

Jennifer Milano
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Guilford, CT 06437

May 20, 2008

VIA FIRST-CLASS MAIL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION:

William Bloss
1165 Great Hill Road
Guilford, CT 06437

Linda Sanacora
21 Arrowhead Drive
Guilford, CT 06437

Mary Beeman
39 Boston Street
Guilford, CT 06437

Kathleen Nolan
62 Greystone Way
Guilford, CT 06437

Alan Meyers
200 Deer Lane
Guilford, CT 06437

Louis J. Iorio
PO Box 423
Guilford, CT 06437

Keith Bishop
25 Meadow Ridge Lane
Guilford, CT 06437

Ted Zuse
72 Broad Street
Guilford, CT 06437

Barbara L. Dudley
618 Long Hill Road
Guilford, CT 06437

Re: School Facilities

Dear Members of the Board of Education:

I was born in Guilford and attended public schools here through junior year of high school. I then moved away for fifteen years, and four years ago, moved back to Guilford to raise my children. As a parent, I want to see my children attend schools that are not only clean, safe and conducive to high standards of learning, but also schools of which they feel proud to attend. As a citizen, I want to live in a town that values education, and great education means, primarily, great teachers. In order for education standards to remain high or, hopefully, become higher, our schools need to be places where great teachers want to work. If we cannot recruit and retain great teachers, the quality of education will plummet.

In my opinion, most likely, the best solution to the current facility issues at Guilford High School and Adams is to build two new schools. At a minimum, I believe this town desperately needs a new high school. I envision a beautiful high school with lots of windows where educators are happy to teach and students are happy to learn. I envision

a building that is constructed using "green" methods to not only save on operating costs but also so that the building itself becomes a tool of learning for the students. I envision a building that has been constructed considering the future, so that as programs expand and hopefully class sizes decrease, the new high school can easily absorb those changes. I envision a building that ensures the security of our students. I envision a building where every student, teacher and staff member is actually excited to spend his or her day. Therefore, I think with respect to the high school, the only acceptable solution is a new building of which our whole town can be proud.

I also support construction of a new Adams, although I most likely would support renovation of the existing high school to house the new Adams, or renovation of the existing Adams if data clearly supports the notion that renovation would ensure a safe, clean, and highly functional learning environment in the long-term. Given the current health risks at Adams and the limited lot size, it seems that the school should be moved.

As a citizen of Guilford, I would like to see the attitude toward the school facilities issue be "let's make Guilford's schools the best in the State" rather than "let's see what we can get away with for now." If we all work together, we can convince enough voters in the Town that new, top-notch schools are in everyone's best interest and well worth the expense. Thank you for your consideration of my opinion, and I hope to see a referendum that asks the voters to invest in two new, beautiful schools.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Milano