

Press Release

From: Jay Papp for Board of Education
Date: May 9, 2014
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Subject: Proposed school repair plan to save tax payers 6.2 Million Dollars

On Wednesday May 7, 2014, Jay Papp; a candidate for the Clarkstown Board of Education presented a repair plan to the Clarkstown Board of Education intended to fix the damaged gym wall in the now vacant Congers Elementary School.

In late August 2013 just days before school was scheduled to restart, Congers School maintenance staff noticed that cracks which had been recently filled were separated. Clarkstown School District officials rushed by the carload to Congers Elementary School, to assess the situation. The issue was considered so critical that Board of Education members were also called to the school. The district called in CSArch Architect and Engineers of Newburg, NY. The CSArch report states "Although there are no indications that the wall is in imminent danger of collapse, high wind loads cannot be safely resisted by the wall". The school district decided to err on the side of safety and declared the building unfit for occupation. CSArch is also responsible for the project scope and management of the repairs.

The repair plan presented by BOE Candidate Papp comes in at 6.2 Million Dollars below the approved 6.5 Million Dollar Bond which was approved by Clarkstown tax payers in a heated bond vote. While speaking before the Clarkstown Board of Education Papp said "the damage to the Congers Elementary School Gym wall is virtually identical to damage which existed at the Northwood High School in Marion Virginia, which documents the viability and reliability of the repair plan which I am requesting that the Clarkstown Board of education accept for review tonight". Papp went on to say "the total cost of the preliminary estimate to the Congers gym wall is \$275,000.00, which is more than 6.2 million dollars less than the district has bonded for this repair".

The Board of Education accepted the proposal for review and requested that Mr. Papp participate in a meeting with the School Districts architect and engineering firm managing the project. Mr. Papp stated "I guess I'm going to have to find an architect or engineer to volunteer some time to help get my congers plan moved forward. Clearly why would CSArch say yes that's a great idea and we didn't want to make all that money on managing the massive project anyway". Papp added "the fact that the Board of Education wants to look into my proposal further is a major positive".

Papp pointed out to concerned parents after the board meeting that "As I see it the scope of the project is grossly and unreasonably bloated, and I am of the opinion that having one firm do the assessment, project scope and project

management is a conflict of interest, but that is an issue for a future conversation, right now I just want to get the Congers kids back into their school so we can start to work on other important issues facing our school district”.

Papp’s proposed repair plan for Congers Elementary school can be fully completed in as little as 26 days and in the worst situation 51 days after plan approval, which would enable Congers Elementary School Students to return to their own school in September.

In speaking with parents of Congers Elementary School Papp stated; “I said during the PTA’s Candidate Forum that I understood what Conger’s children and parents were going through, and I promised you that I would find a way to resolve the situation, and I will not stop until your children are in their classrooms at Congers Elementary School”.

Many congers parents were excited and some were optimistically cautious not to get their hopes up. Papp said; “look, this may not be the end all solution but, I am the only candidate for the Board of Education that has tried to find a real and reasonable solution that will bring the Conger’s Children home and end this year long problem, spending 6.5 million dollars and for no reason will on keep the kids out of the school for two years and that is unacceptable to me”.

Papp said to an official at the meeting “How does a project go from a recommendation to shore up a roof and replace a wall to a 6.6 million dollar job, its illogical. A cracked wall turns into a massive project that is for a full gym replacement, new windows, a new roof, an elevator and other things. Why don’t we just add cotton candy machines in every classroom and a fountain in the lobby that flows chocolate fondue for visitors”. Papp’s sarcastic question received no response.

Papp explained to parents that the real issue is damaged to a gym wall, its just damage to a wall. If there is any roof truss issues we will fix them the same way with this reinforcement process. Lets just get the wall fixed and return the children to Congers Elementary School. This is not rocket science but, is it sure looks like incompetence and fleecing of our tax dollars”

The Clarkstown school district rented the empty St. Augustine’s school building in New City, and recently voted not to renew the lease for the 2014/15 school year. Papp said “The school districts current plan is to disburse the children to other community elementary schools within the Clarkstown school district while the Congers Elementary building undergoes the 6.5 million dollar renovation, which is disguised as a wall repair.

About Papp’s repair proposal

The proposed repair solution is an earthquake restoration and reinforcement system by Quakewrap, Inc. in Tuscon, AZ (www.quakewrap.com). The system is a reinforced mesh and coating system that is adhered to either the outside and/or interior of damaged building walls. The product is also used to bring non-earthquake code buildings into earthquake building code compliance throughout the world. Quakewrap has repaired various structural and wall issues at schools, residential and commercial buildings throughout the United States. Following the 1999 earthquake in

Istanbul, Turkey, Quakewrap was called in to perform significant earthquake damage repairs to various types of buildings.

The Congers School repair will involve the preparation of the outside of the building, then quakebond (a low viscosity resin) will be injected into all cracks. This resin chemically binds the concrete together to reestablish a monolithic structure. A specialized tack coat will be applied to the damaged walls along with the patented meshing materials. A top coat is then applied and the repair to the wall is complete. The schools maintenance staff or a painting contractor then finishes up by painting the surfaces for aesthetics.

Timeline of Papp's proposed repair

Papp said "we must follow due diligence here and send this proposed repair solution to New York State Department of Education (NYSED), who by State Law controls all building permits for public school buildings".

Once the NYSED approves the use of this solution to repair the Conger's gym wall, the Clarkstown Board of Education will need to vote to approve the \$2,750.00 fund to have Quakewrape perform a pre-repair site inspection. That inspection will take 4 days and a final quote will be presented to the School District within a day or two after that. The Board of Education will then need to vote to execute Papp's proposed repair plan for the Congers Elementary School. The Board of Education next meets on May 20th and Papp is hopeful that the board will approve the onsite inspection at that time. The first opportunity for the Board to approve the full repair plan will be in early June. Papp said that he is hopeful that the repairs will begin at the end of June and be completed by the end of July. Papp said "it will be just spectacular if our Congers Children are able to go to their school on the first day that school starts back up".

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