

There is real value in talking about school facilities issues with others in the community, especially when views differ. In the next year or two as the district prepares for another proposal and levy for additional funding, I hope there continue to be planned opportunities for community conversation.

When I discuss our schools in the community I try to represent the view that these are our schools from which we as a village all benefit, not just some other people's children's schools.

A fact sheet put out by the School Board would be a great idea. Some things I would like to see addressed in a fact sheet include:

1) the energy inefficiency of our school buildings, eg, single pane windows at Mills Lawn, and the approximately \$20,000/ month the district spends on heating & cooling the buildings.

2) the percentage of the school district budget spent on personnel (I believe it's over 80%). Teachers, administrators, & staff are by far the number one priority of the district, which is why more money hasn't been spent on maintenance in the past. Also, as we all know, old buildings require more maintenance.

3) facts about open enrollment, and ways these students benefit our district, including the fact (from Mr. Gudge) that at least a third of open enrollment students have close personal or family ties to the village (grandparents live here, etc.).

Finally, most people seem to want to fix up the old buildings we've got now, and pay for the repairs over time. This sounds good to everyone; however, it may not be the wisest use of our money in the longer term. Although I haven't supported the K-12 campus concept in the past, I now can see so many advantages, including shared kitchens, dining area, gym, music program, performance space, etc. Such a plan would represent a huge turnaround for most of the village, though, & would require a lot of careful, factual supportive information from the Superintendent and the School Board.