

From: deerparkneighbors@comcast.net
Subject: Report on District 95 Open Forum
Date: September 28, 2006 11:29:15 AM CDT

Thank you to Carrie Groeller, District 95 Issue Captain for the Deer Park Neighbors, who sent in this report on the Sept. 21, 2006, meeting at Quentin School. You can reach Carrie at 847-338-7525, carriegroeller@yahoo.com.

I had the opportunity to go to the District 95 special school board meeting. Please pass along my comments to Deer Park Neighbors.

The meeting began with Dr. Knutson explaining that the board has no plans to close Quentin School. He then introduced the consultant who gave his analysis of the state of the schools in the district. The bad news is Charles Quentin is in the consultants opinion in fair to poor condition. The calculation that is used is called the FCI which is the Facility Renewal & Repair Cost over the Replacement Cost of the Asset. The FCI is calculated annually. A facility is deemed in Good Shape if the FCI is 0 to 5%; Fair Shape if it is 5 to 10%; Poor Shape is 10 to 30% and greater then 30% the facility is in Critical condition.

The consultant also looked at the capacity of the schools in relation to the enrollment numbers. As it stands this year the capacity of Quentin School is 636 children; enrollment is 411 children with a projected decrease within 5 years. The consultant also said that children do not learn well when the building they are in is in disrepair.

After the consultant spoke the audience was split into 4 groups with a school board member to brain storm and get community opinions and options. Four questions were asked.

1. What are the strengths of our current school facilities?
2. What are the challenges of our current school facilities?
3. What improvements are necessary to enhance our facilities:
4. As we begin to develop a Strategic Facility Plan, what ideas do you have to enhance the physical aspects of any of our school facilities?

The above questions were answered by the groups, because most in attendance were from Quentin School, it appeared the answers were geared towards that school. Most people agreed that while the school needs repairs it is not the building so much as the teachers and staff that really enhance our children's education. I was not aware but was informed that Quentin School children test the highest in the district overall. Which is in direct opposition to what the consultant said.

The meeting ended with no real outcome other then the school board again stating they had no plan to close Quentin or any school at this time. They believe that they will have a strategic plan in place by June 2007.

Future Community Forums will be as follows (dates, times and locations to be

announced):

| | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| October: | Board Candidates Forum |
| November: | Audit & Budget |
| January: | Topic to be announced |
| February: | Town Hall |
| March-April: | Candidate Debates |

The school board also stated that the questions above as well as the consultants report would be available on the district website for all to see.

I will keep you up to date with any other relevant information I find out. If anyone has any questions and/or comments they can contact me by email or on my cell phone. My cell number is 847-338-7525.

Thanks Carrie Groeller

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