

**CASTLE ROCK TOWNSHIP  
OPEN FORUM  
APRIL 14, 2004**

Castle Rock Township held an open forum April 14, 2004. Present were Randy Becker Chair, Arlyn Lamb Vice Chair, Paul Irrthum and Jim Ozmun Supervisors, and Maralee Rother Clerk. Also present were Michelle Leonard, Delma Jennrich, Mike Devney, John Devney, Diane Randall, Roger Randall, Judy Solinger, Jon Kuhn, Marlys Guildner, Norbert Kuhn, Harvey Ozmun, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Oldenburg, Tina Schwanz, Drea Doffing, Dan Halvorson, Jon Juenke, Craig Braun, Orren Lucht, Margarete Lucht, John Ruud, Archie Ruud, Charlene Kiser, Jaff Laschinger, Nancy Nielsen, Mary Rethwisch, Terry Donnelly, Delores Auge, Joan McIntire, Tom Kosir, Judeen A. Valentine, Billie Jo Lively, Joyce Schaffer, Mark Wagenknecht, Pat Tinsley, Marge Hulbert, Harold Eide, Lesley Halvorson, Karla Kammueler, Raymond Young, Mary Ellen Smith, Casey Kimber, Dave Kammueler, Lloyd Stevens.

The purpose of this forum was to allow residents of Castle Rock Township to voice any comments or questions regarding the possible construction of a new Farmington High School in Castle Rock Township, and to compile a list of questions and comments to convey to the appropriate entity.

Chair Randy Becker called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Randy Becker thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and explained the procedure of addressing issues.

Lloyd Stevens, 1827 250<sup>th</sup> Street

Question: Will this process be tied up in court? Also, will the water table be an issue? Is the area in a flood plain?

Joan McIntire, 24379 Chippendale Avenue

Comment: Traffic will be an issue.

Marlys Guildner, 23258 Chippendale

Question: Who will upgrade 225<sup>th</sup> Street if school comes here? Will Biscayne Avenue have to be extended to Highway 50?

Delores Auge, 3355 263<sup>rd</sup> Street, Northfield

Comment: Concerned about traffic issues, due to school and concerts, football games, and all other activities.

Lesley Halvorson, 22270 Beaumont Avenue

Comments: Residents on Berring and Beaumont Avenues are concerned about traffic in their development. Also, we would need to have police and fire departments on the east side of the railroad tracts. She stated that there were 194 incidents at the school in 2003. (not confirmed – questioned as to whether that was to high school or all schools – unknown)

Also mentioned that the fact there had been a dump on the site should be looked into.

Drea Doffing, 2255 225<sup>th</sup> Street

Comment: Expressed it is a serious safety concern if emergency vehicles would be unable to get to the school due to a train, considering the amount of traffic and the events that would be held at the school. Mentioned response time of fire protection.

Pat Tinsley, 3270 240<sup>th</sup> Street

Delores Auge, 3355 263<sup>rd</sup> Street, Northfield

Comment: Concerned about location of fire station.

Billie Jo Lively, 1982 245<sup>th</sup> Street West

Question: How does the Township convince the Farmington School Board that this is not a good location. Wants to keep farmland. The property in question is rural residential with a school being allowed with a Conditional Use Permit.

Patrick Tinsley, 3270 240<sup>th</sup> Street

Statement: The Board has the right to deny a CUP.

Dan Halvorson, 22270 Beaumont Avenue

Comment: Reference was made to 3 articles about roads that have been in the local papers.

Judeen Valentine, 3270 240<sup>th</sup> Street

Comment: She has been a school bus driver for 18 years. The school has made cuts to bussing to save money: no activity bus, longer walking distances, and proposed all day Kindergarten. School busses get 4.5 miles per gallon. With at least 32 busses running, fuel costs will increase. 85% of the students are in the NW area of the district, so all will have to drive thru town, accidents will increase, and as busses cause 10 times more damage, road costs will increase.

Raymond Young, 2630 Northfield Avenue, Hampton

Marge Hulbert, 26841 Chippendale Aveue

Comment: Concerned about the impact of development and rezoning.

Archie Ruud 1917 240<sup>th</sup> Street

Comment: Concerned about road issues, water and sewer, and annexation. Also asked who will patrol (law enforcement).

Norbert Kuhn, 1181 270<sup>th</sup> Street East, Randolph

Comment: If the school comes and the property remains Township, we will get no tax revenue, just expenses. If it is annexed we lose tax base. The Township can not come out ahead either way. He recommends saying no right away, Farmington has said they will not force annexation or zoning.

Margarete Lucht, 1481 240<sup>th</sup> Street

Question: How does the Castle Rock Board feel about the school coming here?

Response: All on the Board expressed a desire to not take an official position in order to be able to work with the district and city no matter what is decided. Unofficially, they all feel it would not benefit the Town ship to have the school locate here.

Nancy Nielsen, 3196 240<sup>th</sup> Street

Question: How do the people who own large amounts of land in the Township feel? The people speaking against the school seem to be those who own small lots.

Response: Craig Braun (2950 232<sup>nd</sup> Street, Hampton), said he would be happy to have the opportunity to sell his property to a developer. Said large landowners are not opposed. He said another site being considered is just north of Castle Rock Township, north of Highway 50, and may also cause annexation issues eventually.

Response: Mark Wagenknecht, (1097 245<sup>th</sup> Street), said he is not interested in selling land, and is against proposed school site. Feels north would be better, possibly the apple orchard site. He also spoke in defense of Donnelly's purchasing land in the Township, some was purchased long before any school issues arose.

Pat Tinsley, 3270 240<sup>th</sup> Street

Question: Wondered why Board member Russ Zellmer is not present at meeting.

Lloyd Stevens, 1827 250<sup>th</sup> Street

Question: Wondered if present high school was being demolished, and why a new school couldn't be built on that property.

Response: No one has heard of any plans to demolish the current school, rather it might be converted to a middle school.

Mark Wagenknecht, 1097 245<sup>th</sup> Street

Question: Can the Township just say no to a CUP? Would like a consensus of the people.

Joan McIntire, 24379 Chippendale Avenue

Comment: Would like proof that a new school is needed, she was told by a School Board member that the need might be short term, that not all data is in.

Margarete Lucht, 1481 240<sup>th</sup> Street

Question: What kind of money is the potential tax increase to residents?

Paul Irrthum, 1605 260<sup>th</sup> Street East

Question: Where will the money to build the school come from? They only currently have money for land. If opposed, vote no on a referendum.

Terry Donnelly, 18679 Flagstaff Avenue

Comment: Encouraged everyone to come and voice opinions at the School Board meeting next Monday.

Charlene Kiser, 22550 Beaumont Way

Question: Is it possible that the Township could spend money on improvements to service the school, and then lose the property to annexation after that?

Question: Can the School over-ride the Townships wishes?

Arlyn Lamb, 25145 Chippendale Avenue

Comment: States the Board is trying to be prepared if the issue is forced, so that the Township can come out as good as possible; a list of requirements should be drafted. This is not because the school is inevitable, just good planning.

Mike Devney, 5810 212<sup>th</sup> Street West

Comment: The city is obligated to provide sewer and water if the school comes here.

Mary Ellen Smith, 2137 250<sup>th</sup> Street West

Question: Is the Met Council aware of this issue, and have they given any feedback?

Norbert Kuhn, 1181 270<sup>th</sup> Street East, Randolph

Comment: The City will flip flop on whether or not to annex. His feeling is if sewer and water are provided, all of Section 5 will be annexed. City sewer and water, curb and gutter, etc. will be major expenses for those affected.

After recessing for five minutes, the meeting reconvened to allow the Board to review questions and comments to present to the School Board.

**Paul Irrthum made a motion and Arlyn Lamb seconded to adjourn. Motion carried 4 ayes.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maralee Rother Clerk

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Becker Chair