

Changing theme at Auburn wouldn't be productive

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The future of Auburn Senior High School hangs in the balance. We can no longer remain silent. Consequently, we wish to go on record.

Without involvement of staff and community, Auburn High School has been designated to become a science/technology magnet school. No planning time nor funds have been allocated to institute the massive changes necessary to accommodate that theme. To pretend to be what we can never become is a blatant misrepresentation.

Auburn currently functions with the Academy and CAPA programs in place. These programs draw heavily from the east-side majority population. The school board's decision to reopen West as a comprehensive high school will provide more west-side seats for students. Logic dictates that the Academy and CAPA programs remain at the school where they are already a viable and integral part of the total program.

Housing gifted programs in one school and having a science/tech program at another building is not financially or educationally sound. Laboratory space and equipment would need to be duplicated in both buildings. Two schools would require renovation to accommodate additional technology. Telephone lines (on-line access) and electrical wiring would have to be added and/or replaced. The need to purchase many new computers and printers for both schools is unavoidable. Both schools would be in competition to recruit the same student. Housing the already successful gifted program in another building would leave Auburn at a great disadvantage. Auburn would be left struggling to promote a non-funded, unplanned theme. A science/tech program housed at Auburn will fail if it must compete with another school housing the Academy and CAPA programs. If we are relegated to be a science/tech theme, a more efficient, fiscally appropriate plan would be to maintain the Academy and CAPA at Auburn.

Removing successful programs from Auburn and replacing them with a magnet theme which is unrealistic and unattainable are not prudent actions. The title without the facility is meaningless. A decision made without considering the damaging consequences will devastate Auburn High School and will retard the remediation process in District 205.

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