

The Sensible Solution:

Response on the Initial Review of the Sensible Solution

The Sensible Solution was authored by concerned and professional volunteers of this community who have absolutely no vested financial interests in the final decision regarding the high school. The Sensible Solution was written to build support for a viable option at a time when this community is sorely in need of healing. The approach of the Sensible Solution team was to work with the district to develop a conceptual alternative using the requirements and data provided by the district so that a detailed and independent analysis could be completed. At the time the Sensible Solution was drafted, the district had only completed the 60% design.

On late Friday afternoon, the Sensible Solution team received a copy of the initial review of our plan prepared by the State College Area School District (SCASD), L. Robert Kimball and Associates, and Poole Anderson Construction. Our team reviewed the SCASD team document and is prepared to discuss the findings with all relevant parties. We have offered several times to meet with any and all representatives of the district to answer questions and discuss the Sensible Solution. We are puzzled why we have not received any requests from the district to dialog on this matter. This lack of any communication caused the review of our plan to be grossly inaccurate.

The document by the SCASD and the two contractors employed by the district is not an accurate analysis of the Sensible Solution. We do not want to debate line by line in this initial response but it is important to highlight five key points in the SCASD team document:

- 1) The SCASD team document does not address the delivery of education nor does it discuss community support/consensus.
- 2) The SCASD team document makes many statements but no real facts or figures are provided to back up these statements.
- 3) The SCASD team document heavily focuses on details that were not part of their own 60% design. We attempted to compare apples to apples but this does not mean that these tactical details cannot be developed into our two building design.
- 4) The SCASD team document has many inaccurate assumptions that could have been easily clarified had communication existed.
- 5) We were concerned that the tone and the language in the SCASD team document implied a lack of professionalism and objectivity.

In summary, the Sensible Solution team is extremely disappointed that the SCASD team presented an initial one sided superficial analysis rather than working together with our team to help analyze and compare the plans. Our team of community volunteers invested significant time and effort in an attempt to help heal the rift in our community. The Sensible Solution can save the district \$30-\$40M and still deliver the high standard of education we expect. We hope that the SCASD board will push to review the Sensible Solution in a work session, with the necessary rigor, and involving independent experts. Our team is ready to support such an effort. Anything less does a disservice to the students, teachers, and taxpayers in our district.