

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION LOG

Regular Meeting – November 9, 2011

Ms. Andrea Gebler; Ms. Gebler discussed school building closures.

Ms. Kristy Carlson; Ms. Carlson discussed budgetary concerns and offered her thoughts on securing outside financial experts to help find ways to cut expenses. She stated that she felt the district should consider a Budgetary Advisory Committee and would volunteer her time and effort for that task.

Ms. Deborah Rainis; Ms. Rainis discussed the consolidation of our middle schools.

Ms. Terry Harris; Ms. Harris discussed her views on middle school closures and the disturbing effects that lie therein.

Ms. Diane Pecorale; Ms. Pecorale questioned the validity of the Study Group's report regarding space utilization and asked that all percentages be clarified.

Ms. Lynn Dean; Ms. Dean discussed school closures and the negative impact it would have on "school-connectedness".

Mr. Glenn Sloat; Mr. Sloat agreed that something needs to be done and school closures do provide a substantial amount of revenue to the district. He mentioned that even after closing schools, the district will still be facing tough times. He beseeched the board to be diligent in looking at long-term effects that any and all budgetary cuts will have on the students and residents of this community.

Ms. Kelly Xippolitos; Ms. Xippolitos discussed the closing of school buildings.

Ms. Amy Dowdell; Ms. Dowdell discussed the options the board will be reviewing before coming to any final decision.

Ms. Ruth Mineo; Ms. Mineo spoke about the closing of schools and stated that additional cuts should be made to the administrative staff.

Ms. Carmela Caminito; Ms. Caminito read excerpts from a recent newspaper article regarding teacher/administrative salaries. She said these employees should agree to pay freezes and pay cuts to help the district's financial state.

Ms. Maria Stepkowski; Ms. Stepkowski asked the board to remain cognizant of how school closings will affect the special education population who are already required to change buildings on a frequent basis.

Ms. Marcelle Crudele; Ms. Crudele questioned the board on the timing of the budget process. She wondered how we could be considering closing schools when the board has

yet to even begin preparing next year's budget. She also wanted to know how beneficial the closing of schools will be to reducing next year's budget.

Mr. Robert Maresca; Mr. Maresca reminded the board that the more transparent it is, the more trust the community will have in its actions. He said faith is a direct result of transparency and asked the board to consider placing more information on the website to accomplish this mission.

Ms. Kristina Delaney; Ms. Delaney spoke about school closures, the budget process and the recent renewal of the Superintendent's contract.

Mr. Aidan Pecorale; Mr. Pecorale spoke about being a student at Beach Street Middle School and asked the board not to consider closing his school. He said this is his first year at Beach Street and he is very comfortable being a student in that building and wouldn't want to have to move to a different school location.

Mr. Peter DeMicco; Mr. DeMicco asked that the board keep Beach Street Middle School open. Closing it would mean that there would only be one middle school in the district and doing that could add additional costs to the budget such as transportation, fuel, etc.

Ms. Doreen Hantzschel; Ms. Hantzschel discussed her concerns regarding the structure of the integrated program within the district. Ms. Hantzschel also asked the board to give additional consideration to the Foundations program which she feels the district sorely needs and is critical in the provision of reading instruction.