

Tom Fidler, Board of Education vice president, met with our PTA on 11/8/06. County-wide capital improvements were discussed. There are plans in the works for a new Forest Hill/Hickory area elementary school. The Board is also working on a strategic 3-year and 5-year plan with measurable milestones including grades. The curriculum was also discussed, including growth and book changes. Magnet schools and charter schools were discussed, but no concrete decisions have been made. Finances, No Child Left Behind and staff contracts are also issues of concern to the Board.

Block scheduling was questioned. This will be reviewed by the administration after the first of the year and again after the school year ends with a more comprehensive review to include teachers and students. Mr. Voskuhl is going to generate a survey for the students, as well, here at BAHS. Rotating the schedule was discussed, and this is being considered.

The high school day will begin 15 minutes earlier next year. The logistics of growth in the county necessitate a change, and the addition of more buses would cost \$2.8 million.

Growth in the county schools was discussed and questioned. There was discussion about assigning Board members to certain areas of the county and possibly adding an additional Board member, but Mr. Fidler felt the members were all neutral representatives.

Unsportsmanlike conduct by fans and players at sporting events throughout the county was discussed. The Board is looking into this, especially from a security point of view. The No Failing Grade policy for extracurricular activity participation was questioned, and he felt this was a critical and necessary change.

The selection of "Chocolate Wars" was questioned. A committee of instructors and parents has been set up to further look into this book. The recommendation from the committee should be presented by the end of February. Also questioned was whether a Board member will be on the curriculum committee, and Mr. Fidler was not sure of this.

There was question as to whether the funding for the new BAHS building would change because of the election. The Board is working on relying on state funding less and working with the County Council for a county bond issue and alternative funding. There will be a need for \$912 million in capital project funding over the next 15 to 18 years.