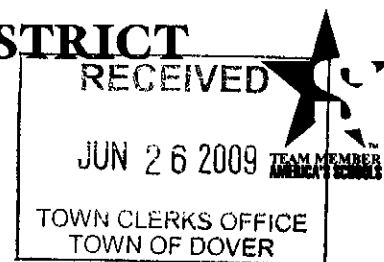


DOVER UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

2368 ROUTE 22
DOVER PLAINS, NEW YORK 12522



Area Code 845

Dr. Craig T. Onofry
Superintendent of Schools
Tel. 832 - 4500
Fax 832 - 4511

Mr. Christopher Prill
Assistant Superintendent
for Business Affairs
Tel. 832 - 4510
Fax 832 - 4512

Mr. Michael Tierney
Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum, Technology
& Staff Development
Tel. 832 - 4539

Mr. Rudy Abrams
Assistant Superintendent
for Buildings & Grounds
Tel. 832 - 4542
Fax 832 - 4525

Ms. Pamela O'Neil
Director for Special Education
Tel. 832 - 4540
Fax 832 - 4547

Mrs. Donna Basting
Principal
Dover Middle & High School
Tel. 832 - 4523
Fax 832 - 3924

Mr. John Bauerlein
Vice Principal
& Athletic Director
Dover Middle School
Tel. 832 - 4521

Mrs. Patricia Rizzo
Assistant Principal
Dover High School
Tel. 832 - 4520

Mr. Brian Timm
Assistant Principal
Dover High School
Tel. 832 - 4520

Mr. Herman Harmelink
Principal
Dover Elementary School
Tel. 877 - 4700
Fax 877 - 3460

Mrs. Catherine Alvarez
Principal
Wingdale Elementary School
Tel. 832 - 4530
Fax 832 - 3974

June 24, 2009

Supervisor Ryan Courtien
And Members of the Dover Town Board
126 East Duncan Hill Road
Dover Plains, New York 12522

Re: The Knolls of Dover Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

Dear Supervisor Courtien and Members of the Dover Town Board:

I submit the following comments on The Knolls of Dover DEIS on behalf of the Dover Board of Education. Our review of the document concentrated on the information provided on the tax revenues and school children expected to be generated by the redevelopment project.

Facility planning is always a challenge for school districts, regardless of how many experts are consulted, as it is difficult to project when new school children will arrive and what ages they will be when they get here. As such, we are regularly examining our enrollment trends and the planned housing projects in our community. Our last major facilities project was done in 1997 during a time of population growth throughout Dutchess County and the Hudson Valley region and involved years of planning that included a demographic study done in 1994. That project was undertaken to: build capacity for an expected peak of approximately 2,000 students; meet the District's educational goal for creating a Middle School wing to separate grades 6 through 8 from grades 9 through 12; construct additional common spaces that the community had long desired such as an auditorium, a new library, and new science labs; and to add and improve space at the Dover Elementary School in Dover Plains.

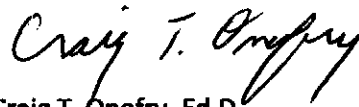
We maintain the current facilities have a capacity to serve 2,200 students. This number is obtained by multiplying the total number of classrooms by the assumption that each classroom could hold 20 students. To date, student population has not reached the expected peak, instead peaking at 1872 in the 2001-2002 school year and has continued to decline since then, a trend now seen in all Dutchess County school districts and many others throughout the state. We currently lease out extra space to the Town of Dover Recreation Department and the Dutchess County Astor Program and house the District's administrative offices in vacant classroom space at the High School. Our issue related to space is more about the age of some of our facilities rather than size as Dover Elementary is over one hundred years old.

Unfortunately, while most student populations state-wide have decreased, school budgets continue to rise due to double-digit increases in health care, pensions, and fuel costs along with the unending unfunded mandates at the state and federal level. The Dover Board of Education has kept its budget increases at the lowest levels in the county for the last several years but the increases are still difficult for the community and we are not able to afford some of the extras found in other districts. The increased ratables proposed with the redevelopment project will be welcomed.

Our current and projected excess capacity will allow the District to absorb new students with the expectation that the redevelopment project will occur over a period of ten years. We also appreciate the new tax revenues the community will experience over that same time period as new commercial and residential development comes on line to increase the town's assessed value. Given that the Knolls of Dover redevelopment project would be constructed in two phases, it would be advisable that the Applicant monitor the generation of school-children through the completion of Phase 1. It is our understanding that Phase 1 includes the construction of 40% of the residential component of the Project in a mixture of unit types. The accuracy of the projected school children generation made by the Applicant could then be compared against the actual Phase 1 generation of school children.

The Dover Schools are major social centers for the town. We take great pride in our facilities and truly appreciate the support we have received over the years from the community. We look forward to the new investment the Knolls of Dover redevelopment project will bring and are prepared to continue serving our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig T. Onofry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Craig T. Onofry, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools