

PRO/CON

Is Construction Constructive Now?

NO: Adding to the School; Adding to Taxes

by Nathan DiYorio

The economy is falling and almost everybody is pinching their pennies, or they're trying to. So why is it that the staff of Kingswood Regional High School think this is a good time to enact the remodeling of the high school that they've been proposing for so long?

Most of the faculty in the building will tell you that now is a great time to do the remodeling. Now is a time when contractors are on their knees pleading and begging for work just to keep their staff around, regardless of profit.

But estimates of the project are around sixty-seven million dollars. Granted, the state will pay for most of that, but we still have to pull about twenty-seven million dollars out of the pockets and paychecks of the American taxpayer.

Now, when the economy is so bad that contractors are begging for work, the schools are asking to raise tax prices. When the bills and debts that must be paid by the average citizen are so great that the number of foreclosed homes has reached an all-time high, rising eight percent in the last year alone. So why does the Governor Wentworth educational system think that now would be a good time to remodel the school? Are they aware how drastically a rise in taxes would affect the families in their district? What benefits would be brought from the remodeling?

As I look at the blueprints for the end result of the remodeling, I see little improvement of education. The library/media center gets moved and actually loses some room. Sure, I see a few more classrooms, but will that do more than improve the current overcrowded status of the school population?

The answer can't be found in the blueprints. The answer can't even be found by asking a school official. The only way to improve the educational status of the school is to buy better teachers.

More facilities are great; they're good for adding more classes. But are they truly necessary for the educational advancement of our district? I, for one, do not think so. The school's facilities do not need improvement beyond a few needed repairs and annoyances in the current layout.

YES: School in Need Deserves Votes, Indeed

by Victoria Glidden

Well, it's that time again. As we sit in class praying the ceiling tiles don't fall on our heads or shiver because our seat is next to the infamous plastic walls that offer no real protection from wintery elements, it's time for us to cross our fingers and hope that the third try really is a charm.

Kingswood Regional High School is operating at 98% capacity (and growing). The thermostats seem to always be stuck on 80 degrees during finals week in June and it's almost

impossible to miss the places where missing floor tiles are accentuated with bright yellow caution tape.

But those aren't the only obstacles the high school is facing. With last year's New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEAS&C) accreditation process over and results pending, it is imperative that some changes must be made to the building in order to meet safety regulations and satisfy accreditation suggestions. Without the needed modifications to the school, Kingswood could lose its accreditation. For students, this means they will have a hard time getting into competitive colleges once admissions season rolls around. To be safe, consider making friends with some Brewster kids.

Perhaps one of the most exciting pieces of the renovation plans is the proposal for geothermic heat. Not only will this system heat the building effectively and efficiently; it will also offer cooling during the much warmer months. Geothermal heating pumps use natural heat from the ground water (remember sophomore year biology class?) in order to provide heat in the building. In other words, it's modern technology that offers a much more cost-effective and energy-efficient supply of heat. Talk about going green!

The plans sound pretty nice, huh? Unfortunately, these types of changes just can't happen. That is, they can't happen without the approval of taxpaying voters. That is, they can't happen without your parents, your grandparents, your aunts and uncles, your older brother, your older sister, and maybe even you!

If you want to know more information, I suggest reading this newspaper. If you still want to know more information, contact any member of the GWRSD school board or administrator at the office of the SAU.

Spread the word. Spread the need.