



## Vote **NO** on the March 20<sup>th</sup> “Kitchen Sink”

The *Downers Grove Watch* is advocating a “**No**” vote on High School #99’s “**everything & the kitchen sink**” referendum.

**There should be 3 questions on the ballot, not just 1!**

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On Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, High School #99 voters will be asked only **one** question. However, there are actually **three** easily identifiable, non-interrelated major capital projects buried inside the Board of Ed’s current \$136,100,000 “everything & the kitchen sink” bond referendum. This **all in** tactic is legal; however, the *Downers Grove Watch* believes that it should be universally condemned by every citizen, parent, teacher, student, newspaper editor and, most of all, elected school board member. In the vernacular of today’s school environment ... the Board of Ed is **bullying** the community in order to get the wish list it wants. School boards across the nation routinely treat their taxpayers in a manner that they would not tolerate if the practice was *physical* bullying of a student at school or *cyber* bullying on-line. It’s called selectively applied **zero tolerance**.

When a school board cobbles two non-related projects (“**Project List A**” & “**Project List B**”) **together** as part of just one ballot question, it is called duality ... or a “dual ballot question.” The result is that all voters are **denied** an opportunity to vote on each group of projects separately. It is a form of voter disenfranchisement. **It is simply an unethical and dishonest practice that denies certain voters the ability to exercise the right to vote “yes” on one project list while at the same time exercising the right to vote “no” on the other project list.**

In the “good old days” ... courts regarded “dual ballot questions” as a species of legal fraud because it may *compel* the voter, in order to get what he earnestly wants [say, **Project List A**], to vote for something which he does not want [say, **Project List B**].

"If there be two objects, and ... they are submitted together, it is very clear that the voter cannot vote for one and against the other. He must vote against both, whereby he may defeat one, the success of which he desires, or he must vote for both, whereby he may cause the success of one which he desires to be defeated. If he fails to vote he may thus aid in causing the defeat of his favorite measure, and the adoption of the one he opposes. **He has thus no liberty of choice.**" Supreme Court of Colorado (1900)

The Board of Ed has asked this community to vote on not two, but actually **three** easily identifiable, non-interrelated major capital projects buried inside the Board of Ed’s current \$136,100,000 “everything & the kitchen sink” bond referendum. If the proposition attracts enough “yes” voters who support one, two or all of the three project groupings listed below, the bond referendum will cost the average homeowner (a \$300,000 market value home) **~\$196** each year for each of the next 23 years (total cost **~\$4,500**). In total, the three non-interrelated major capital projects will have a final price tag of over **\$202,000,000** (principal+ interest).

### **Project List A: “Visitor” security screening at both schools**

The Board of Ed describes this plan as: “Security enhancements, including the installation of two entry vestibules at each school that will allow staff members to screen visitors before they are admitted into the buildings.” **The inclusion of “visitor” isolation/screening projects costing less than \$1,000,000 for both schools within one of the largest high school referenda ever voted upon in Illinois is clearly deplorable. It is simply emotional blackmail.**

The *Downers Grove Watch* has covered this issue extensively in a recent *Press Release* (PR-18-01) and a disseminated voter flyer (*Flyer #1*). Please go to [www.vdgwatch.com](http://www.vdgwatch.com) to retrieve all **Press Releases & all Referendum Flyers**. The documents are available in PDF file format for ease of e-mailing to friends & family.

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## **Project List B: ~\$49,000,000** (or, factoring in the bond interest, **\$72,500,000** for the “smaller sink”)

This identifiable project list contains a mix of unrelated maintenance & updating projects as well as some major physical reconfigurations/expansions which have been on various “wish lists” for many years. And, once again, certain projects from the “parity between the schools list” have been included since the issue never goes away.

- \$8,000,000: Air Conditioning the 30% of the class rooms currently without AC
- DGS Auditorium (856 seats increased to 1,200 seats. Current enrollment of ~2,650)
- DGN Cafeteria + DGN new Gym (+ “fitness” area) replaces “old” gym
- Classroom upgrades and rehabilitations
- Improve ADA accessibility at both high schools
- Certain primary entrances reconfigured
- Turf fields and other outdoor “space” improvements.

## **Project List C: ~\$86,000,000 (DGN - \$46,000,000, DGS - \$40,000,000)**

“Project List C” is simple to explain. It entails enclosing the currently open-air outdoor courtyards and turning them into what is pictured below. The cost is **~\$86,000,000** (or, factoring in the bond interest, **\$127,000,000**). FYI ... \$127M will buy a brand new 2,400 student HS plus the land with all the bells and whistles. The Board of Ed’s “Project List C” accounts for **63%** of the total cost. However, because it is a “kitchen sink” ballot question, no one is allowed to vote “yes” or “no” on just Project List C. **Sorry, there is no “liberty of choice”!**

In college, it’s called the “Student Union.” In Silicon Valley (Apple, Google, Tesla, etc.), it’s the required “cool looking” high-tech hang-out space! In high schools, it’s sold as the “Learning Commons” ... someone felt the need to add the word “Learning” to the title just in case that was not obvious by the picture and the student-operated Coffee/Juice Bar in the corner. You may be wondering why this Commons with its faux leather sofas and “collaborative” nooks is a must have “need”. Well, here is the district’s response to the following question:



### **What educational and curricular changes make this project necessary to best serve District 99 students?**

High School #99 Response: “Education has **evolved** and learning today is much more collaborative, project-based and involves technology. **Students no longer sit in rows and demonstrate proficiency by taking tests, but work in groups and rely on technology.** Modernizing our facilities, buildings and furnishings will reflect and support this evolution, promote academic success and progress, **and look like the next places District 99 students will study and work.**” [Sir, Elon Musk on line 3.]

“These flexible spaces will be designed to meet the academic requirements and **social-emotional needs** of students. Students will have direct access to the offices of key resources, including college and career counselors, social workers, psychologists, counselors, activities, technology support, deans, cafeteria, library and bookstore. Creating this centralized space will make the offices more easily accessible for students. The new spaces will be used for teaching and learning during the day **and be available for community use during off hours.**” [Reserve your faux leather sofa time today!]



# **VOTE NO!**

A “No” Vote Will Tell the Board of Ed You Want

## ***“Liberty of Choice”***

(No more “everything & the kitchen sink” ballot questions!)