

## Town Meeting

2-4-14

### Town Meeting

February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014

(Cafeteria)

Today's Town Meeting focused solely on a discussion of the APS CIP "More Seats for Students" Initiative and H-B Woodlawn's role.

- Jacob H: Remember that other places in the county can solve the problem, too.
- Jules: Change is inevitable — too many students. How to we preserve HBW?
- Finlay: Best scenario – HBW doesn't have to change. But we need to compromise.
- Purpose of meeting: (Frank) Students must decide. Ideas = solidify talking points, speaking with one voice.
- Marie: HBW is great, but its worth is already proven. We should provide concrete facts that our program is good. There are other good schools in the county, so we are not necessarily the best.
- Amanda: We do not need to say how great our program is to the county. We should provide good alternative solutions to overcrowding problem – concrete solutions – and be willing to compromise. Brainstorm solutions to the problem and how HBW helps Arlington schools in general.
- Ari: Possibility of moving APS workers from building across from W-L and put a school there.
- Frank: (Point of info) There are no more APS workers in the building across Quincy Street from W-L and those buildings are not owned by Arlington, so not a possible solution.
- HBW is too crowded as is. Teachers already work too hard; if students are added to HBW teachers will be overworked.
- HBW is being targeted in process of finding solution.
- Finlay: HBW is not being targeted. We could be willing to go slightly more over-capacity (same level as county as a whole), which would be symbolic.
- Rebecca: There is space where schools could possibly but built, property not currently owned by Arlington County.
- Eliza: (direct question) What are the other solutions that are being talked about, the ones that do not affect us?
- Frank: (answer to question) Attend community forum at W-L tomorrow night to learn about all proposed solutions. There will be a feasibility study to determine which solutions are possible. 7:30pm
- Lily: Would student teacher-ratio be affected by possible solutions affecting HBW?
- Mary: HBW would only get extra teachers only if ratio gets too out-of-hand.
- (Note from editor – Superintendent is proposing changes to student/teacher ratio as part of the solution to this ... but such measures have traditionally met with high resistance from the community)
- Lily: Student-teacher ratio should be brought up at meeting; having HBW and Stratford in the same building is beneficial to the Stratford Program; some clubs at HBW work directly with Middle Schoolers; Arlington is building a pool in South Arlington, which could be a school instead (Long Bridge Aquatics Center)
- Amanda: HBW is not only school that could be affected by the solution; not all land owned by Arlington County can be used by APS; the land that HBW is located on could be used to house many more students that it currently does.
- Marie: Stratford and HILT programs are very important to HBW. They add diversity to the program. Our school should be active in dictating the change that occurs.
- We are already over-capacity, so why not target other schools?
- Frank: HBW is on a big plot of land. That could be used to build a bigger school. Student population in county is growing too fast. Long term solution is needed.
- Ari: HBW is an historic building; maybe other schools in Arlington could be added on to.
- (Note from editor: The physical building is not designated as an Historic Landmark, just the location)
- Stratford should not be moved from HBW building
- Ellie: HBW's Middle School program is great, better than Kenmore; should try to keep HBW Middle School program and not change it too much.
- Student: Doubling student population at HBW not feasible. Too much history in the walls of the building.
- Mary (parent): Wear HBW or tie-dye shirts to County meeting on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Our school has already taken on more students in the past. County is looking to fill over 1,000 seats in county, so small amounts of student increase will not solve problem. Possibility of forming student-parent group during H-block on Tuesdays; create small groups of people to represent us at county open houses on Mondays. Sign up sheet somewhere if interested.

- Student: How would our school get space to accommodate more students?
- Frank: We would have to have an addition put on to fit more students.
- Student: Arlington should build more schools elsewhere.
- Carl: possibility of adding additional communities within APS to HBW to help with overcrowding.
- Student: Adding more students would not change our character as a school, but tearing down building would.
- Student: HBW should not be put over-capacity.
- Alec: we should be open to moving to new location. People define who we are, not the building. Our program is compatible with other programs (Stratford, HILT)
- Finlay: we need to remember that over-capacity issue is at the county level We should be ready to move, but the program itself must not be destroyed. HBW should stay small.
- Eliza: we should be prepared to move as a compromised, but Stratford and HILT programs should move with us.
- Amanda: HBW has smaller classes. We should not focus on HBW being overcrowded due to small classes. HBW is not a building, so moving would not be detrimental to program overall.
- Emma: HBW, Stratford and HILT programs should not be split up.

Motion: create a community to discuss these issues with parents that meets Tuesday at H Block in the Cafeteria. Motion PASSES

Chair: Will Hubbert

Co-Chair: Margaret Gorman

Secretary: Amanda Hayes