

July, 2008

To: The Guilford Board of Education

RE: Citizen Response to the School Facilities Issue

Dear Board of Education Members,

Thank you for your commitment to serve as a Board of Education member and your efforts to address the issues of the deteriorating facilities at Guilford High School and Elisabeth C. Adams Middle School.

I am a member of Guilford PACT and support the efforts of the Board of Education to offer a comprehensive solution that will provide a quality environment for our children to learn and grow as an investment in our community.

I have been to the Task Force meetings, been on the tours of both Adams and GHS and am appalled at the conditions of both. Adams, specifically, is a disgrace. Janitorial closets turned into classrooms, electrical sockets hanging from ceilings, makeshift "jerry rigged" fans and a/c units hanging out of walls, flooding, temporary PODS for the overflow of traffic.... I do not understand how it got to this point. But, here we are.

We moved to Guilford nine years ago to start a family in a town that, we thought, offered us one of the best school systems on the shoreline. We now have two small sons and love this community. We only recently have found out about the poor school facilities in our town. One of our sons is six years old. He was diagnosed with cold-induced asthma when he was ten months. This summer, for the first time in his short life, he has come off of all medication. The thought of sending him to a school with poor ventilation and potential black mold issues is not an option for us. So, we want the BOE to consider building a new middle school to replace Adams.

In addition to that, I believe that a town's major influence on future residents is the state of its high school. These critical years are the launch pad for our children's collegiate (and beyond) future. It is imperative that we create an environment that will allow our children to learn, achieve high test scores and attend the college of their choice. So, we want the BOE to consider building a new high school as well.

Having said that I am for "two new schools", I am also nervous that the residents of this town may not pass such a large sum of money on the next referendum. So, my questions are:

- 1) Can you write a referendum that states that you are going to build two new schools over a certain period of time so the dollar amount is not too large all at once?
- 2) If two new schools do not pass, do have time to revise and have a second vote with a lesser dollar amount?

These are just some of my thoughts. I appreciate all that you have done for the residents of Guilford both with your time and effort to the Board of Education and to your dedication to finding a solution.

I intend to work both individually and with Guilford PACT to help to raise awareness of these issues, and to achieve a high voter turnout to support the upcoming referendum.

Sincerely,

Christine Blumberg  
Guilford resident, concerned citizen and mother of two