

Wednesday, January 2, 2002

Opinion

Letters

Behind-the-scenes deals not good for public, school district

Editor:

Last week, School District 2 distributed a list of the options they have focused upon concerning the demolishing of old and the building of new schools.

After reading these, a number of questions come to mind.

1. A negative in many options is the purchase of land for new schools. This is not listed for the building of new high school by Sheridan College.

Is this because the Whitney Foundation (which is closely tied to Sheridan College) is providing the land? Why not tell the public?

2. Central Middle School is to be sold in many of the proposed options. If it is such a bad building, who is going to buy it? One may infer that the district already has a buyer but is not revealing who it is — why not?

Is it also the Whitney Foundation? Why not tell the public?

3. If the Whitney Foundation is closely involved in these plans, was the dismissal of some of the board members last year, and the appointment of District 2 board members, all part of a plan kept from the public?

4. The option of demolishing our old schools and building a new high school by Sheridan College may or may not be the best proposal.

If behind-the-scene deals have been made, and decisions made, then why ask the public for its opinion? Does public opinion really matter? Or is this another situation like the reconfiguration of schools attempted a few years ago?

Then, when behind-the-scene deals were made and decision rushed, the public trust was lost.

The need for an early decision has been explained. The January deadline for comments follows this reasoning. But if something is being kept from the public — one wonders. Sheridan District 2, don't make the same mistake again.

P.S — I hope I'm not on Coffeen Avenue (the second busiest street in Wyoming) at 8 a.m. or 3:30 p.m. when the 300 to 400 cars enter or leave the new high school.

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Sheridan