

Town Hall Meeting Notes

Manor

2/2

Format of Meeting

Part I- slides and questions pertaining to slides

Part II – audience discussion about classroom shortage and options available

Questions re: Slides

1. Do you have a sense of per household cost for bond?
2. How many students total do we have in grades 5-8?
3. Do we have a bond currently and what was that for?
4. Will we be receiving any money for modernization of current campuses?
5. In our community, we have two different school districts and we see bond/parcel taxes from both; if we approve this \$41 million bond... will the District need to come back for more to get the job done?
6. During that time when the District closed all the schools, why weren't the remaining properties (e.g. Red Hill and Deer Park) maintained knowing that it was just a temporary "drought" in enrollment?
7. Do you have any sense of looking at enrollment figures even beyond 20 years? Have you factored in the fact that folks may be leaving area due to economy or that children may switch back to private school when economy gets better?
8. Does the \$41 million bond capacity include the \$12 million that's still outstanding or is it on top of that amount?
9. Is the bond money strictly for building or is there money for transport?
10. If we don't pass a bond, where would monies come from for options that don't require a bond?
11. Can you explain process for repayment of bond?
12. Have you been using budgeted building maintenance funds to pay off the current bond? Schreder report points to that....
13. Regarding the purchase of portables, is the \$2.1 million a onetime cost and the \$147,000 an annual ongoing cost?
14. If it takes 2 to 3 years for construction of additional classrooms, what's the cost of housing our children in temporary facilities?
15. It looks to me like, under the "with a Bond" scenario on page 8 of the handouts, only option B (expand existing facilities) and option h (5th grade at White Hill) would be doable money-wise... is that true?
16. With the condition of state, how do you know you can get the guaranteed enrollment growth funds?
17. Can you explain what happened to the Marin Town and Country option?

18. **You said earlier you split off the 6th grade and put at White Hill at one time... have you looked at changing all the schools we have to be K-8's?**
19. **Have you any idea of the cost for ongoing administration and maintenance for a new site?** (we said we'd pull these numbers together so we should have them in our back pocket for Thursday's town hall)
20. **Can you explain difference in cost between Option G (adding elementary school at WH site) and Option H (expanding WH to include 5th grade)?**
21. **What are the benefits of a larger middle school?**
22. **Not sure I understand the one mile radius slides...are the numbers current or projected? Do number counts include K-5 and White Hill? It would be helpful to see movement between all schools**
23. **Have you considered selling one of the RVSD properties so we can buy Marin Town and Country given its ideal location?**
24. **Who makes the final decision regarding how to handle the classroom shortage and growing enrollment once community input is made?**

Community Input

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

1. Porteous resident– if we choose Deer Park, we'll have chaos; I support education and a bond and the kids deserve the best; with the state deficit, more cuts will be made and will affect the number of teachers and class size; we need to be financially conservative... it doesn't make sense to spend money; White Hill is essential and small learning communities are great, but it leaves no money to upgrade other K-5's; we need to put our money into the digital age so we must have money to update current schools and have equity among campuses
2. Parent of Third Grader – critical that you visit school sites; they are currently jam-packed; we need money to build facilities to put kids in... I live on border of SA/Fairfax, on a feeder street that goes to Deer Park. In past few years, we've seen so many babies and little kids and in discussing with them, they were all in favor of a school at Deer Park... we'd walk or ride our bikes; traffic issues could be addressed
3. Parent of elementary-aged child – we moved here from Tokyo, 12 million people; we chose to live here because of small town values that SA and Fairfax represent; we all want small town values; I hope the school board will take into consideration environmental impact but we need to make compromises so our values are in place
4. Fairfax Resident - one board member said this classroom shortage/enrollment growth was a problem for Fairfax not SA... but it's an issue for both communities; wishful thinking that folks will walk or bike to school; they have to commute to work and so carpooling doesn't work; we need to come together to decide what's best for quality of life; we haven't had enough time to think and talk about these issues; Bolinas is at a standstill in the morning and will impact surrounding roads as well (e.g. Forrest)
5. Fairfax resident and planning commission member – As a grandparent in the District, I see that the schools are chaotic and crowded; my concern is that community is not looking at really big picture and our values... we're a sustainable community; at present; I would not support a large bond

6. Deer Park Resident - last board meeting I was told that the design for a new school would be sustainable and ecological, but fire marshal has a letter out regarding what would need to happen to make the Deer Park site viable for kids; the fire marshal is against this placement; whole street would need new water main, we would lose trees... We have tendency in crisis to leap into reactive mode; glad to see new options, but don't know if it's real
7. Parent not yet in District with 3 year old and one year old –interested in nature and Waldorf inspired ideas; Deer Park would be a great site for nature-based school and I would definitely support a new school site; \$300 bucks a year is pretty negligible here
8. Parent at Manor - has property that is open with just one tree if RVSD is interested; if you put the 5th grade into middle school and make Shaw Drive a middle school, seems like a viable solution
9. Educator from Fairfax - thanks for answering my question about projected numbers; advocate for Option B (expanding existing sites) and specifically against Option C (Deer Park); in so many ways, Deer Park is a bad site; 1345 registered voters live in that area; would be impacting those folks for a lifetime; traffic is an issue; water is an issue; fire hazard
10. Fairfax Resident - we have opportunity to look at landscape in SA and Fairfax and integrate school experience with landscape; wouldn't it be better to rehabilitate existing buildings? Be an example for our children... make a green environment by recycling our buildings; you can download the daily enrollments from County of Marin and they have dropped; Schreder report shows that increase is from private to public school; we could end up with a building in future that is useless; maybe look at School Street
11. Fairfax Resident on Open Space Committee - opposed to building of school in Deer Park; it's precious; trees would be cut down; need a new bridge; concerned about danger of fire; canyon enclosed on 3 sides
12. Deer Park Parent and Resident - no one has mentioned the Children's Center; would support bond but need a good location; Albertson's seems like a good location; there's a benefit to small schools; should be considering as one of the options; idea of shared space with non-profit partners; don't know the answer but seems like we need more time
13. Deer Park Resident and Parent - really want to understand everything before decision is made; I'm one of few that has parking spot; how are people going to get in and out of that school?; parking is for Children's Center and hikers...imagine an assembly!

Comment Cards

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

1. "I strongly support plan 'B', modernization and expansion of existing sites, as well as expand White Hill. No new school site – I would not vote for a bond that contained a new site."
(MM)