

FAIRFIELD BOARD MEETING 3/20/08 NEW FAIRFIELD STADIUM

MS. MILLIGAN, DR. MORRIS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD,

I FIRST WISH TO THANK YOU ALL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY THAT I HAVE TONIGHT TO ADDRESS THE BOARD AND THE COMMUNITY WITH REGARDS TO THE CURRANT STATE OF OUR DISTRICTS LARGEST ATHLETIC FACILITY....THE FAIRFIELD FOOTBALL STADIUM.

AS MOST OF YOU MAY OR MAY NOT KNOW, FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS,...I HAVE ATTEMPTED A BOTTOM UP EFFORT TO GET A NEW STADIUM FACILITY BUILT ON THE CAMPUS OF FAIRFIELD HIGH. AND FOR MANY AND VARIED REASONS....I HAVE LITTLE SUCCESS IN ACCOMPLISHING THIS FEAT.

DURING THIS TIME, I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PERSONALLY INVESTIGATE WHAT MANY OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND COMMUNITIES HAVE GONE THRU IN THEIR EFFORTS TO BUILD NEW STADIUM FACILITIES FOR THEMSELVES. ONE MAJOR SIMILARITY STANDS OUT IN JUST ABOUT EACH CASE.....IT WAS A DIFFICULT EFFORT FOR MOST OF THOSE STADIUM PROJECTS TO GET OFF THE GROUND AND THAT IT WAS ALL NOT CHEAP TO DO!

LIKE US...MOST IF NOT ALL OF THESE SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY HAVE ALL HAD CHALLENGING FUNDING ISSUES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. THE MAJORITY OF THOSE PROJECTS, THOUGH, WERE FUNDED THRU COMMUNITY DONATION EFFORTS AND CORPORATE SPONCERSHIP.

YEARS AGO, WHEN THIS SCHOOL FACILITY WAS PLANNED, THE THEN BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION DECIDED TO FORGO THE ADDITION OF A NEW STADIUM IN THE PLANS FOR THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL, BECAUSE THEY FELT THAT OUR PRESENT STADIUM HAD A FEW MORE GOOD YEARS OF SERVICE LEFT. UP TO NOW, WE HAVE INDEED BEEN ABLE TO STRETCH OUT THE USE OF OUR STADIUM. TODAY, WE NOW FIND OURSELVES FACING A NUMBER OF CHALLENGES WITH THE PRESENT STATE OF OUR STADIUM. THE PRELIMINARY JARRED'S LAW INSPECTION OF OUR STADIUM HAS BROUGHT TO THE FOREFRONT A NUMBER OF DEFICIENCIES THAT MOST OF US HAVE KNOWN TO HAVE EXISTED WITH A STADIUM OF THE AGE AND THE DESIGN THAT OURS PRESENTS.

NOW THAT THIS BOARD HAS BEEN GIVEN SOME IDEA OF WHAT THE DOLLAR ESTIMATE IS TO MAKE THE REQUIRED REPAIRS TO THE STADIUM...IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT WE MAY DO WELL TO CONSIDER RATHER THAN UNDERTAKING THOSE REPAIRS, THAT WE LOOK INTO BUILDING A NEW STADIUM HERE ON CAMPUS. WHAT IT IS GOING TO TAKE IS A CONCERTED EFFORT OF OUR CITIZENS, OUR ALUMNI, OUR BUSINESS LEADERS, OUR BOOSTER ORGANISATIONS AND ABOVE ALL...YOU...THE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS TO PUT IT OUT TO THE PUBLIC, THE OFFICIAL TOP LEVEL REQUEST THAT THE COMMUNITY PUT TOGETHER A WAY AND MEANS COMMITTEE TO ASSEMBLE THE PLANS AND GARNER THE FUNDS

TO BUILD A NEW COMMUNITY FUNDED STADIUM FOR FAIRFIELD.  
NOW....FOR THOSE WATCHING AT HOME WHO HAVE JUST SAID TO  
THEMSELVES ALOUD....."YOU'RE ASKING US TO DO WHAT?".....  
I WANT TO ASSURE TO ALL TO WHOM HAVE HEARD MY REQUEST  
THAT WE MUST ONLY ATTEMPT TO BUILD THIS NEW STADIUM  
USING ONLY PUBLIC DONATIONS AND CORPORATE SPONSERSHIP...  
AND THAT WE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO USE ANY SORT OF TAXATION  
TO PAY FOR THIS PROJECT. THE PUBLIC SHOULD FREELY GIVE THE  
NEEDED FUNDS TO BUILD THIS NEW STADIUM IN RETURN FOR A  
TAX DEDUCTABLE RIGHTOFF FOR A NON PROFIT PROJECT. IN THIS  
WAY, THOSE WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EFFORT TO BUILD  
THIS MUCH NEEDED ATHLETIC FACILITY CAN DO SO WHILE THOSE  
WHO WISH NOT TO BE A PART OF IT CAN WITHHOLD THEIR FINANCIAL  
SUPPORT. THE PUBLIC CAN ALSO GIVE WHATEVER AMOUNT THEY  
DEEM FIT TO AFFORD. NO ONE WILL BE FORCED BY LAW TO  
FINANCIALLY SUPPORT A PROJECT THAT THEY DON'T CARE TO  
SUPPORT.

IN REFERNCING BACK TO THE JARRED'S LAW REPORT, IT SEEMS TO  
ME THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO REPAIR OR REPLACE THE EXISTING  
HOMESIDE BLEACHERS IN THE PRESENT STADIUM WOULD BE  
A SOMEWHAT FUTAL EFFORT IN PUTTING GOOD MONEY OUT AFTER  
BAD. IN THE PACKET OF PAPERS THAT I HAVE PROVIDED FOR YOU, I  
HAVE NOTED SOME OF THE FEATURES AND ISSUES WITH THE

CURRENT STADIUM. RATHER THAN TAKING THE TIME TO GO OVER EACH POINT FOR POINT... THAT WOULD TAKE UP MORE TIME THAN I'VE BEEN ALLOTTED HERE TONIGHT. I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU TO GO OVER EACH POINT ON YOUR OWN, CONSIDERING THAT MOST OF THEM ARE KNOWN TO MOST OF YOU ALREADY.

ACCORDINGLY, I HAVE ALSO PROVIDED AN OVERVIEW OF THE FEATURES THAT A NEW STADIUM, CONSTRUCTED ON THIS CAMPUS WOULD AFFORD OUR DISTRICT'S SPORTS AND MUSIC PROGRAMS, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF RAISING THE FUNDS NECESSARY TO KEEP OUR EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS FUNCTIONING.

IN RECENT DAYS, I HAVE REGRETABLY LEARNED THAT THE COST OF BUILDING A STADIUM OF ANY SIZE, MUCH LESS THE 8000 SEAT FACILITY THAT I ENVISION FOR FAIRFIELD, HAS DRAMATICALLY INCREASED IN PRICE. NO MATTER WHAT SEATING CAPACITY THE STADIUM COMMITTEE WOULD DECIDE TO PURSUE, A FULLY FUNCTIONAL STADIUM FEATURING A FIELD TURF PLAYING SURFACE WOULD COST US BETWEEN \$425 TO \$475 DOLLARS PER SEAT.

AT THE END OF THE DAY, THOUGH, THE FINANCIAL REWARDS AND STATURE OF A CIVICALLY SPONSORED AND FUNDED PROJECT SUCH AS THIS WOULD FAR OUTWEIGH THE THOUGHT OF ATTEMPTING TO SAY WITH A STADIUM AT THE SITE WE PRESENTLY HAVE, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE REPAIRS AND UPGRADES THAT MUST BE ENDURED, AND NOT TO FORGET THE LACK OF ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC

PARKING THAT EXISTS THERE AT THE PRESENT TIME.

TO RESTATE MY INTENTION HERE TONIGHT, IT IS MY PROFOUND WISH THAT THIS SCHOOL BOARD BE BOLD AND TAKE THE STEPS REQUIRED TO FORMALLY REQUEST THE COMMUNITY TO COME TOGETHER TO BUILD THIS MUCH NEEDED NEW STADIUM ON THE CAMPUS OF FAIRFIELD HIGH SCHOOL.

I AM WELL AWARE THAT THE COST OF SUCH A PROJECT IS, AT THIS TIME AND PLACE EXTREAMLY HIGH, BUT I DARE SAY THAT "THE GREATEST THING WE DO IN LIFE IS THAT WHICH WILL COST US THE MOST!" I IMPLORE YOU TO TAKE THIS BOLD STEP TO ASK THE COMMUNITIES OF FAIRFIELD CITY AND TOWNSHIP TO STEP UP AND MAKE THIS, OUR FIELD OF DREAMS BECOME A REALITY. THE MANTRA...THE BATTLE CRY FOR THIS UNDERTAKING SO RIGHTOUSLY SHOULD BE....

TOGETHER.....WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN!

I THANK THE BOARD AND THE CITIZENS OF OUR COMMUNITY FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION THIS EVENING. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.