

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

Castle Rock Township held an open forum April 14, 2004. 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.

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

Comment: Traffic will be an issue.

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

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

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. 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.

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.

Comment: Concerned about location of fire station.

Question: Has 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.

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

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

Comment: 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.

Comment: Concerned about the impact of development and rezoning.

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

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. Recommends saying no right away, Farmington has said they will not force annexation or zoning.

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 Township to have the school locate here.

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 #1: 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 #2: 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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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?

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.

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

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

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.