

Jack Wood's Presentation to the Bonsall Unified School District Board

July 13th, 2017

First of all, Lou, I am happy to see you again. Lou Riddle and I served on the surplus property committee in Fallbrook. When the property on Gird Road was being considered as surplus property, by state law we had to go through a procedure to analyze and determine if in fact it was surplus property for the school district. Because it was purchased under bond money the only thing that we could do was build a school on it, and so that was the recommendation we made. The Board of the High School accepted our response and from that point forward it became surplus property and could be used for anything under current zoning.

However at that time we were all part of the Fallbrook High School District. But then things changed when you decided to have your own high school and at that point it became a whole different ballgame.

I spoke here last month when the plan was going through the draft. The EIR incorrectly stated that this property was in the Bonsall area. It is not. The high school, if it is built on Gird Road, is in Fallbrook. The Fallbrook community property line runs south of that and so is under the administration of the Fallbrook Community Planning Group, of which I have been an elected member for the last 18 years. I also chair the Land Use Committee, am First Vice Chair of the Board. I sit on the Circulation Committee and the Design Review Committee.

I am not here on behalf of the Planning Board. I'm here on behalf of myself as an individual. I am only speaking from the standpoint of experience. I was quoted in one of the projections made that I felt the property was unsuitable for a high school. I still feel the same way as I did back in 2010. That property is not suitable for a high school.

To go back in history: When the bond was issued in 1978, there was a plan at that point that the community would be growing in that direction and a second high school would be required for Fallbrook.

In 1988 the community put in a slow growth initiative, which meant that now it was two acre minimum lots in that outlying area of Fallbrook. That changed the dynamics of the whole community and, as a result, that property was never going to be used for a high school. At least from that standpoint, and that's what triggered the committee to recommend it as a surplus property.

So, I am here to speak, not because I want to put my nose into the Bonsall School District's business – I do not – but I feel on behalf of Fallbrook because of the constituents who are calling all up and down the Gird Valley. During the General Plan update and the Fallbrook Community Plan it was never considered that there would be a high school there, and it is not an appropriate location. I think it would be ill advised for this school district to continue to pursue that property for a high school. It is not an appropriate property for numerous reasons.

Speech by Jack Wood, recorded at BUSD meeting July 13, 2017, recording edited and approved by Jack Wood, July 17, 2017, circulated by SaveGirdValley.com