

Below are the responses to questions to the Madison Central Board of Education that were received by email on January 24, 2016. Mr. Langbein questions are in black and the BOE response is in blue.

To Tracey Lewis, Clerk of the Board:

The following are questions I've asked at the past 3 board meetings, and have not been answered as I was told I had to submit them 10 days advanced in writing.

Thank you for submitting your questions. The above statement in your letter is inaccurate as there were no public forum comments at the January meeting. We have enclosed a copy of our public forum protocol for your review. Please keep these in mind as you read through our answers. As you know these protocols are available at each Board of Education meeting and on the website.

Public Forum Information / Guidelines

1. Please place your name, address, and email or phone number on the sign-up sheet.
2. Public forum is a time for the public to make statements, comments, or suggestions to the Board. We respectfully remind you that this is the appropriate time for public interaction at the BOE meeting. Comments at other times during the BOE meeting will not be heard. If you wish to ask questions to the BOE they must be requested in writing at least one week prior to the meeting and given to the district clerk or Board of Education. The following email addresses should be used: tlewis@madisoncentralny.org or BoardofEducation@madisoncentralny.org
3. The Board will listen to your words and bear them in mind, but generally not respond during public forum or the board meeting. Many matters can be handled by following the chain of command and first speaking with the appropriate person without bringing the matter to the board meeting. If you don't know who it would be, you may contact the district office to help you through the process and identify the appropriate person.
4. By district policy, public forum is not the place to make derogatory comments about specific persons. Such comments can be made privately to the superintendent or board president who can follow up appropriately.
5. If you have concerns but would prefer not to speak during public forum, you are free to write or email the board and your issue will be addressed. Again, all questions must be requested in writing at least one week prior to the meeting and given to the district clerk or Board of Education for an answer. The following email addresses should be used: tlewis@madisoncentralny.org or BoardofEducation@madisoncentralny.org
6. We respectfully ask public forum speakers to limit themselves to fewer than five minutes. Please be brief. There will be an opportunity for public forum at the beginning and the end of each meeting.

If the school uses all the reserves as stated in the capital building project brochure, and say that there will be no tax increase this year, how will you build back the reserves for the future? Raise taxes in all the following years? As a past BOE member we are sure that you realize that there are 13 approved reserves for public school use. This said, these reserves are set up for specific purposes and use. A capital reserve is set up for capital projects and can only be used for capital expenditures. You also know that most of the reserves are filled by using unanticipated fund balance at the end of the fiscal school year, not through direct taxation. This money encompasses state aid as well as local tax dollars and it is a decision of the BOE at the time. The \$300,000 dollars for the capital reserve was set up, when you were on the BOE, in anticipation of the next

building project. This all said, when the building project is completed there will be little need to fill this reserve unless there is unanticipated fund balance at the end of the fiscal school year. Remember that the \$300,000 we are using for the current project came from that exact situation over a period of years.

We have done Excel projects over the past few years, repaired brick work, drains in the gym wall, and many other things, yet in the brochure you say the walls show cracks and wear. Where and how bad? Are they really unsafe? The repair projects that you are referring to are corrected issues to the exterior walls of the building. The repairs that this project will address are to the interior walls and ceilings. Some of them are in the gym and the back stage area of the cafetorium which has not been renovated since 1932, when it was built. The other cracks are in the gym wall gypsum board. Mr. Post has done a great job at hiding them and keeping them covered. If you recall a larger section of plaster fell out nearly missing a gentleman at a game last year.

The boy's locker room walls, floors, and lockers, were done in the last 10 years. Yet the architect stated at the meeting that our bathrooms were inadequate and in poor condition. The first floor bathrooms' function well, but they are old. Do they need to be totally replaced? Not sure of your question here as you jump from locker rooms to bathrooms so we will address both. The bathrooms that the architect addressed are in the 1932 portion of the building. Much of the work done during the last project was cosmetic and did not address infrastructure of water and sewer which this project does address. The locker rooms are an essential part of the reconstruction process to accomplish the educational goals and vision set forth by the building project committee and approved by the BOE and voters.

The roof repair was part of the last capital project. If you go ahead and expand the seating in the gym, won't we be ripping up a roof that was just done a few years ago? The gym roof will stay intact. You were misinformed if you were told otherwise.

The retractable bleachers in the cafetorium and gym, were I believe a part of the last project. How can they be worn out as stated in meeting? Seating in both locations are in need of replacement and is nearing the end of their 20 year lifespan, all things that were presented to you when you were on the Board of Education. The frames of the gym seating are bent and misaligned. The purpose of an auditorium is not to hold graduation. It is to provide a comfortable acoustically balanced performance space for performances and large group presentations. As our programs have grown they are in need of these spaces. That said, with the proposed seating capacity we could **potentially** hold commencements in this venue as well as all of the concerts.

You state the motor is in need of constant repair. Is it the right sized motor? Maybe, but they are worn out so this becomes a moot point.

What is the actual cost of the new seating in the gym? Refer to the information provided at the public hearing and posted on our website.

What is the actual cost of the new seating in the auditorium? Refer to the information provided at the public hearing and posted on our website.

If built as proposed it still would not be big enough to hold graduation, and would be standing room only for some concerts. At the information meeting, the architect stated there was no

salvage value for the old seats in the gym and the cafetorium. Why? The zero salvage value of the seating is based on the cost to remove and re-install, but more importantly the potential liability to the district that would come with the sale.

The cafeteria to my knowledge is grandfathered, and is up to code. If moved it would no longer be grandfathered, and then have to have everything new. Moving the cafeteria will allow all students to be able to actually eat in the cafeteria and not in a classroom (LGI) but more than that, upgrading the outdated kitchen facility will most likely allow for greater efficiency and increased productivity. Again the cafeteria is an essential part of the reconstruction process to accomplish the educational goals and vision set forth by the building project committee and approved by the BOE and voters.

Is this spending money wisely when the cafeteria loses money as it is? As a past BOE member you should know that the cafeteria service has its own school lunch fund and doesn't pay rent to the school for a cafeteria making this question irrelevant.

The secondary offices were redone a few years back. Now you want to move them again, and destroy what was done in the last project? Yes, by doing so we increase instructional space and provide a better education for our students. All office spaces from 2001 were constructed with simple metal studs that follow channels and can easily and cost effectively be removed. Using this space for students is much more valuable than for administrative functions.

The athletic fields? One million dollars? What will be done? Will the work require contractors to replace the leach fields done in the last project? The final scope of work is yet to be determined as stated at the public hearing. Remember that the work on the athletic fields is incorporated into the **site work**, explanation of this work is below. No work on the leach fields is planned. **Items included in the site work** - Athletic Field Upgrades • Exterior Basketball Court • Repave Entrance Drive • Playscape Fiber • New Flagpole • LED Entrance Sign

Repave the town road? Is this legal use of education money? We have put these two questions together if we understand their meaning correctly. Yes it is legal through an inter-municipal agreement.

Is it good use of education money? Yes.

How far will the new pavement go? To the bus garage? To the end of the ball field? To Madison lake? This will be up to the town and if they wish to pave past what the district can invest from the project funds. At this time there has not been a determination.

What will the cost be? Preliminary cost estimates are \$70,000 (**88.7 % state aid makes the true cost to the district around \$7,910**); however, final plans for the scope of the site work are not complete at this time.

A LED sign, what will the cost be? How will you make it more visible than the current sign which was built in the last project? The cost of the sign is estimated to be around \$25,000 to \$30,000 dollars. **Again, with 88.7 % state aid this makes the true cost to the district around \$2,825 to \$3,390 dollars.** The benefits of LED lights are that they are bright, clear, and easily read. The nature of a lighted sign at night will make it more visible.

The project was advertised at 9.9 million. The actual cost is 13.3, over 15 years when you figure in the interest expense. How much of this 13.3 will be aid able? Refer to the information provided at the public hearing and posted on our website. **Remember that the loan interest is aided by the state at 88.7% as well.**

You stated the state will aid all but 1.2 million, and that will come from the reserves. Are you sure the state will aid the whole project. Not sure until it goes through the final review and approval process at the state level. As a past BOE member who has been on the BOE during building projects, you will understand that this is a very common occurrence with building projects. That is why the architects and current BOE members traveled to the State Education Department's Facilities Planning office this summer to reaffirm the aid ability of our potential plans. At that time we specifically addressed this question and received assurances that our plan was in fact aid able.

I asked if you had considered trying to purchase the property adjacent to the parking lot to enlarge the parking area. Is this being considered? No

I asked if a sidewalk going out the west entrance was being considered? No, this issue has been looked into when you brought it to the BOE during your term. The answer is still the same; the village will have to put in another crosswalk to accommodate the new sidewalk on the west side. The village would have to then pay for two crossing guards increasing the taxes to our village residents. This is also a state road and is an issue that would need to be addressed/studied by the NYS Department of Transportation Department.

I asked if you would consider widening the east entrance so you could have two lanes of in traffic for parent pickup to keep the car congestion off route 20. Can anything be done about the visibility on the west driveway looking west? The bank and the trees block sight. This is an issue that would need to be addressed/studied by the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT).

These are only a few of the questions I've had. I find it very unfriendly when you put a proposal to the public to vote on without giving all the facts. I hope more information will be available.

Thank you,

Bill Langbein

We will provide you with the information that is known at the time of your questions. You yourself sat on the building committee and know that there is a lot more to the questions that you are asking in which the BOE and building committee will be addressing as the project unfolds. It is our hope that you have a better understanding of the project and the educational needs of our students. Thank you for your questions.

Tracey Lewis

From: wlangbein@twcny.rr.com
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2016 7:52 PM
To: Tracey Lewis
Subject: Questions for the Board and/or Administration

To Tracey Lewis, Clerk of the Board:

The following are questions I've asked at the past 3 board meetings, and have not been answered as I was told I had to submit them 10 days advanced in writing.

If the school uses all the reserves as stated in the capital building project brochure, and say that there will be no tax increase this year, how will you build back the reserves for the future? Raise taxes in all the following years?

We have done Excel projects over the past few years, repaired brick work, drains in the gym wall, and many other things, yet in the brochure you say the walls show cracks and wear. Where and how bad? Are they really unsafe?

The boy's locker room walls, floors, and lockers, were done in the last 10 years. Yet the architect stated at the meeting that our bathrooms were inadequate and in poor condition. The first floor bathrooms' function well, but they are old. Do they need to be totally replaced?

The roof repair was part of the last capital project. If you go ahead and expand the seating in the gym, won't we be ripping up a roof that was just done a few years ago?

The retractable bleachers in the cafetorium and gym, were I believe a part of the last project. How can they be worn out as stated in meeting?

You state the motor is in need of constant repair. Is it the right sized motor?

What is the actual cost of the new seating in the gym? What is the actual cost of the new seating in the auditorium? If built as proposed it still would not be big enough to hold graduation, and would be standing room only for some concerts. At the information meeting, the architect stated there was no salvage value for the old seats in the gym and the cafetorium. Why?

The cafeteria to my knowledge is grandfathered, and is up to code. If moved it would no longer be grandfathered, and then have to have everything new. Is this spending money wisely when the cafeteria loses money as it is?

The secondary offices were redone a few years back. Now you want to move them again, and destroy what was done in the last project?

The athletic fields? One million dollars? What will be done? Will the work require contractors to replace the leach fields done in the last project?

Repave the town road? Is this legal use of education money? Is it good use of education money? How far will the new pavement go? To the bus garage? To the end of the ball field? To Madison lake?
What will the cost be?

A LED sign, what will the cost be? How will you make it more visible than the current sign which was built in the last project?

The project was advertised at 9.9 million. The actual cost is 13.3, over 15 years when you figure in the interest expense. How much of this 13.3 will be aid able?

You stated the state will aid all but 1.2 million, and that will come from the reserves. Are you sure the state will aid the whole project. I asked if you had considered trying to purchase the property adjacent to the parking lot to enlarge the parking area. Is this being considered? I asked if a sidewalk going out the west entrance was being considered? I asked if you would consider widening the east entrance so you could have two lanes of in traffic for parent pickup to keep the car congestion off route 20. Can anything be done about the visibility on the west driveway looking west? The bank and the trees block sight.

These are only a few of the questions I've had. I find it very unfriendly when you put a proposal to the public to vote on without giving all the facts. I hope more information will be available.

Thank you,

Bill Langbein