

Letter to the Editor: Over \$18 million Spent and No One Wants Their Kids to Go There

The saga of 290 Brighton Road continues with a new twist! It appears that numerous parents who rallied in favor of Brighton Road have now changed their minds and are lobbying the school administration to plead “not to have their children attend the half school at 290 Brighton Road”. In fact, some parents have publicly stated that they reached a deal with the superintendent so that their child will not attend 290 in the fall. Others have said that they will just flatly refuse to have their children attend this school. Others are storming the board offices to get some answers.

I guess the old adage of “do as I say not as I do” holds true once again. I guess these RA-RA supporters never imagined that “their children” could be forced to attend this half-school five years ago when they led Rice’s cheerleading squad to build this school. The word to the wise is “be careful of what you wish for”.

Over \$18 million spent to date (with costs continuing to mount as each and every change of work order is approved) and the Board of Education still has not announced which 9th grade students will be attending 290 Brighton Road. What happens if parents refuse to allow their children to attend this school? In fact, more and more people around town are referring to 290 Brighton Road as the “half school” rather than the high school annex. Could it be the administration is too busy cutting deals with parents and that’s why they can’t announce which students will go there?

At one point, the Board of Education and Administration announced that students who did not participate in after school activities would attend Brighton Road. To me, this seemed to be “segregation” and I wondered if this was legal since segregation ended with Brown vs. Board of Education in the 1950’s.

Over \$18 million spent to date and no one knows who will attend this “half- school”. Over \$18 million spent and we could have an empty building in September 2009. Of course this could be a moot point should the Appellate Court reverse Judge Passero’s decision and the school wouldn’t be able to operate (did anyone know that oral arguments in the case were made on April 20, 2009 and it is now up to the three panel Appellate Judges in Trenton?).

I wish these parents who were so vocal before the referendum would again vocally voice their concerns to protect all children instead of trying to make “these backroom deals” not to have their children attend the “half-school at 290”. I hope the new Board of Education puts a stop to these backroom deals.

Imagine \$18 million spent (and still counting) and no one wants their children to go there!

Mary Sadrakula
Clifton, NJ

