

Submitted In Accordance With PA Act 34

October 1, 2006

Ms. Jane C. Guelich, Secretary  
Secretary of the Board of School Directors  
Lower Merion School District  
301 East Montgomery Avenue  
Ardmore, PA 19003

RE: New Harriton High School Project  
Act 34 Comments

Dear School Board Members:

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am a resident of Lower Merion Township,  
residing at \_\_\_\_\_.

I would like to state my objection to the construction of the new Harriton high school on the basis of its extremely large size and cost. I believe that this project as designed violates both the spirit and the letter of Act 34 and 22 Pa. Code Chapter 349 for several reasons, including:

- The PDE website states that the full-time equivalent (FTE) building capacity must be supported by current or future enrollment projections. PlanCon A09 requires that the District justify variations in enrollment (FTE minus Projected Enrollment) in excess of 300. LMSD's A09 submission shows a total variation of 3,670 and variation for the high schools alone of 1,252. The District can not adequately justify a capacity variation of this large degree.
- 22 Pa. Code 349.5 states that the amount of space included in the schedule of space allocations for a secondary school shall approximate 78 square feet for each FTE. The new Harriton is allocating 115 square feet per FTE. Any departure greater than 10% requires justification and approval from PDE. In the case of Harriton, the departure is 46.9%. The District can not adequately justify an excess space allocation of this large degree.
- 22 Pa. Code 349.6 calls for PDE approval for a design ratio of architectural space to scheduled space that exceeds 1.58 to 1.0. The design ratio being proposed for Harriton is 1.788 to 1.0. The District can not adequately justify such a large design ratio.

I expect the PDE to enforce all provisions of Act 34 and 22 Pa. Code Chapter 349. In addition to other protections, I request that the PDE convene a Department hearing under 22 Pa. Code 349.14 prior to its deliberations. Furthermore, I expect that the PDE will disapprove the project as designed unless and until the project is subjected to a referendum by the voters of Lower Merion Township.

Please consider my strong objection to this project and forward my comments to the PDE.

Sincerely,

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cc: lmsdbudget.reform@verizon.net