

From: Favre, Edward Edward.Favre@lakewoodcityschools.org
Subject: RE: The BOE/LCS Propagating Falsehoods?
Date: January 25, 2015 at 6:34 PM
To: Jay Foran JForan@TeamNEO.org, Patterson, Jeff jeff.patterson@lakewoodcityschools.org

FE

Jay:

I looked at the Observation Deck thread attached to your email. This is the first I've heard of this story. It obviously is based on conjecture and partial information. If the discussion of your idea of a dome was meant to be confidential, then I misunderstood and did discuss it with others. So I owe you an apology. I found it very interesting and, as I told you, like the concept. How or if we could ever do it requires much more research and discussion.

But I do want you know how and why I discussed it.

First, I felt obligated to and did relate the conversation and proposal to other members of the Board of Education. Jeff and I did so.

Second, I mentioned it again, to varying degrees, in various discussions about restoring the North Field after construction and removal of the modular units, temporary parking lot and retention basin. Your proposal notwithstanding, that is important to me. As part of those discussions, the OFCC agreed to at least co-fund the restoration of the field as it was. I have since advocated a multipurpose, artificial turf field rather than natural turf and dirt as it was formally. These discussions were when folks from the BOE, OFCC, the BOE's Owner Agent (Ozanne), Architects (URS and GPD), and Construction Manager (Turner/AKA) were present. The architects have since offered renderings of how types of artificial turf layout would appear and I asked if those designs were compatible with ultimately being covered. I had side conversations with the architects as to whether a cover was doable, what materials, maintenance, life expectancy, etc.

Third, I mentioned it as an aside during discussions of placing an indoor track in the new high school gym, which is something else I have advocated. Various folks from the group mentioned above, and others, have been in those discussions. Oftentimes, that group has as many as 20 attendees and meets in mass twice a month.

So these discussions have been no secret. It has not been a primary discussion point for me, but I have mentioned it as it possibly related to other matters. If it was meant to be so, then I am at fault for speaking about it with others. I took it as an interesting proposal that was worthy of exploring. Nothing more, nothing less.

Regarding your mention of the Active Living Task Force, here is some history I have. In November and December 2013, I had communications and discussion with the former Council President concerning his idea for the creation of a City/School recreation entity. This would have included some new facilities and new manager(s). I asked how the idea would be funded and an income tax increase was mentioned. I was further told that creating a committee would be presented to Council in January 2014. As the then president of the BOE, I advised the other members of the Board of this discussion.

In January 2014, the Board was approached by the Mayor with a discussion of a possible recreation facility at the hospital and/or other sites in Lakewood. In particular, the discussion include changes at the hospital site or even at the former Fairchild Chevrolet site. This discussion included a property tax increase, which caused me concern because, as you know, the Board passed two property tax issues in 2013. We knew we needed to stay off the ballot as long as possible, particularly in view of state funding cuts that had required us to go back to the voters for operating funds early than would have happened otherwise.

There were some comments questioning whether the BOE was doing a good job at recreation and the Board had a survey done, which was positive.

The Lakewood Recreation Task Force, as it was initially named, was subsequently created by Council. Frankly, it was obvious to me that something was going on behind the scenes. When the Board was asked to appoint people, I for one was skeptical and declined. The other members agreed.

That something was going on behind the scenes is now confirmed as Lakewood is in the midst of the worst news the City had taken since I've been here, the loss of Lakewood Hospital. I must say that I have been through a City corruption scandal and other negative happenings in our town, but nothing compares to this blow. Up until a couple weeks ago, there had been denial of what has since been rolled out, a process that has been secretly going on for years. It was going on before everything I have mentioned above, before the Lakewood Recreation/Active Living Task Force was created. The manner in which this has been released is a public relations blunder. I cannot tell you how frustrated I am over this situation. Personally, as someone who has devoted his adult life to public safety and service in this town, I am insulted and feel betrayed.

There are many others who feel the same so it should be of no surprise that the rumors and innuendos are flying. As long as this hospital situation is handled in such a disingenuous manner, we can expect it to continue. There should have been a thoughtful, open process involving the community that has an investment in and owns the hospital in the first place. There has been no lack of mistakes made by the City and BOE in years past. Some we still live with, some we've learned from, but this is the grandest of them all. Most could have been avoided had the public business been handled in an open, public manner. I am worried and hear long time Lakewood folks worrying about the future of our City.

In closing, let me repeat that I have discussed your proposal with the various people mentioned above. If it was meant to be secret, I blew it. I've been open with my desire to turf the North Field and, depending on how deep the discussion went with whomever I was speaking with, have mentioned the dome proposal. How that may have been repeated I do not know. I did and still think it is visionary and never spoke of it in a negative manner. And, I definitely have not had any discussion of your proposal with anybody at the Lakewood Observer since this whole hospital fiasco broke.

I am truly sorry this happened and apologize if I inadvertently caused you grief. I can appreciate how you feel as I and members of my family

I am very sorry and saddened and apologize if I have wrongly caused you grief. I can appreciate how you feel as I and members of my family, have been attacked and back-stabbed by some disgruntled people, backed by some prominent people in this town over the years.

I sincerely hope things get better going forward.

Ed

From: Jay Foran <JForan@TeamNEO.org>
Sent: Saturday, January 24, 2015 10:20 PM
To: Favre, Edward; Patterson, Jeff
Subject: Recall: The BOE/LCS Propagating Falsehoods?

Jay Foran would like to recall the message, "The BOE/LCS Propagating Falsehoods?".