

Town Hall Meeting Notes
Manor #2
2/9

Questions re: Slides

- 1. Is the map information in the packet or on the website?**
- 2. Does the concentric circle map include our middle school students?**
- 3. If we added the fifth grade to White Hill, what would the total enrollment be? How did we come up with that number of about 1,000 children?**
- 4. If you move the fifth grade to White Hill, what does that mean for the existing elementary schools? Why would Manor have more classrooms added than the other elementary schools if we expand existing sites vs. build a new school? But how does the circle map tie in?**
- 5. Are we talking about sending kids in their town or to the school closest to them?**
- 6. Were the projections done before the economy downturn?**
- 7. If we move fifth grade to White Hill, how are we accommodating the growth in our elementary schools?**
- 8. If fifth grade is moved to White Hill, what is the configuration of existing schools? Would you still have to build out the existing elementary schools?**
- 9. What would White Hill look like with fifth grade?**
- 10. Is it true that if we create a separate campus for 5/6 at White Hill, the density would be similar to existing elementary schools?**
- 11. Have you considered making Brookside lower and White Hill both a K-8?**
- 12. If the facilities committee had to make a decision today, would they recommend going for a bond? And which option is the front-runner?**
- 13. If you do get bond passed plus state money, it appears that new K-5 and White Hill expansion still isn't doable... is that correct? If move fifth grade to White Hill, and you have money left over, can dollars be used at other elementary classrooms?**
- 14. Expanding White Hill appears much less expensive than building a new K-5... can you explain?**
- 15. Have you done a concrete analysis of any of the options?**
- 16. Have you ever considered going through year round school or some other strategy that would work to maximize current facilities?**

17. **In the handout, it looks like the option for expanding existing sites has Brookside and Wade Thomas numbers staying about the same...can you explain? Have you considered making Manor a K-2?**
18. **Do we need to redraw our enrollment boundaries given Manor is taking so much of the hit of incoming students? If enrollment grows significantly at Manor, wouldn't infrastructure need to grow as well?**
19. **Have you considered moving the MAP program to a different location to be able to accommodate more students at Manor?**
20. **If the new student population is moving westward, have you checked with other districts for their trend? Have you checked with private schools to see if any facilities are available for us to use?**
21. **What is the goal... to go to school in your zip code or walk or bike to school? If seriously going to pursue the 5-8 option, have we talked to other school districts that have made that change? Were they able to do it within the budget they allocated?**
22. **Are you going to explore the School Street property anymore?**
23. **Can you explain why you discarded the option of splitting the overflow between Deer Park and Red Hill, as two smaller schools?**
24. **When you add up the estimated numbers (approximately 300 growth) for a new K-5 and middle school, it's over the \$48 million, right? What happens if we get into the construction, and can't do it for that amount or we don't have money for other schools?**
25. **Can you move either kids or teachers so that students all have same choices vs. having schools large enough to offer choice?**
26. **Does the ballot language have to be submitted by March 12? Will we know what we're voting on by the time of the bond? (e.g. expansion, opening new site)**
27. **When will you be putting the survey results on the website? Did the survey include questions about specific sites? Did the survey include some of the other options that we talked about tonight?**
28. **What is the next step/timeline for the bond?**
29. **Is it possible to make a decision to go for June bond on 2/11, then shortly thereafter make a decision on site/expansion?**
30. **From your studies, the highest percentage of students walking and biking is Manor... the others aren't as high a percentage; why would you think building a new school would promote walking and biking?**
31. **What if we sell Red Hill, Deer Park, and White Hill and buy Marin Town and Country?**
32. **Do current leases cover the costs of upkeep for the schools (e.g. Red Hill, Deer Park)?**

Community Input

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

1. Parent of children at White Hill and Wade Thomas – very impressed with information brought by the school board; thank you
2. Want to applaud “out of the box” thinking; IJ full of news of schools closing; the idea of year round schools is a fine idea, primarily because kids have a retention capacity; facilities that we spend so much money on would be used all-year round; I’ve seen schools sold off and needing more schools.... Build up what we have and use them...an idea to consider
3. Parents want best for their children, but these opportunities depend on economic reality; we need to take opportunity to plan for future, so when inevitable cuts come, we can handle it; play space ratios may have to give because we can’t afford it; White Hill definitely needs to be expanded/upgraded, but if we open a new K-5 campus, we may not have money to upgrade existing schools; days of wine and roses may never come back... too much competition in this global economy; look out 10 or 15 years down the line...
4. Latest news from state – Mary Jane Burke – talking about possibilities of proposed cuts per student possibilities in 2010-2011; considering closing a school in Novato; we need to really think about finances
5. Manor parent and neighbor to school – no perfect answer to this enrollment issue; hard to make a choice; terrified of Manor getting much bigger than it is; hard to get in and out of the neighborhood; want to think about the perspective of the kids coming into kindergarten – construction will be their initial experience at school; if we can try to get on kids’ level, will help us make a choice
6. Member of Open Space Committee – thanks for really listening; Deer Park is one of our most precious treasures in Fairfax; rich in biodiversity and natural wonders; jumping off place for many types of recreation; trees would need to be removed; the headwaters for Corte Madera creek and spawning area; would be a destruction of habitat; new pipe would have to be put in for new water system; bridge would need to be put in; only one way in and out; the most costly of all the options; hope we look at options that are innovative in other ways
7. I don’t care where we build a school and how we build it... need to look at our educational system; to a degree we stuff them in a box and snuff out the creativity; we need to support each kid for who they are; where is our money going...military or schools... and how do we change that?
8. Parent at Brookside – first liked the FPAC recommendation to build a K-5; facilities committee told not to look at finances; when you really look at the finances, expanding White Hill and building a new K-5, very expensive; could be a benefit to having a 5-6/7-8 option; would be better for sixth grade given small learning communities were for 7th and 8th grade; benefits we could get in programming (e.g. music); possibilities of looping 5th and 6th graders (e.g. math); may not be ideal, but could be best option; as parents, we need to step up and try to pass a bond because the option of expanding our existing sites is not an option; if we had to pay from portables out of general fund, it would decimate our general fund; please think about spending to make our education reasonable for our students and spend responsibly

9. This district is special because of community; Novato has to cut because they don't have the YES foundation; so it probably means parents stepping up and passing a bond because we can't depend on the government; good schools mean good neighborhoods meaning stores have customers...
10. If you have to go to school year round, the kids won't lose too much; looking attractive to move to 5-8 model, but really look at that model, specifically in terms of social issues
11. School District and Town of Fairfax to collaborate on using the Pavilion and looking at nearby School Street Site; recycling what we have; as a lesson for what we say we're trying to do... be sustainable; would be making an investment in our town; we need to know how we're spending our money... asked District to provide reports of how we're spending current bond money; hope we'll know what we're writing check for with this upcoming bond
12. Parent of Manor student – coming full circle... I was in this District when the schools were shutting down; Deer Park/Red Hill seem most obvious options since they are already schools; would have to do less refurbishing than if you were to redo another property

Comment Cards

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

1. It is crazy for us not to seriously consider moving 5th grade up to White Hill – it is by far the least expensive option and it is done by Hall and Kent middle schools.
(MH from Brookside Town Hall meeting)
2. I don't think there are any easy solutions but my gut feeling is we need to fix White Hill to Accommodate the huge third grade class that will be coming to White Hill in two years. Our campuses can't accommodate any more kids – lower campus is so cramped and crowded
(from Brookside Town Hall meeting)