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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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October 29, 2010

Thomas W. Brown, Esq, Board President
Carlynton School Board
601 Reamer Drive
Carnegie, PA 15106

Sent via email, facsimile and U.S. Mail

Dear Mr. Brown:

It is our understanding that the Board of Directors of the Carlynton School District is considering a new construction project to replace Crafton Elementary and Carnegie Elementary as a result of a recent feasibility study. We write for the purpose of offering our assistance in the process, soliciting answers to some questions and to ask for a task force to allow residents an opportunity to be a part of the process.

Before there is any vote taken on a building option, we believe it is vital and your responsibility as a board to provide us and the residents of the district information related to your talks on new construction.

What are the cost projections for renovation of these two schools?

What are the cost projections for the construction of the new building?

What are the cost projections on the increased transportation costs and the impact costs on wear-and-tear of road infrastructure?

How was the Architect of Record selected? It is our understanding that the architects that created the feasibility study were given a contract without an open bid process.

Has there been public vetting of the feasibility study?

What are the long range enrollment projections for the elementary schools?

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These are tough economic times for local communities and our state. It is our humble opinion that school districts must tread very carefully and think of the long term financial and tax implications for residents when considering taking out a bond for \$25-\$40 million.

There is much uncertainty about how the pension crisis will be handled. Residents are seeing rising healthcare costs and rising costs of Alcosan. Not to mention the fact that we have yet to see the vast financial impact that is expected with the utility deregulation.

With that in mind, we would like to express our concern with new construction at this time. The residents in the Carlynton School District already face very high school taxes and a bond for new construction may push them to the financial breaking point.

We, therefore, urge you to allow for the formation of a community task force to evaluate all the options related to building stabilization. It is vital that the board engage in an open process that allows residents to be a part of a transparent process.

The creation of a task force comprised of local elected officials from Carnegie, Rosslyn Farms and Crafton as well as parents from both elementary schools and a senior citizen from each community would create a much-needed opportunity for the board to gauge the views of the community and whether or not there is wide-spread support in favor of new construction or renovation of your existing schools.

Thank you in advance for your prompt response to our questions and concerns. We look forward to engaging in a real and substantive dialogue with you on this issue. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



DAN DEASY
State Representative
27th Legislative District

Sincerely,



MATT SMITH
State Representative
42nd Legislative District

cc: Michael A. Panza, Ed. D., Carlynton School District Superintendent
Members of the Carlynton School Board
Ira Weiss, Carlynton School Solicitor
Hon. Jim Bloom, Mayor of Crafton
Members of Crafton Borough Council
Hon. James Stover, Mayor of Rosslyn Farms
Members of Rosslyn Farms Borough Council