

June 7, 2008

Re: School Facilities

From: Jim and Laurie Dray

To Board of Education Members:

We would like to pass on our thoughts regarding Adams and the High School. Given the current state of the schools, as well as the relatively small cost difference between building two new schools and “renovate like new” we are in support of building two new school facilities. In our minds the “renovate like new” option poses several potential problems. First, it is unclear exactly what the cost of this proposal might be given that we cannot know, before construction begins, what the true cost will be. It seems likely that unforeseen and potentially costly problems might emerge during this process. Secondly, this option would be terribly disruptive to the educational process of the students in the building at the time of renovation. As a parent of a child that will be at one or both of these schools during the proposed time frame this is very concerning to us. Finally, it seems likely that the long term maintenance costs of the “renovate like new” option might wipe out any initial cost savings.

If, as a community, we are going to invest the amount of money that is being proposed it is our opinion that, in the end, we should have two state of the art buildings that will provide our children with the kind of learning environment that many of us moved to Guilford for. We are extremely concerned that failure to do this will lead high quality teachers to choose other school districts over ours. Over time, this will lead to a decline in the overall quality of education that Guilford can offer its students. We understand that this proposal will lead to an increase in our taxes, yet, as parents, feel that this is a worthwhile investment, and as members of the community, feel that these tax increases will be offset by the continued increase in property values that would not occur should our school system decline.

This decision for our community comes at a time when construction of any type is very expensive. The problems with both of these existing schools are not minor or able to be deferred any longer. While we all wish that the situation was different, the unfortunate choice we have is to spend a lot of money and not get much for it, or spend slightly more and get a great deal. The obvious choice seems to be the latter.

We thank you and the School Facilities Task Force for all of the work that has been put into developing these proposals, and appreciate this opportunity to share our opinion with you.