

September 25, 2015

Dear Dr. Glasspool:

I am writing this letter to voice my opinion on building a new Regency Park school. We bought our home 12 years ago in the Regency Park neighborhood because of the community school. We loved the fact the school was close to home. That school was the heart of our neighborhood. Many elderly people reside on my street. Through the past several years, many of my neighbors have passed away or were placed in care facilities. Their houses have gone up for sale. All of these homes are now occupied by young families. These young families are now having their own children. In fact, two of my neighbors just had babies this summer. Two more are expecting. These families bought their home partly because of the school. Their children will also be attending Regency Park. In actuality, our community is expanding and advancing. We will need more and larger schools in the future.

If a new school is not built, I am concerned that the property value of my home will decrease. We have seen time and time again what can happen to an empty lot or vacant building. We purchased our home because of the neighborhood, the school and the reputation of the school district itself. We don't want our community turning into another Penn Hills.

Secondly, the current elementary school does not have enough room to house all of our children. These children cannot function in classes with upwards of 25 children. Many people do not realize that education has changed significantly over the past several years. Children are expected to learn at a much higher and advanced rate than we did at their age. People have also not taken into account that the number of learning disabled or children with special needs has increased since mainstreaming has taken place. My daughter has had up to 5 children in her class who were behavioral or had special needs. These children take away much of the time the teacher. Put these kids in a classroom with 25 or more kids and it's a recipe for disaster.

It is not the fault of the community or our children that the Plum District school Board lacks foresight. They built multiple schools and never made them large enough to accommodate our kids. I believe that you personally stated in a school board meeting that the current schools were not big enough especially in the common areas. Our children are the ones who are suffering from the decisions of an inept group of people. They closed a school without planning where to put our kids. They redistricted us and sent us to one of the furthest schools in the district. We actually have two schools closer to us but we drive right past them. The school board seemed to forget that closing this school would require extra buses and transportation costs that they never considered. They sent us to a school which was shut down and deemed not appropriate for the other children of Holiday Park; however, they seem to think it is fine for our kids.

**We never asked for a new school.** We were perfectly happy with Regency Park. **We just wanted it to stay open.** It was the school board who had voted multiple times to rebuild. Since Sal Coella did not like that decision, he does everything in his power to change the mind of the board. It is time for the

school board to move forward with building Regency Park and keep their promise to the community and our children. They already voted for a new school. The decision was made. Let's move forward from here. It is needed for the future of our children and Plum Borough as a school district.

Thank you for your time and understanding.

Sincerely,

A PRO-Regency Park Parent

Kelly Remai

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