

Question 1: Are the following statements valid reasons to: 1) completely abandon the current Greenback school; and 2) spend approximately \$30,000,000.00 to construct a new building for approximately 750 students (230-240 in the high school)?

Statement

Response

1. The HVAC units do not function properly.

All defective HVAC units have been replaced with new units. The wiring has been replaced. The fire marshal has signed off on the completed work.

2. A boiler which burned coal was used to heat the original building.

This has been permanently sealed off and has had no relevance to the school since we've had electricity and gas.

3. A drain pipe in one of the dressing rooms was clogged up and produced a bad odor.

This is a maintenance issue and the principal and maintenance director would be responsible for correcting the problem. It has been cleaned out and several other improvements have been completed to the gym. It has been stated that the gym will still be used when a new school is built.

4. The library contains a book that was published when Roosevelt was in office.

The selection of books and materials in the libraries is determined by each of the librarians. Every school in the county receives the same amount of money, times the number of students in the school, for the library every year. How this money is used (books, computers, disks, etc.) is the choice of the principal and faculty.

5. The school was built in 1939.

This is simply a gross misrepresentation of the truth. Actually, only about 4% of the building was built in 1939. Additions to this structure have been completed in 1949, 1961, 1973, 1977, 1989, 1998, and 2002. The building now has 78,440 sq. ft..

6. The clinic is too small.

The clinic, if there is one, in most schools is too small.

7. There is a classroom in the basement.

Many schools have had and do have classes in the basement.

8. Need an auditorium that can be used as an arts theatre for the high school.

Greenback high school had an auditorium and in 2002, the principal and faculty members decided that since it was only used twice a year, it should be converted into four new high school classrooms.

9. There have been concerns about the sewer and septic issues.

Loudon County and Greenback City completed an extensive sewer project in 2003. This problem has been corrected.

10. Roof is in bad shape and there are several leaks.

Greenback is the only school in the county which the roofing contractor said the roof was in good shape and did not need to be on the list to be repaired or replaced.

11. Three studies have been conducted and all three recommended that a new PK-12 school be built in Greenback.

The first study recommended that a new building be built for six grades and that the current building be renovated for the other grades. This was completed in 2005, and many improvements have been made to the present facility in the last four years.

The second study recommended a new PK-12 facility. However, this was presented in 2007, and many of the major concerns listed in this report have been addressed and corrected. Also, the vast majority of this report was considered to be invalid because it was based on incorrect data and rendered inaccurate decisions regarding most of the schools in the county.

The third study presented a cost analysis of constructing a new PK-12 building, compared to renovating the current facility for four or six grades and constructing a new building for the other grades. The cost of renovation however, included the demolition of 38,940 SF of academic classrooms, which were constructed in 1939, 1949, 1973, 1977, 1989 and areas that were renovated in 2002. The cost of this demolition was \$800,000.00 and the renovation of the 1960, 1977 and 1998 areas was \$3,400,000.00. Then the cost of the new building was added to that. Based on these costs, the recommendation was to construct a new PK-12. This analysis was completed in 2007, and most of the concerns listed in this report have been addressed and corrected.

12. It would cost a lot more money for the administration in two schools.

At the current time, Greenback has one principal and one assistant principal for approximately 750 students. If the high school students and the 7th and 8th graders were in the current building, this would only require one principal. The vice principal position could become the principal for grades PK-6 in the new building. The only increase in administrative cost would be the difference

between the amount of the assistant principal's salary and that of a principal's salary (a few thousand dollars).

13. The cafeteria is too small.

The cafeteria was renovated in 2002 and the kitchen equipment was updated. It is one of, if not the best, kitchen in the county schools.

14. None of the additions to Greenback school were good, well constructed additions.

The county employed the same architects, same engineers, same contractors and the same materials that were used to construct all of the schools and additions to the other schools in the county. So, either Greenback is in as good condition as the other schools or it seems we need to build nine new schools.

2. Question: Why should Loudon County taxpayers be required to pay \$30,000,000.00 for a new school in Greenback, (approx. 750 students) when we are still paying for the construction and improvements that have been completed on the current building?

3. Question: Why should Loudon County taxpayers be required to pay \$30,000,000.00 for a new school in Greenback (approx. 750 students) while Eaton, North Middle and Highland Park (over 2,000 students) are ignored? These schools are currently overcrowded and the yearly rate of increase in their population is consistently greater than it is in Greenback.

4. Question: Why should Loudon County taxpayers be required to pay \$30,000,000.00 for a new school in Greenback (approx. 230 students in the high school) while Loudon High School (approx. 800 students) is ignored? Loudon High School was built in 1965 and it has only had one addition for vocational transition. The current building needs to be renovated, the auditorium has been closed for student use for two years, and they greatly need a freshman academy. LHS is overcrowded and the yearly rate of increase in their population is much greater than it is in Greenback.

5. Question: Could a person, group of people or organization be responsible for initiating and sustaining a propaganda campaign to make Greenback School appear to be in such horrible condition that all of the students must be moved out, and the only option is to build a new PK-12 school? What other possible uses could someone have for the current building? Could there be plans for another assisted living and Alzheimer facility in Loudon County, a church, or maybe a city office building and community center for Greenback?