

To: Dr. Roumpos, Dr. Hawk, FH School Board

Cc John Klein, Jennifer Jolls

(Circa: August 14, 2022)

Francis Howell Families was encouraged to see the new Francis Howell School District administration conduct the PropS Citizen's Roundtable on 8/10/2022. It was an important first step in addressing the TRANSPARENCY issue that has been sorely missing regarding recent capital expenditure projects.

While addressing transparency is critical, we feel it equally important to understand other issues regarding the (mis)management of recent PropS projects (FHN High School in particular). We cannot find ourselves 'off' by tens of millions of dollars for capital projects again. Understanding what went wrong and avoiding any such repeat in the future will go a long way in regaining the TRUST of the community. This can be accomplished by creating a report of the flaws and suggested corrections in the original planning, bidding, and oversight process.

We understand the time sensitive nature of moving ahead and addressing the needs of our schools are critical. Key factors must be carefully weighed: potential impacts to education, safety and health concerns, conditions of existing equipment.

With all this in mind, Francis Howell Families feels it prudent to request that a PropS audit be conducted and that the board and administration approve and implement it immediately. The objectives of an audit will allow us to move forward sensibly, carefully, and judiciously and will allow us to:

- Determine an optimal bid process/methodology
- Provide Lessons Learned
- Give Insights of Things to Avoid
- Establish accountability
- Provide more accurate forecasting
- Deliver budget consistency
- Rebuild stakeholder trust

Finally, we realize that the district will likely need to ask the taxpayers for additional funds in the near future. We feel it unlikely our stakeholders will approve additional bond funds without an assurance that the same mistakes will not be repeated.

Let us move forward with confidence, with facts and figures that will regain trust, and cooperation that will show us working together.

Respectfully,

Ken Gontarz, President
Francis Howell Families

