

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

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## Citizens join Paterno

A while back, when the South Building was put back in play by the State College Area school board, we offered an editorial view that a timeout should be called and people should examine various State High building plans, rather than continue with one controversial \$100 million plan.

Our view went over like a lead balloon, and nothing stopped continued planning for what is now termed a \$97.6 million plan.

Along the way, David Paterno told the board that he'd take a shot at coming up with an alternative plan, and silence followed for weeks and month.

But today, we know a bit about Paterno's plan -- it's for two schools and it comes in about \$30 million less expensive -- and we await learning more.

It also is supported by citizens -- listed in [today's Dena Pauling story](#) -- who came forward with Paterno and this proposal.

It strikes me on this Happy Valley Tuesday that Paterno and those citizens did something we haven't seen with the citizens who volunteer and work with the school board. Those citizens haven't been heard from and of course their meetings have been closed throughout.

It also strikes me that Paterno and those citizens did essentially what we suggested months ago -- examine and offer alternative plans for consideration before moving forward.

And it strikes me that it takes a lot -- an awful lot -- for citizens to address a school board and to blaze a trail, and Paterno did that last night in a respectful way.

Nowhere in this blog item have I supported one plan or another, so I suggest Web readers not read anything like that into it. But this blog item simply offers my observations -- as it should -- on where we stand now.

Perhaps it will give you something to add to your debate today.

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Posted by Bob on Tuesday, January 23, 2007 at 09:49 AM