

**Bellows Free Academy, Union District #48, and Northwest Technical Center
Board of School Directors**

Special Board Meeting/Community Forum
September 6, 2007

Present for a quorum: Sally Lindberg, Al Corey, Jim Mercier, Bruce Scott and Nilda Gonnella-French

Administration: Marilyn Grunewald, Superintendent, FCSU; Ned Caron, Principal; and David Kimel, CPCS Director

Visitors: See attached.

1. Call to Order: Jim Mercier called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.
2. Jim Mercier presented a Powerpoint presentation.

Jim Mercier says that the Board is here to receive community comments and input key points. There was never state aid available for the complex.

Presenting a 20 million dollar project:

- Main Building
- Rink
- Field House
- Team Rooms
- Other Items

The committee looked at 30 million and 10 million dollar projects and decided to come forward with the 20 million dollar project.

Jim then asked the group: What do you think about the project of this magnitude?

Comments included:

- Let's look at all of the needs of the community – Why haven't people come together to discuss all of the communities needs.
- Have a plan for the next 5 – 15 years. Get a mini task force together.
- What will the cost of the bonds be to the taxpayer?

Other questions presented:

- Bill Nihan: Was there a needs assessment done?

- Bill Sawyer: What about the auditorium and space problems at the Main Campus? It looks like all the needs at the Main Campus have been blown away in favor of Collins Perley.
- Bob Shea: Where should our emphasis be?
- Bill Nihan: What would the Field House be used for? I like everything proposed but I think the Field House is too expensive.
- Unknown: I support year around ice. If the Field House is gone we can't have year round ice and satisfy the needs of others like spring baseball, softball and events like the Rotary Show.
- Kevin Manahan: With regards academics versus extra curricular: Students that are academically motivated will be there regardless. These facilities are important to them but are more important to at risk students. Extra curricular activities are important motivation to these kids.
- Unknown: How much of the cost s comes from sending communities?
- Carolyn Branagan: I talked with Bill Talbott (Dept of Education) who said this could not be a school bond.
- Dave Schofield: What will the reaction of the sending communities be when the tuition rate goes up?
- John Whiney: You'll be putting a burden on other towns that have no say... that's wrong. You should fix the rink, track and other important things but no big additions.
- Dick Day: You can rig your Homestead Exemption...
- Kathy Middlemiss: Thanks to all who have worked so hard but I don't think the communities can afford it.
- Cathy Camissa: Please explain the projection of income versus expense. What is the demand for ice time?
- John Cioffi: SASA goes out of town because we have much more need for ice than is available at Collins Perley. The Patch Ice will be filled.
- Bill Nihan: How are allotments of ice time split between BFA and others and what about "rent" from BFA.
- Dave Schofield: Has anyone looked at alternate funding sources?
- Kathy Berno: I love the whole proposal but I'm nervous that by asking for everything we may get nothing.
- Kathy Middlemiss: What about the Collins and Perley Trusts?
- Bob Shea: School is about future life. Kids should be kept in school by mentors.
- Dave Southwick: The indoor soccer program I am involved with had 450 kids last year. One of the reasons I do this is to mentor kids. I have a PhD in Education and I can give you a roomful of kids who are succeeding in school because of athletics. The impact of these programs is immense. It's not just soccer. There are many sports for all ages that will use the Field House.
- Dan Marlow: This is not about Athletics vs. Academics. BFA has a tremendous band, chorus and other groups. In last year's graduating class of those students with a 3.5 or higher average the majority participate in

athletics. What brings tuition students to BFA is the wide variety of offerings; Academic, Extra Curricula, Athletic. As an example... Georgia students used to overwhelmingly choose to go to Milton or Essex for High School. Since Collins Perley and the addition of after school offerings the overwhelming majority now choose to come to BFA. Last spring we had 400 athlete sharing 4 locker rooms. 100 track athletes changed in the same room as the public was trying to use. This is about creating the best environment so kids will want to go here.

- John Whitney: What about the Tech Center, wood chip and the Auditorium? Most important is the Tech Center expansion. Should we go forward with those plans without State Aid?
- Unknown: This is about Academics vs. Athletics. Who appoints the Collins Perley Board?
- Unknown: Who handles the Collins Perley Trusts?

4. Other Business - None

5. Adjourn.

Nilda Gonnella-French made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.; Al Corey seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn I. Grunewald

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