

**TOWN OF FAIRFAX  
STAFF REPORT**

**To: Mayor, Members of the Town Council**

**From: Michael Rock, Town Manager** 

**Date: March 3, 2010**

**Subject: Update on the Ross Valley School District Plans for a new K-5 School (Deer Park site) and a remodel and addition to White Hill Middle School**

**DISCUSSION**

The Ross Valley School District (RVSD) Board of Trustees met on February 11, 2010 and voted at its monthly meeting to put a \$41 million bond on the June ballot to fund a facilities expansion to house the increasing number of students. But the district didn't decide what exactly it's going to build with that money.

The district previously had leaned heavily toward building a new K-5 school at the Deer Park property, but after an outcry from the public is considering a number of new options. Chris Carlucci, who serves on the Facilities Committee and is on the RVSD Board, informed the Board at the Feb. 11 meeting that the Facilities Committee voted to withdraw its previous recommendations in order to "do more homework on these choices," she said.

Carlucci presented a proposed timeline to the board, which includes further examination of the options, a panel discussion and a survey to parents with the goal of deciding on a final plan by March 11.

The Facilities Committee met again on Monday, February 22, 2010. The Committee narrowed the eight options to three, and added a fourth option – a hybrid of 2 and 3 – upgrading all K-5 campuses to 20 classrooms each (their "ideal size"), and moving the MAP program, or only kids living within a half mile or so (125 kids) to Deer Park, with just a renovation of existing buildings there. There was also some discussion as to whether MAP's conversion to a charter school would be viable or advantageous in this situation. With the MAP not at Manor and the 6 extra classrooms built at the various other campuses, all K-5 campuses would then be populated at a level that allowed expansion without overcrowding if projected increases are realized.

The options all include expanding and renovating White Hill:

1. Expand White Hill to include a 5<sup>th</sup> Grade –Requires Bond Measure of about \$39 million
2. Expand existing K-5 sites – Requires Bond Measure of about \$45 million
3. Re-open Deer Park as a new K-5 site– Requires Bond Measure of \$53 million
4. Building 6 new classrooms, moving MAP – cost estimate to be presented Thursday

The Facilities Committee is recommending that the RVSD Board wait until November to place the bond measure on the ballot to allow for more time to do outreach to the community on the options remaining and build consensus around one viable option that will result in a successful campaign to pass the bond measure. The November Ballot campaign may also be cheaper.