

Leadership??

What in the world are David Eblen, Julia Beckman and the District 99 School Board thinking? Their recent "leadership" decisions include:

1. They are now one of the few, probably only, local taxing bodies that expects citizens to sit through a three hour Board meeting before being allowed to express general thoughts and concerns on District issues. Shouldn't our school board instead be an advocate of open and vigorous discussion?
2. I don't recall ever seeing an organization communicate as many confusing and conflicting positions on an issue as District 99 has on the Woodridge property. In recent months that position has included, "Not for sale," "Wish to sell," and "Not sure if we're selling." Such confusion in the private sector would have resulted in some strategic re-assignments and downsizing weeks ago. It is long past the time for District leadership to just figure out what they need to do with the property and do it!
3. David Eblen and Mark Staehlin first claimed the District had no agreement with Woodridge, then, when a copy of the agreement was produced, they claimed it was meaningless without an additional formal legal document. Shame on them for indicating District 99's word is of little value unless one also obtains a detailed legal document codifying such an agreement. That is a ! heck of a message to give students and our community.
4. Finally, District "leadership" needs to re-examine its ethical standards relevant to their claim that any sale of the property must be analyzed based on its "highest use." Clearly they define "highest use" as squeezing the last penny possible from the property so as to maximize relief for their ever deteriorating capital budget. I would suggest, however, that most citizens with a strong ethical compass believe "highest use" means best use of that property as it relates to the immediate community. That does not equate to the high density housing District 99 and its expensive consultants are promoting! It is incredibly arrogant, but, unfortunately consistent with past actions by District leadership, such as the unpopular third high school idea, to push a plan that lacks any consensus in the community it most affects! As such! , I believe District 99 has forfeited any moral authority to lecture students on making proper decisions. They first must practice what they preach!!

As noted previously, it is time for several people at the District administration building to retire and start enjoying the \$100,000 lifetime pensions plus insurance benefits taxpayers must somehow now pay for.

William Vollrath

Downers Grove, 60516