Streets can be made one way. I know change is difficult, but eventually they will see that it improves the community.  
(KM)
4. We, the White Hill staff, need the Board to tell us what direction they want to go in sooner rather than later. That gives us the time to accept the idea and get behind the decision. We need to support the decision out in the community to help get this bond passed. I'm behind a 5-8 at White Hill, with fifth grade being self-contained.
5. A tough position to be in, no doubt. High demand for our district's schools causing an issue that could curb that demand. 30:1 ratio for K-4 is a recipe for unintentional neglect, and cannot be the answer. I only hope that our community understands the issue and supports a bond.  
(ST)
6. If White Hill Middle School is expanded to include the fifth grade, how will this impact the MAP Program?  
(JF)
7. I support expanding White Hill and making it a 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade school. I also support that all schools should have money for improvement and expansion. I believe all the children should benefit from our final decision.

### **Website Comments (2/3)**

*(These are direct quotes from Website Comments we receive.)*

#### **Comment:**

I live in Deer Park, one of the neighborhood schools that is being considered for retrofitting. As a parent of two now adult children I believe that the community the child resides in is the best community to educate them in. If Fairfax is supporting a large enough school age population for an additional elementary school then we should have the school here in town. It is in the best interest of the child but also reflects our communities green initiative: we can keep a large number of students and parents out of cars because it will now be in walking and biking distance. As to the school itself I would propose that either the Deer Park school needs to be retrofitted for the new elementary school or new rents negotiated with the tenants which would include updating the grounds and structures. In it's current state it is fast becoming a detriment to our community and a (near) future liability.