

Superior Plan for Schools

David Paterno's proposal for the State High renovation is an outstanding, well-thought-out and well-written plan. The systematic comparison it presents shows it to be superior to the board's plan on educational and financial grounds.

The Paterno plan would provide facilities roughly equal to the board's plan, but at a savings of no less than \$30 million.

It would be financially irresponsible for the board to ignore this potential savings. The money saved should go toward the costs of needed renovations in many of the district's other schools.

It would be irresponsible for the board to add unnecessarily to the district's tax burden, driving up rents and exacerbating the lack of affordable housing in State College.

The board's big-school plan puts too many students in one very large building, creating an environment that is not nurturing or educationally sound.

Extensive research on the effects of school size on student learning, participation, identity, and welfare makes it clear that smaller schools are more desirable than large schools.

It is time -- past time -- for the school board to heed the extensive criticism of its unpopular plan. Board members ignored the overwhelming opposition to their plan voiced at the Act 34 hearing. They do not have the consent of the community.

They should begin behaving democratically and allow a complete and open re-evaluation of what plan is best for improving our high school or a vote by the public on their plan in a referendum.

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